

# MTSS: Verifying Risk Status

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While most screening tools are valid and reliable, they are not 100% accurate. Thus, verifying the risk status of students is critical for accurately identifying students for additional intervention and instruction. Implementing such strategies can save time, money, and frustration! Verification of risk status should occur with two-weeks of screening and prior to implementation of interventions. Be sure to implement your systematic process with fidelity!

## **STEP 1: Identify Primary Indicator of Risk Status**

- ❖ Requires valid and reliable screening tool appropriate for grade level and desired outcome (see NCRTI Screening Tools Chart, [www.rti4success.org](http://www.rti4success.org))
- ❖ Select tools with adequate classification accuracy
- ❖ Select cut scores for at-risk based on validated practices
- ❖ Consider some of these commonly used tools: FAST, DIBELS, AIMSweb, MAP, iSIP, SRSS, referrals, attendance, grades

## **STEP 2: Identify Secondary Screener**

- ❖ Progress Monitoring
  - 4-6 Progress Monitoring Data Points
  - Most effective in K-2 Settings
- ❖ Additional Valid and Reliable Screener
  - AIMSweb, MAP, iSIP, SRSS, referrals, attendance
  - Consider costs and implementation time
- ❖ Common Classroom Assessment
  - Core Assessments/Grades
  - Concerns about validity and reliability

## **STEP 3: Verify Initial Risk Status**

- ❖ Conduct scheduled screening with fidelity
- ❖ Identify students considered at-risk (e.g., students in yellow/red, below 25<sup>th</sup>%tile) and potentially at-risk (e.g., students ranked at bottom of green, between 25-40<sup>th</sup>%tile)

## **STEP 4: Verify Risk Status for Most Students**

- ❖ At-risk + At-risk = **Confirmed At-Risk, Consider Intervention**
- ❖ Not at-risk + Not at-risk = **Confirmed Not At-Risk, Continue Tier I**
- ❖ At-Risk + Not At-Risk = Move to Step 5

## **STEP 5: Use Additional Data Sources for Risk Verification for Very Few Students**

- ❖ Data should be readily accessible and generally valid and reliable
- ❖ Consider progress monitoring or classroom assessment