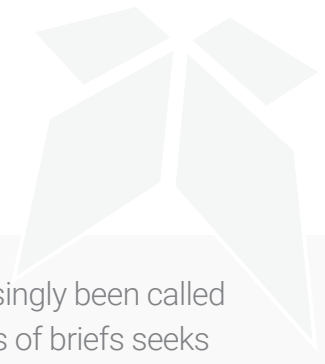


# How Does Personalized Learning Align with Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)



As more districts adopt personalized learning strategies, Education Elements has increasingly been called upon to articulate the alignment between PL and other initiatives in education. This series of briefs seeks to illustrate the role of PL to support, guide, or drive other learning initiatives in ways that are tangible for teachers and leaders.

## What is personalized learning (PL)?

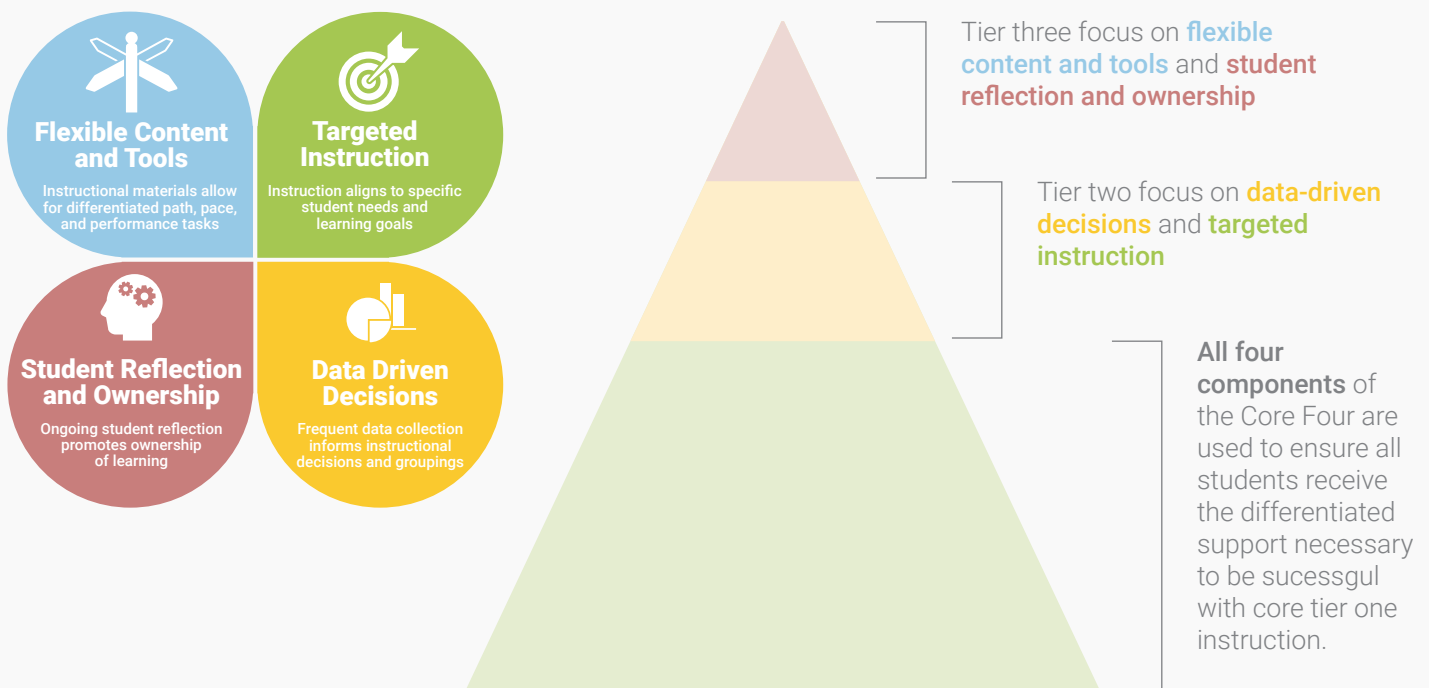
We believe that personalized learning means that students get the core instruction they need, when they need it. The Core Four of Personalized Learning identifies the four major shifts in instruction we would expect to see: the flexible use of online and offline content, targeted instruction, data-driven decisions, and increasing student ownership and reflection.

## What is MTSS?

A multi-tiered system of support is a framework that integrates academic interventions and behavioral supports. These interventions and supports are divided between three tiers, often illustrated as a triangle. Tier one, at the bottom, represents the core academic and behavioral instruction and supports for all students, and tier three, at the top, are the most intense interventions for the top 5% of students.

## If MTSS is the model, then PL represents the pieces that fill in that model.

- Personalized learning is how teachers successfully meet ALL student needs in core instruction.
- Two Core Four components, data-driven decisions and targeted instruction, explain how schools (1) identify tier two students, (2) provide them with additional support, and (3) monitor their progress.
- The other Core Four components, flexible content and tools and student reflection and ownership, explain how digital and offline content can provide remediation and help students build their individual agency.
- Often, successful implementation of MTSS requires districts and schools to be organized responsively. Education Elements CEO, Anthony Kim, wrote [The NEW School Rules: 6 Vital Practices for Thriving and Responsive Schools](#), which describes the six practices that lead to thriving, responsive schools.



## Advice for teachers and leaders utilizing PL and a Multi-Tiered System of Support

- Personalized learning is the essential component of tier one. PL allows teachers to meet the needs of ALL their diverse learners. For example:
  - Teachers may use **targeted instruction** to ensure below-grade level students get more time with a teacher on grade-level work.
  - Students may engage with a variety of **content and tools** to practice and demonstrate mastery of grade-level standards. For example, a student could practice multiplication on a paper workbook, spatially illustrate multiplication with blocks, and visually on a digital content program.
  - Teachers and schools monitor **data and make decisions** to ensure all students are getting the differentiated support necessary to be successful with tier one instruction. They also use this to determine if students should receive tier two and three intervention.
  - Increasing opportunities for **student reflection** is an important component of the behavioral supports required by MTSS. Explicit teaching of positive behavior can also build **student ownership**.
  - Read more about how PL differentiates tier one instruction for ALL students in our [White paper on the Core Four of Personalized Learning](#).
- School and district use of data represents how tier two and three interventions are targeted and how those students' progress is continually monitored for effectiveness. [Read more](#) about how Education Elements supports schools and districts to manage change that supports robust student learning.
- MTSS is one way we provide equitable access to core instruction. Read more about how PL supports educational equity in [our blog post](#).
- Successful implementation of core instruction required by tier one often requires district adoption of a research-backed curriculum. See the [three-phase curriculum adoption process](#) that Education Elements has used to help districts ensure that every student interacts with a high-quality curriculum

### ABOUT EDUCATION ELEMENTS

Education Elements works with districts to build and support dynamic school systems that meet the needs of every learner, today and tomorrow. They take the time to understand the unique challenges school leaders face, and then customize the Education Elements approach for each district. Ed Elements has worked with hundreds of districts across the country. They bring deep expertise, design thinking, expert facilitation and the spirit of collaboration, along with their extensive toolkit of resources and technology, to deliver sustainable results.