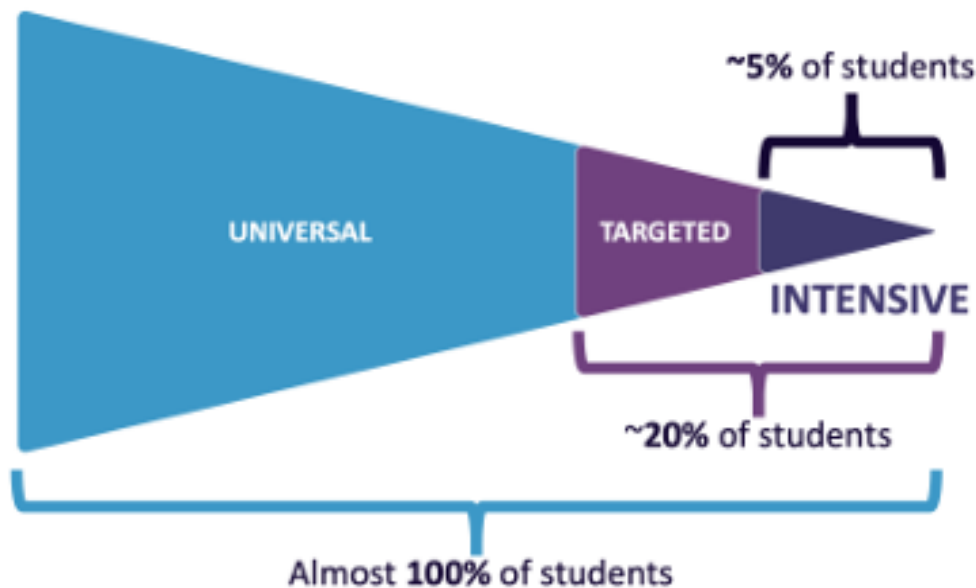


MTSS Model

The most common MTSS model includes three levels, or tiers: universal, targeted, and intensive. Figure 2 shows the proportion of students who receive each type of intervention.

Figure 2: The MTSS Tiers



Universal intervention, also referred to as Tier 1 or primary prevention, is a systematic approach for supporting **all students** schoolwide. Universal intervention occurs in the general education classroom and is designed for all students to participate. It includes evidence-based practices, research-based curricula, differentiation, scaffolded instruction, and universal design for learning. Universal intervention alone meets the needs of **about 80% of a school's population** for both academics and behavior.

Targeted intervention, often referred to as Tier 2 or secondary prevention, is designed for students experiencing difficulty in academics or behavior. Targeted intervention can occur in many different settings—inside or outside of the general education classroom—with small groups of students. Students receiving targeted intervention should continue to receive universal intervention.

Typically, **about 20% of students** require targeted intervention. This is a small percentage of students in a school. If many students need targeted intervention, the school needs to evaluate its universal intervention.

Intensive intervention, often called Tier 3 or tertiary prevention, is designed for students who demonstrate inadequate response to universal and targeted intervention. Intensive intervention may occur within or outside of special education. Schools have different ways of conceptualizing and implementing intensive intervention.

A much smaller number of students—typically **about 5% or less**—require intensive intervention.

MTSS involves universal intervention for **all**, targeted intervention for **some**, and intensive intervention for a **small number** of students.