

Welcome to the Lee County School System Multi-Tiered Systems of Support with Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports webpage. This information will help the reader better understand MTSS and PBIS and why they are so important in helping students succeed in school, as well as in life.

Lee County School District MTSS with PBIS



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support – MTSS

The Lee County School System uses a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework that recognizes the joint influence of academic, social, and behavioral needs on a child's overall educational performance.

What is MTSS?

MTSS is a multi-tiered framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. MTSS employs a systems approach using data-driven problem solving to maximize growth for all. It is “an assessment and intervention

process for systematically monitoring student progress and making decisions about the need for instructional modifications or increasingly intensified services using progress monitoring data” (NRCLD, 2006).

The MTSS framework is built upon the philosophy that instruction and interventions may be intensified to better meet the needs of individual students. The tiers do not represent placements or procedural steps, but rather varying levels of instructional intensity. All students receive the core instruction (Tier I). In addition to the core, some students may require more strategic (Tier II) or intensive/targeted (Tier III) levels of support in order to be successful.

It is important to remember that MTSS is a problem-solving process for addressing the academic and/or behavioral needs of students. It is not a procedure for getting students evaluated for special programs or services. Should the need arise, however, MTSS is part of the evaluation process for special education eligibility decisions. The goal of this focused attempt is to provide meaningful and specific interventions that clearly address a student’s individual needs. Our mission is to ensure that every student is provided appropriate instruction using proven research-based strategies.

Additional Information:

MTSS Decision: <http://www.rtinetwork.org/essential/tieredinstruction>

What is PBIS?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, data-driven framework proven to do the following:

- Reduce disciplinary incidents
- Increase a school’s sense of safety
- Support improved academic outcomes

More than 22,000 U.S. schools are implementing PBIS and saving countless instructional hours otherwise lost to the handling of discipline issues. The premise of PBIS is that continual teaching, combined with acknowledgement or feedback of positive student behavior, will reduce disciplinary incidents and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety, and learning. PBIS schools apply a multi-tiered approach to prevention, using disciplinary data and principles of behavior analysis to develop school-wide, targeted and individualized interventions and supports to improve school climate for all students. (OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports, 2009).

Since 2008, Georgia has been recognized as a PBIS implementing state. The goal of the PBIS Unit at the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is to support high fidelity implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports across the state for all students.

The PBIS unit supports building regional capacity throughout the state by providing technical assistance, training, and coaching to implementing districts. For more information from GaDOE:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Positive-Behavioral-Interventions-and-Support.aspx>



Why is it important for LCSS to be a PBIS School System?

How should schools address safety, acknowledge students for achievement, and appropriately discipline students? Parents report that their main school concern is the safety of their child (Neilsen Gatti, Stansberry-Brusnahan, & Nelson, 2007). Challenging behaviors in schools, ranging from disruptive behaviors to physical violence, is a safety concern and they represent barriers to teaching and learning. Educators and parents both share this concern. Rather than relying on a patchwork of short-term solutions for individual students and situations, schools should focus on proactive ways to define, teach, and sustain appropriate student behaviors across all school settings including classrooms, lunchrooms, restrooms, and playgrounds. The primary goal of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is to help schools design effective environments that will improve teaching and learning for all students.

How does PBIS differ from traditional school discipline? Schools tend to focus on individual situations or individual student behavior rather than the entire school climate. This approach doesn't consider the reason why behaviors are occurring. The traditional way of dealing with these problems is to punish each student with the hope that future problems will decrease. When that does not occur, schools turn to the enforcement of tougher policies. This approach is not effective, causes more work for educators, and creates negative social climates in schools. The American Heritage Dictionary defines discipline as "training that is expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behaviors, especially training that produces moral improvement." GaPBIS believes that - like reading and math - behavior can be taught. Since 2008, GaPBIS has trained over 1,000 schools to create more positive learning environments for all students.

Schools successfully implementing PBIS have shown the following:

- up to 50% reduction in office referral rates per year (and a corresponding reduction in suspension and expulsion rates)
- improved attendance rates
- improved academic achievement
- improved staff morale and perceptions of school safety

What does PBIS look like in LCSS? <https://youtu.be/wbLznaurjI>

How Does LCSS Teach Positive Behavior and Social/Emotional Skills?



7 Mindsets

As a school system, we chose the 7 Mindsets program to help us with the teaching of the social/emotional skills to our students through our PBIS Program. The 7 Mindsets is a social/emotional program to help students obtain the right mindset to have success in life as well as in school. Here is a list of the Mindsets and when the LCSS schools are teaching the mindsets, along with a description:

- September - **100% Accountable:** Students will learn that they are 100% Accountable for their learning and behavior.
- October- **Attitude of Gratitude:** Students will learn how to be thankful for things whether they are big or small things. They will learn how they can show gratitude for what gifts they have internally and externally.
- November and December- **Live to Give:** Students will learn that it is not always about receiving, but it is also about being rewarded when giving and helping others.
- January- **Passion First:** Students will learn how to find their passion and create goals to obtain it.
- February- **We Are Connected:** Students will learn that even though we are different, we all still have connections in some way. We all have a special talent or skill to contribute. It is about working together in collaboration.
- March- **Everything Is Possible:** Students will learn that everything is possible when we put our minds to the task at hand. We talk about dreams and how we can achieve those dreams.
- April and May- **The Time Is Now:** Students will learn about taking action today instead of tomorrow. Start taking steps for your dreams to become a reality.

What is the 7 Mindset Academy?

What do the world's happiest and most successful people have in common? Research showed that it wasn't related to gender, ethnicity, where they lived, the home they grew up in, or their wealth... it had to do with the way they THINK, or their MINDSET.

After three years of extensive research and over 400 personal interviews with leading experts, seven mental habits emerged and became the 7 Mindsets.

More information about the 7 Mindsets:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjmDD4sJ1xA>

<http://www.dansville.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/7MindsetParentHandout-1.pdf>

<https://7mindsets.com/>

How does LCSS address behavioral mental health?

School-based mental health (SBMH) services are a growing avenue to increase access to mental health care, provide preventive care, and provide for the early detection of mental health needs. The Georgia Apex Program aligns with other types of SBMH support programs, like Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The Georgia Apex Program was designed to meet the needs of these students requiring intensive intervention by facilitating placement of mental health providers in schools. The APEX Program that provides these services is called Aspire Behavioral Health. LCSS has 3 APEX Schools: **Lee County Primary, Lee County Elementary, and Lee County Middle East**; however, we are hoping to add 2 more schools at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

All schools have an Aspire Counselor to come in weekly to counsel with students

For more information about Aspire: <http://www.aspirebhdd.org/about.html>

PBIS Schools in Lee County School System

Lee County Pre-K

Lee County Primary School

Kinchafoonee Primary School

Lee County Elementary School

Twin Oaks Elementary School

Lee County Middle School- East

Lee County Middle School- West

9th Grade Campus

Lee County High School

Transitional Learning Center

Congratulations to Lee County Primary School, Lee County Middle School-West, 9th Grade Campus, and Transitional Learning Center on being named a PBIS Operational Schools by the Georgia Department of Education!

2017-2018 PBIS Community Forum Meetings

October 12, 2017



Thank you to those who came and participated in this event.

March 15, 2018 PBIS Community Committee Meeting



Aspire



Family Connections



7 Mindsets

Thank you....

We would like to thank these businesses for their ongoing community support with the LCSS PBIS:

Aspire

Buffalo Rock

Easter Seals

Little Caesars Pizza

Zaxby's

Family Connections