

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: Senate Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Tracy B. Watterson, MTSS Program Manager/SWIFT SEA Co-Coordinator/Vermont Agency of Education

TOPIC: S.90 Adverse Childhood and Family Experiences

DATE: March 29, 2017

INTRODUCTION

16 V.S.A. section 2902 "...each public school shall develop and maintain a tiered system of academic and behavioral supports for the purpose of providing all students with the opportunity to succeed or to be challenged in the general education environment." Although a fully implemented tiered system of supports anticipates the academic and social-emotional needs of all students and shows success in school climate and discipline, additional coordinated human services and public education may be needed to address the needs of students and their families who have had adverse childhood experiences.

For the past ten years, the Vermont Agency of Education has provided training, support and resources to Vermont schools, SUs and SDs for implementation of their multi-tiered system of supports which research shows improve outcomes for all students. At this time Vermont schools are in various stages of implementation of MTSS.

WHAT IS A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)?

A multi-tiered system of supports is a comprehensive and systematic framework that uses a collection of evidence-based strategies and practices designed to meet the academic and behavior needs of all students. High-quality universal (core) instruction for all students, with additional targeted supports for some students, and additional intensive supports for a few students is at the heart of this framework. Leadership Teams within each school, school district, or supervisory union make student learning and behavior support decisions based on agreed-upon policies, structures, data, and the engagement of the family and community providers.

Tiers of Support Components

- Systemic and Comprehensive Approach
- Effective Collaboration
- High-quality Instruction and Intervention
- Comprehensive Assessment System
- Professional Learning

Resources

[VERMONT Multi-tiered System of Supports Response to Instruction and Intervention \(MTSS-RtI\) Field Guide](#)

School-wide Integrated Framework for Transformation ([SWIFT](#))

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ([PBIS Vermont](#))