

IOWA Department of Education

Addressing the Needs of the  
Universal Tier: The Beginning

School Improvement Symposium  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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Accessing Files for this Session



- Go to <http://tinyurl.com/IASIS93014>
- Access/download the following documents:
  - QD2 School Improvement Symposium 93014.pdf
  - CollaborativeInquiryQuestionsv2.1school level only.pdf
  - Universal Tier Session Notes Page 93014.docx

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Session Objectives



By the end of the session, participants will be able to describe:

1. the universal tier in a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)
2. the role of collaborative inquiry in implementing MTSS
3. the steps involved in digging into universal tier practices
4. a plan for applying learning back home

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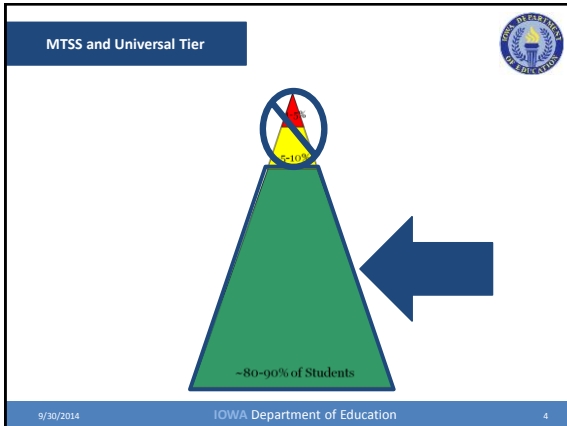
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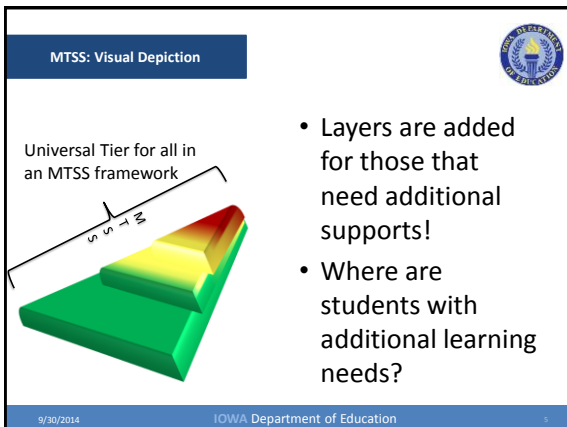
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Universal Tier

What is meant by that?

The following is taken from the RTI/MTSS document on the Iowa DOE website.

This is what it says about the Universal Tier :

- Evidence- Based Curriculum and Instruction shall be provided at the Universal level
- Schools provide evidence-based curriculum and instruction to all learners in the general classroom.

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### Universal Tier



- a. All schools shall use universal instruction based on the age/grade-level expectations found in the Iowa Early Learning Standards/Iowa Core Standards.
- b. All schools shall use a research-based scope and sequence of skills

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### Universal Tier



- c. All schools shall use instructional methods that are systematic (structured), sequential, and cumulative, that are organized and presented in a way that follows a logical sequential plan, with no assumption of prior skills or language knowledge, and maximizes student engagement. This instruction proceeds at a rate commensurate with students' needs, ability levels, and demonstration of progress.

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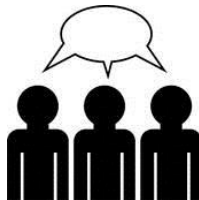
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### Activity: Defining Universal Tier



- Turn to a shoulder partner(s)
- Discuss the following questions.
  - What are the different characteristics and practices of the universal tier?
  - What questions do you have about the universal tier?



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### Universal Tier



Addressing the Needs –  
What are we going to focus on today?



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### Current Literacy Efforts in Iowa



- Implementation of the Iowa Core and the Early Learning Standards
- C4K – Literacy Initiative
  - Phase 1 – First 10%
  - Collaborative Inquiry
  - MTSS- FAST/IGDIs
- Iowa Reading Research Center – IRRC
- Chapter 62/279:68/ELI
  - Universal Screeners
  - ELI Schools

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### Other Connections



- School Accreditation Requirements- General and Special Education
- SINA and DINA

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The Context: Collaborating for Iowa's Kids (C4K)



**INTENT**

- To work more effectively and efficiently as a full educational system (PreK-12) to accomplish a few agreed upon priorities.

**INITIAL GOAL**

- All learners will be proficient in reading by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade across subgroups.

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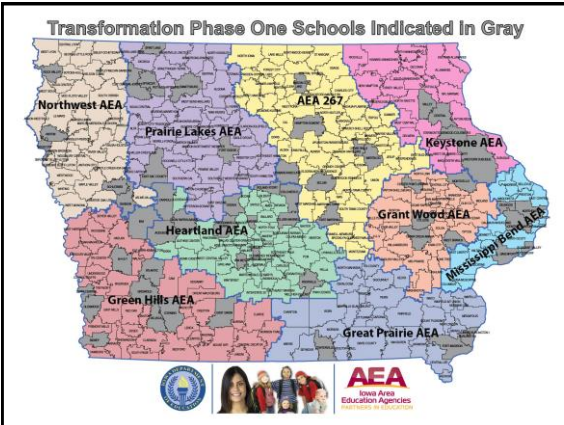
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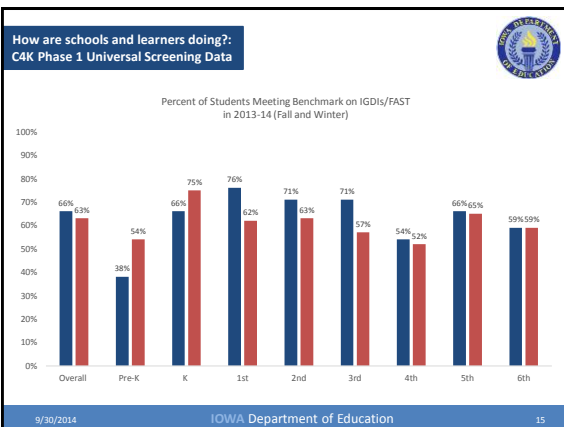
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**How are schools and learners doing?:**  
NCLB



- NCLB- SINA How many are needing help?
  - 54.4% of schools did not make AYP during the 2013-14 school year
  - Overall proficiency levels in reading by grade level:

Grade Level	% of Students Proficient
3	77.6
4	76.0
5	76.9
6	74.4
7	75.7
8	75.6
11	80.1

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**Activity: Universal Tier Needs**



- Do we need to work on the Universal Tier?
- Turn to a shoulder partner- what are your thoughts?



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**What does this mean?**



- Relentless work and focus on the Universal Tier is needed !
- High quality Universal Tier instruction is vital.
- Addressing the needs of the full continuum of literacy learners in an MTSS framework is key.
- Guidance and support for addressing the Universal Tier was started in 2013-14 and will continue.

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## Collaborative Inquiry Questions: The Foundation

A set of questions to guide the work of AEAs and LEAs through an improvement process.

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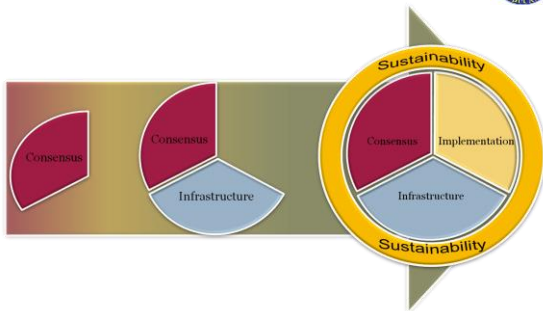
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### Consensus to Success



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### Collaborative Inquiry Process



#### CONSENSUS

A. Is there initial and ongoing administrator consensus to develop and implement MTSS?

B. Is there initial and ongoing staff consensus to develop and implement MTSS?

#### CONSENSUS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

C. Is there a leadership team willing to accept responsibility for development, implementation, and sustainability of MTSS?

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Collaborative Inquiry Process



CONSENSUS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

D. Do we have an established and ongoing collaborative inquiry process for implementation of MTSS?

Universal Tier

1. Is the Universal Tier sufficient?

2. If the Universal Tier is not sufficient, what are the needs that must be addressed?

3. How will Universal Tier needs be addressed?

4. How will the implementation of the Universal Tier actions be monitored over time?

5. Have Universal Tier actions been effective?

Targeted/Intensive Tiers

6. Which students need support in addition to the Universal Tier?

7. Which of the Targeted and/or Intensive Tier resources are needed to meet the needs of identified students?

8. How will the Targeted and/or Intensive Tier options be implemented?

9. How will the implementation of the Targeted and Intensive Tiers be monitored over time?

10. How will the effectiveness of the Targeted and Intensive Tiers be evaluated?

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Collaborative Inquiry Process



CONSENSUS, INFRASTRUCTURE, IMPLEMENTATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY

E. Do you have an established structure to provide on-going professional learning and coaching to support all staff members?

F. How do you ensure evaluation of MTSS implementation and impact on achievement?

G. What structures does the leadership team have in place to support sustainability of MTSS over time?

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Questions?





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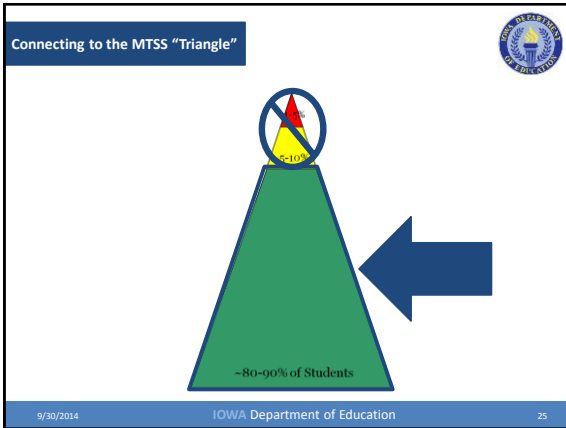
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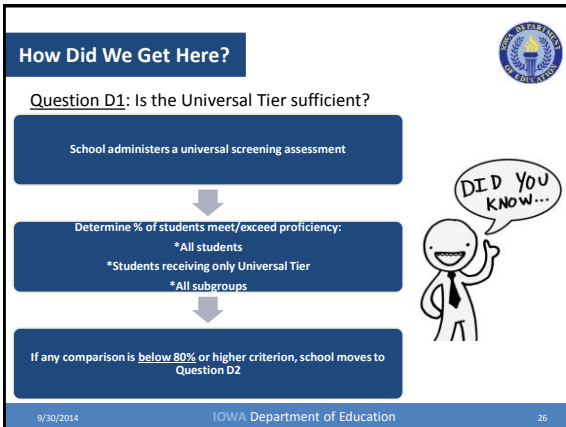
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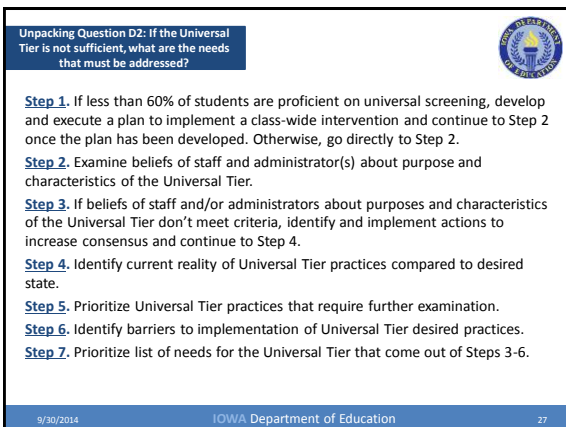
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Activity: Digging into D2



- Turn to a shoulder partner(s)
- Discuss the following questions.
  - What is the key vocabulary that needs to be understood to apply the steps?
  - Why are beliefs about Universal Tier important?



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Dig a little deeper...



- Turn back to your shoulder partner(s)
- Examine the 7 Steps further.  
Discuss these questions.
  - Why is it important to systemically examine current practices compared to desired state?
  - How can following these steps help facilitate improved implementation of the Iowa Core?

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What does this mean for you and your school?



Like many schools in the state- it means a deep and serious examination of **your** Universal Tier



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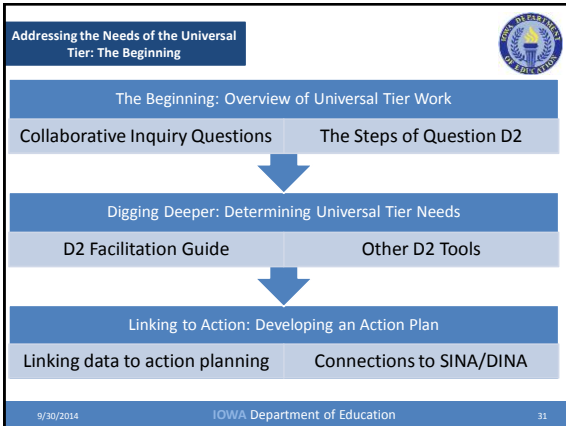
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**Activity: Next Steps Back Home**

- Turn to a shoulder partner(s)
- Discuss the following questions, use your Notes document to write down some steps.
  - What will you do to turn your learning into action back home?
  - Who needs to be involved to turn these ideas into action?

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She is starting on a journey too!





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