

# Connecting the Dots:

## California MTSS and English Learners (EL)

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a framework designed to address academic, behavioral, and social-emotional learning in a fully integrated system of support. Teams use data to guide instruction and identify students who require additional support for increasingly intensive interventions based on need. Student supports are universally designed, differentiated, and integrated. MTSS offers the potential to create needed systematic change through intentional design and redesign of services and supports to quickly identify and match to the needs of all students. In California MTSS, counties, regions and state educational agencies are the source of technical support, local educational agencies are the place of intervention and schools are the place of transformation. MTSS is a framework that supports equity based inclusion within a multi-tiered framework.



### English Learners in California:

An English Learner (EL) indicates an individual with a first language other than English who is the process of learning English-emergent bilinguals. California has the largest number of English Learners (EL) in the country, 21.4% of the total student enrollment, according to the Fall 2016 California Language Census, is made up of students learning English as a second language with over 60 language groups represented. This diversity is both a gift and poses challenges in creating instructional opportunities for all students. The California Department of Education (CDE) has two goals for LEAs and schools: 1. Ensure that English learners acquire full proficiency in English as rapidly and effectively as possible and attain parity with native speakers of English. 2. Ensure that English learners, within a reasonable period of time, achieve the same rigorous grade-level academic standards that are expected of all students. These goals will be achieved through English Language Development instruction (ELD) targeted to each student's English proficiency level and appropriate level of instruction, through intentional integrated and designated ELD instruction.

### How does MTSS and EL Instruction align?

The MTSS model can support ELs academic and language development with responsive teaching and learning. Fundamental needs of ELs include feeling safe, confident, and valued for their culture, language and identity; celebrating the whole child. A child's language learning is but a part of their story and MTSS provides a framework for all the assets a child brings to be surfaced. With MTSS calling for high-quality, research-based instruction that integrates assessment and feedback, a child gains access to instruction that both meets them where they are and scaffolds them to greater rigor and demand. Effective whole



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group instruction that lowers the affective filter that is coupled with cooperative groupings provides ELs a space and place to take risks with language and build meaning with content.

Further supporting language development through individualized instruction that continues to integrate listening, speaking, reading and writing amplifies a learner's opportunities to build English proficiency.

### Want to learn more about using MTSS to support your English Learners?

#### 1. Check out these resources to support your CA MTSS work:

##### Facts about English Learners

- [Facts about ELs in CA-CalEdFacts](#)

##### Frameworks & Standards

- [CA ELA/ELD Framework](#)
- [CA ELD Standards](#)
- [English Language Proficiency Assessments for California \(ELPAC\)](#)
- [CA Family Engagement](#)

##### Policy & Initiative Guidance

- [English Learner Toolkit \(Department of Education\)](#)
- [CA English Learner Roadmap](#)
- [CA English Learner Teacher Authorization](#)

##### Title III & Technical Assistance

- [OCDE Resources to State and Federal Programs](#)
- [Title III Accountability](#)
- [Reclassification](#)

##### Dual & Foreign Language Education

- [Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education](#)
- [CA State Standards \*en Español\* \(SDCOE\)](#)
- [OCDE Guidance: CA State Seal of Biliteracy](#)

