MTSS/RTI Hot Topic: Selecting MTSS Progress Monitoring Tools

All schools should evaluate the continued usability and sustainability of their current MTSS/RTI assessment system. This handout provides a series of activities school teams can use to identify, evaluate, and select progress monitoring tools and data system.

ACTIVITY 1. Evaluate Quality of Progress Monitoring Tools

To complete the activity, list the progress monitoring tools currently used in your schools or district (Column 1) and the grades in which they are currently being used (Column 2). Using the data available on the National Center for Intensive Interventions (NCII) tools chart or other available resources, complete the remaining columns. In Column 3, identify the grades levels included in the available research. Indicate the status of remaining criteria with a YES, NO, or D/K (don't know). Add additional rows as needed.

Name of PM Tool	Grades Used	Fidelity of Progress Monitoring Criteria (YES, NO, or D/K)					Comments and concerns?
		Grades included in research (See Tools Chart)	Sufficient alternate forms of equal and controlled difficulty	Specify minimum acceptable growth	Provide benchmarks for minimum acceptable end-of-year performance	Reliability & validity information for the performance-level score is available	

ACTIVITY 2. Evaluate the Quality of the Progress Monitoring Data System

The following questions are in regard to the data system's usability. Using staff data, determine if the data system meets the Center on Response to Intervention criteria for an effective MTSS/RTI data system. Consider evaluating reading, math, and behavior tools separately.

Consideration	Response	Comments
The data system allows users to document and access individual student-level data (including screening and progress-monitoring data)	Yes No DK	
The data system allows users to engage in evaluation of the system at the district, school, grade, intervention, and class levels.	Yes No DK	
The data system allows data to entered in a timely manner	Yes No DK	
The data system provides reports to make timely and accurate decisions about movement among tiers.	Yes No DK	
The system allows users to access PM data and reports in a timely manner.	Yes No DK	
The data are represented graphically and are or could be easily understood by all users	Yes No DK	
The data system provides clear process for setting and evaluating goals.	Yes No DK	
The data system is cost effective and accessible to all users	Yes No DK	
The data system allows input data to be downloaded and stored on district/school data electronic storage.	Yes No DK	
Staff can be or were easily trained to 1) utilize the features of the system and 2) use the reports to support instructional decisions at all levels	Yes No DK	

List any additional concerns about the progress monitoring data system.

List any additional benefits of the data system to consider.

ACTIVITY 3. Consider Other Factors

Consideration	Response	Comments
Does the assessment system support a prevention focus?	Yes No DK	
Does the leadership use the PM data to support decisions?	Yes No DK	
Is on-going professional development available and cost-effective to support sustained implementation of the PM system?	Yes No DK	
Is the PM assessment system appropriate for the current resources?	Yes No DK	
Do the PM reports allow for increased communication and collaboration with families?	Yes No DK	
Do the PM reports allow for increased communication and collaboration with among staff?	Yes No DK	
Do the PM reports support the evaluation of short- and long-term goals?	Yes No DK	
Can we use the progress monitoring reports to evaluate the effectiveness of the MTSS/RTI Tier II and III system and its interventions.	Yes No DK	

Using the results of your MTSS/RTI team activities, consider the following:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of our current PM assessment system?
- Are the PM tools appropriate for our grade levels and focus areas?
- Does the assessment system currently meet our prioritized needs?
- Is the PM assessment system appropriate for our school context and resources?

If there are any concerns, consider identifying and reviewing another potential tool. Also consider having publishers provide access to sample accounts or providing a presentation about potential new features.

Resources

Academic Progress Monitoring General Outcome Measures (GOM). The National Center on Intensive Interventions provides ratings in a tools chart regarding the psychometric standards, progress monitoring standards, and data-based individualization standards of academic monitoring tools. Additional information is provided in the chart. (www.intensiveintervention.org/chart/progress-monitoring).

Behavior Progress Monitoring Tools Chart. The National Center on Intensive Interventions provides ratings in a tools chart regarding the psychometric standards, progress monitoring standards, and usability standards of behavior monitoring tools. Additional information is provided in the chart. (www.intensiveintervention.org/chart/behavioral-progress-monitoring-tools).