

# A PEATC

Do You Know....



## Fact Sheet for Virginia's Parents Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS)

### What is the Virginia Tiered System of Supports?

The Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) **helps struggling students in general education at the earliest signs of difficulty**. This includes **students with disabilities who may need extra help but who may not need special education services** if they receive early and appropriate instructional, social, and behavioral supports.

VTSS is a **data informed system that aligns academics, behavior and social-emotional wellness into a single decision-making framework** to establish the supports needed for schools to be effective learning environments for all students.

#### The essential elements of the VTSS framework are:

- ✓ An aligned organizational structure
- ✓ Data-informed decision-making
- ✓ Evidence-based practices
- ✓ Family, school and community partnerships
- ✓ Student progress monitoring
- ✓ Evaluation of outcomes and reliability

Schools that participate in VTSS are supported to develop a framework of supports and evidenced-based practices to meet student needs with increasing levels of intensity.

**TIER 1:** All students have the majority of their academic, behavioral, and emotional needs addressed.

**TIER 2:** Up to 20% of students may need supplemental instruction and supports.

**TIER 3:** Up to 5% of students may need intensive, individualized instruction and supports.

**In 2018-2019, 54 school divisions participated in VTSS.** To see if your division is a participant see Virginia map at: <https://vtss-ric.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/VTSS-2018-19-Cohort-1-5.png>

### Resources on Virginia Tiered System of Supports

**Virginia Department of Education**  
*Virginia Tiered System of Supports*  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/virginia\\_tiered\\_system\\_supports/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/virginia_tiered_system_supports/index.shtml)

**Virginia Tiered System of Supports**  
<https://vtss-ric.org/>

**TTAC Online**  
[https://ttaconline.org/Resource/JWHaEa5BS74HAgc3Z15\\_rw/Resource-virginia-tiered-systems-of-supports-vtss](https://ttaconline.org/Resource/JWHaEa5BS74HAgc3Z15_rw/Resource-virginia-tiered-systems-of-supports-vtss)



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# Fact Sheet for Virginia's Parents

## How Can My Student Benefit from VTSS?

Through VTSS, instruction and interventions will be provided to your student to address his areas of needs. These will be based on specific criteria established by the VTSS program in your school. Note that students are not tiered; the support services they receive are tiered. This is what you may expect if your school is a participant:

- ✓ Frequent updates on how your student is learning and progressing.
- ✓ Early identification of any problems and difficulties.
- ✓ Extra help that will increase or decrease along with your student's individual needs
- ✓ Frequent information on specific interventions that have been tailored to your student's needs.
- ✓ Regular updates about how your student is responding to those specific interventions and changes that are made if interventions are not working.

## Some VTSS Results

For 38 participating schools that have submitted outcome summary data for four consecutive years, results at the end of year (EOY) 2018:

- ✓ 29% decrease among general education students and 5% decrease in special education students in the **average number of office discipline referrals** from EOY 2015-EOY 2018.
- ✓ 38% decrease among general education and 8% decrease among special education students in the **average number of out of school suspensions** from EOY 2015-EOY 2018.
- ✓ 44% decrease among general education and 13% decrease among special education students in average number of **in school suspensions** from EOY 2015-EOY 2018.
- ✓ **Increases in average SOL pass rates** in reading and math were also noted but not specifically quantified.

## Questions Parents May want to ask

1. What **targeted interventions** is my student receiving?
2. What are the formal guidelines my student's school is using for **progress monitoring**?
3. How will I be **informed of the progress** my student is making?
4. What happens if an **intervention is not working**?

If your student **consistently fails to make progress after the three tiers of intervention have been implemented**, he may be referred for an evaluation to determine if he/she has a disability and needs special education services.

You have the right to request an evaluation for special education eligibility at any point in the academic intervention process. You do not have to wait until all three tiers of intervention have been tried.

See Fact Sheets on *Eligibility and Requesting an Evaluation*.

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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