

Video Transcript
Multi-Tiered System of Supports
Professional Learning Module
Welcome Message

Phil Lafontaine:

Welcome to Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Professional Learning Modules. My name is Phil Lafontaine, Director of Professional Learning Support Division. The California Department of Education has identified a number of Superintendent's initiatives one of which addresses curriculum and assessment. The instructional and Learning Support Branch, in close collaboration with the State Board of Education, is working to revise State curriculum standards, frameworks, and assessments to better reflect the demands of a knowledge-based society and economy, to incorporate new Common Core Standards, and to build on the strengths and needs of diverse learners. We are working to ensure that technology is incorporated as a key component of teaching, learning, and assessment, and support high levels of literacy and bi-literacy to prepare students for the globalized society they are entering.

We are delighted to offer this training module to support your efforts to implement CA CCSS. CDE encourages the use of MTSS as a framework for implementation of CCSS for the success of all students. The modules are a collaborative initiative among many Department of Education Divisions including general education, English language learners and special education.

Fred Balcom:

Hello, I'm Fred Balcom, Director of the Special Education Division in the Student Support and Special Services Branch. As a special education leader, I am committed to ensuring that students with disabilities participate in the common core, in general education settings, as much as possible. We are making progress across the state in raising achievement levels for all students and need to find ways to close the achievement gap for some student sub-groups, including students with disabilities. We believe that one way to continue our achievement progress and also to close the achievement gap is through a multi-tiered system of supports that acknowledges that our diverse California student population requires a comprehensive, flexible, evidence-based process. Special educators are a critical part of this process and a valuable resource to all students on a school site and we believe that the utilization of the collaborative and systemic processes of MTSS will lead to successful outcomes for all California students.

Tom Adams:

The challenges we face in California, with its size, diversity and substantial student population are huge. Hello, my name is Tom Adams, Director of the Curriculum Frameworks & Instructional Resources Division. Our division has the responsibility to provide guidance and resources to support educators to increase their content

knowledge and the effectiveness of their instructional strategies to meet the needs of every student, including English learners, students with special needs and high achievers. The cost for local educational agencies in providing professional development can make it difficult to ensure that all staff members are well prepared for these challenges. Scheduling professional development is difficult. On-line training modules can be a valuable tool in our efforts to bring state-of-the-art information and resources at all times to our educators.

Fernando Rodriguez:

As my colleagues have noted, California's student population is one of the most diverse in the nation. The percentage of students who are English language learners is more than 50%. How can we ensure that all students in California schools, including those who are learning English, have the opportunity to take advantage of the California common core state standards and achieve at the highest levels? I'm Fernando Rodriguez-Valls from the English Learner Support Division Instructional and Learning Support Branch. It's clear that our educational systems will need to be structured in such a way that instruction is differentiated and that multiple levels of support are available for all students. These systems must be driven by data, helping us determine how best to use our resources and guide our instructional decisions. We hope you find this professional development opportunity helpful to you as you work to improve the lives of your students. El objetivo final es crear acceso a una educacion de calidad para todos los estudiantes aprendices de ingles.

Craig Cheslog:

The California Department of Education looks forward to assisting local education agencies with the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, or MTSS. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's goal is to ensure California will provide a world-class education to all of our students. That's why we are pleased to support efforts such as the MTSS professional learning module. We believe the MTSS will lead to more collaboration. We also believe MTSS will provide educators with a better understanding of differentiate instruction and scaffolding, while giving educators more tools to support these instructional practices. The Directors from whom you just heard, and the staff at the California Department of Education, are working together to provide California educators with clear and consistent messages as we work to ensure a successful transition to the Common Core State Standards. As you work through this module, think about the supports and interventions currently in place in your school or district. Think about whether the needs of all student populations are being addressed. The answers to these questions will be different for every school site and for every district. But as you continue to address the needs of your students, please remember the California Department of Education wants to be a collaborative partner with you.