
Don't be confused by how the term COMPREHENSIVE is used

What Really is a *COMPREHENSIVE* Approach to Mental Health in Schools?

We see the phrase **Comprehensive** school mental health system being widely used. But, too often, what is described is only a narrowly conceived way to expand mental health services at school.

The emphasis on MTSS is a step toward a comprehensive approach, but in the form most widely discussed, it also is insufficient.

Schools clearly do have a role to play in providing mental health services. And as MTSS suggests, such services are part of a full continuum of interventions.

However, a truly comprehensive system entails expanding the continuum as conceived by MTSS along with organizing the many interventions encompassed by the continuum into an organized and well-delineated framework.

See:

>*Embedding Mental Health into a Learning Supports Component:*

An Essential Step for the Field to Take Now

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/embeddingmh.pdf>

>*Toward Next Steps in School Improvement: Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching*

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/systemic/towardnextstep.pdf>