Selecting High-leverage MTSS-B Practices

Use this guide in tandem with the **Selecting Practices Tool** to select high-leverage Tier 1, 2, and 3 MTSS-B practices. A high-leverage MTSS-B practice is one that can feasibly be implemented in a culturally responsive manner to effectively meet a demonstrated student population-level Tier 1, 2, and/or 3 need. Practices that are redundant or unnecessary, unresponsive to the cultural and linguistic characteristics of your student population, infeasible, poorly implemented, or ineffective are counterproductive to MTSS-B.

1. Identify the practice need or gap

The data-driven identification of a student population-level gap or need – not the popularity or marketability of a trending intervention – should drive selection of MTSS-B practices. Universal screening, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Community/District/School Data Profiles, Tier 2/3 Tracking Tool, and MTSS-B Fidelity Inventory data can help identify population-level student needs that are inadequately addressed by your current practices.

2. Find multiple practice(s) that could potentially meet the practice gap or need

We should prioritize evidence-based practices (EBPs) insofar as possible. EBPs are those with demonstrated efficacy through multiple rigorous, controlled studies (e.g., randomized clinical trials). Next best are promising practices. Promising practices have some preliminary scientific support (but not as much as EBPs). The following websites can help you find your way to relevant EBPs and Promising Practices:

- The Institute of Education Science's What Works Clearinghouse: *http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/*
- Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: *https://www.pbis.org/*
- Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning: *www.casel.org*
- SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center: *https://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center*
- Annie E. Casey Foundation's Blueprints for Healthy Development: *http://www.blueprintsprograms.com*
- California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare: *https://www.cebc4cw.org/*
- Evidence-Based Behavioral-Practices (EBBP): *www.ebbp.org/*

3. Select the "best-fit" practice

The final step is to select the "best-fit" practice using the National Implementation Research Network's Hexagon Tool. [1] This tool helps you weigh a number of factors – including feasibility, usability, and cultural appropriateness – to select the practice with the greatest potential to effectively meet the identified needs of your student population. Document your Hexagon Tool scores and ultimate decision in the **Selecting Practices Tool.** And remember, selecting an EBP or promising practice with strong potential is just the start – even the strongest practice, if ill-fitting, infeasible, or implemented poorly, will fail to produce real world results.

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[1] *Metz, A. & Louison, L. (2019) The Hexagon Tool: Exploring Context. Chapel Hill, NC: National Implementation Research Network, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Based on Kiser, Zabel, Zachik, & Smith (2007) and Blase, Kiser & Van Dyke (2013).*