DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

Diagnostic assessment is the process of using multiple measures and reports to identify student strengths and needs in specific skill areas, so teachers can provide instruction to address learning needs. Diagnostic data directly guide academic, curricular, and instructional decisions because there is a better understanding of what a student knows or doesn't know in relation to specific learning goals.

Diagnostic assessments are administered to students, grade levels, or groups who are flagged by universal screening (particularly for those who indicate an intense need) to pinpoint the specific area of academic or SEB need. For example, if the universal screener indicates a student's struggles in math, diagnostic assessment might then pinpoint calculation or application as the specific skill within that respective area of math.

Diagnostics, in conjunction with other whole child data, help ensure that interventions are tightly aligned to the need. Diagnostic reporting is sometimes included as a part of a high-quality universal screening assessment (such as **FastBridge**). If not, diagnostic assessments take place administered immediately after the universal screener.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING
IS KEY TO MTSS

A multi-tiered system of support or MTSS is a framework with a tiered infrastructure that uses data to help match academic and SEB assessment and instructional resources to each and every student's needs.

Using data to monitor the effectiveness of universal instruction and identify students who need additional support (and the intensity of the student's needs) are both essential components of an effective MTSS. Universal screening is the process that fuels both.