

Shared leadership in action: **Purpose-built MTSS data tools** for whole child decision-making

Districts implementing MTSS often face a coordination challenge. This case study highlights how Dr. Jack Rein's **shared leadership model** transformed Cicero D99's MTSS approach from separate processes on each campus to a unified approach across all 16 schools in the district. His advice: "Start slow, go steady, and ensure your data collection leads to actionable insights."



Cicero D99, IL
8,800+ students
16 Schools
PK-8th Grade

A Vision for Unified Support

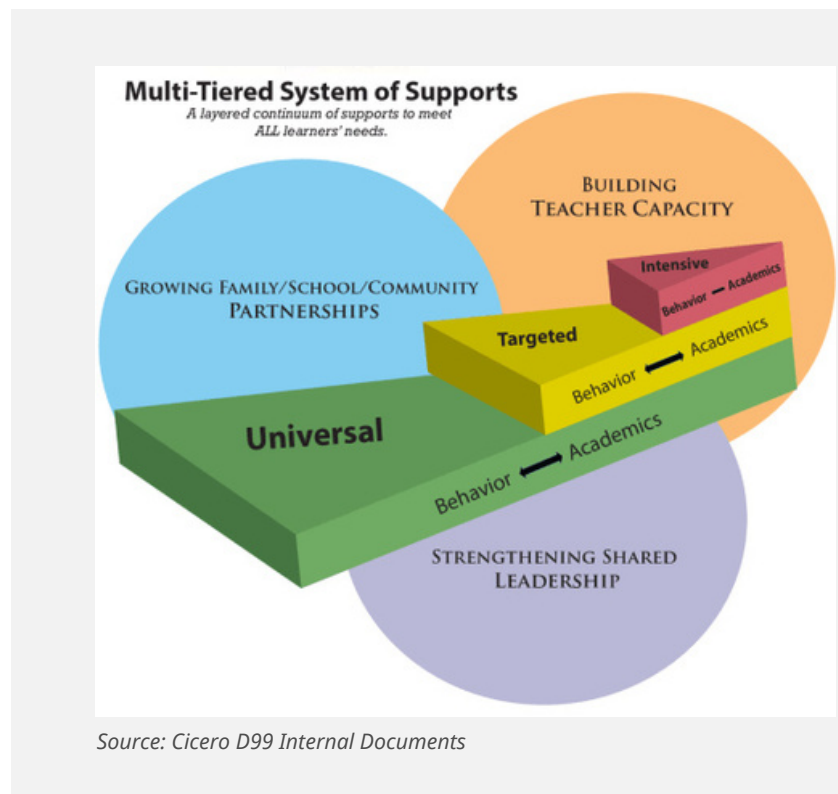
Dr. Rein's vision was clear from the start: transform student support into a personalized, inclusive system with strong universal support.

From his early days as an alternative education teacher, Dr. Rein saw firsthand how students' well-being is intertwined with academics. His mantra, "You have to *Maslow* before you can *Bloom*," blends mental health and educational frameworks in a holistic student support system.

When choosing a new data and MTSS platform for the district, Dr. Rein prioritized **adaptability**. Unlike other products that provided a one-size-fits-all approach, the Schoolytics partnership empowered Cicero to present MTSS just as they envisioned.

Inclusive Design Promotes Staff Buy-In

Dr. Rein and his team have been working on developing the right MTSS framework for Cicero for a long time, even before MTSS became a defined term. When he first assessed the district's situation, "RTI was done in silos...schools were doing parts of it, but there was no consistency across the district." Understanding that sustainable, meaningful change would require full district buy-in, Dr. Rein formed the first-ever district-wide MTSS team.



By breaking down siloes and weaving together teacher input and community partnerships, Cicero formed an MTSS philosophy that views **support as a spectrum rather than a set of boxes to tick**. Supported by research that finds shared district leadership is essential in effective MTSS implementation (Freeman, Miller, & Newcomer, 2015), Cicero emphasizes a layered approach rather than a triangle---or hierarchy---of discrete units.

At Cicero, MTSS is the instructional service delivery system in which major educational initiatives are embedded. Once this idea was established, the team agreed that multi-dimensional student data, coupled with technology, could help realize their vision.



Schoolytics enables districts to create a customized MTSS data framework aligned with the unique needs of their students, staff and community, promoting a comprehensive approach to student support and measurement.

The Problem Solving Team: Uncovering Barriers and Prioritizing the Next Step

MTSS implementation became a central priority for Cicero's Problem-Solving Team (PST). The PST is where data and decision-making come together. This multidisciplinary team dives into everything from attendance records to behavioral and academic data, pinpointing where to focus efforts first.

They needed a platform to **marry their core student data with MTSS workflows** to achieve their goals:

- 1 improve data access for stakeholders
- 2 remove barriers
- 3 ensure students receive timely intervention services



Addressing Attendance First

"If we have kids struggling with behavior and academics, and they are not going to school, we can't teach them if they're not here."

Dr. Jack Rein

Director of MTSS

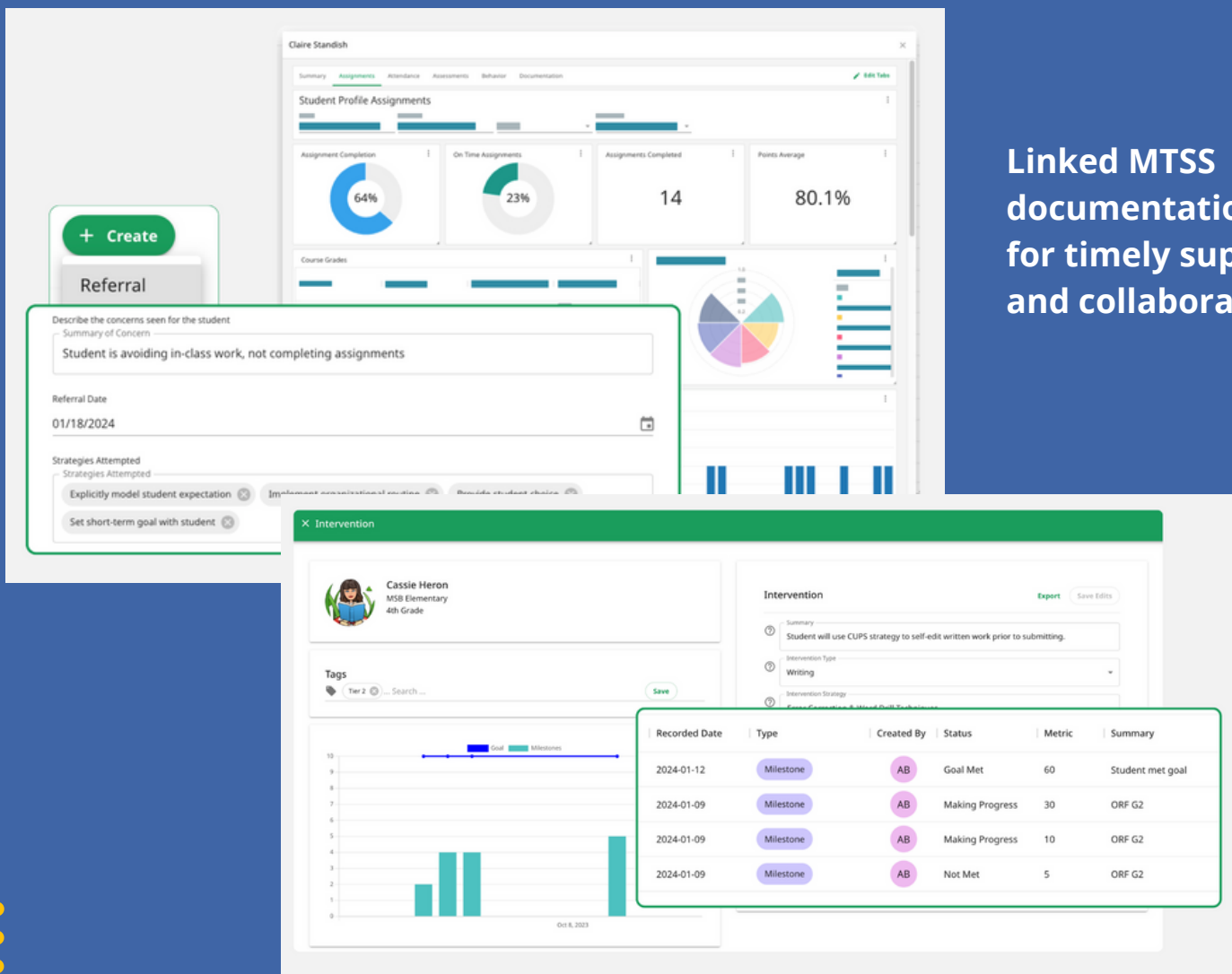
Cicero D99, IL

Bringing the whole child decision-making process to life

At first, data was documented in Google Sheets. This provided a blank canvas for sketching the key ingredients and testing the design in different schools. As time went on, the district needed more consistency across schools. When the team first selected an MTSS vendor for their referral system a few years ago, the district was forced to shift its intentionally constructed MTSS process to meet the vendor's existing requirements. Ultimately, those constraints proved too restrictive and rigid.

By transitioning to Schoolytics, the Cicero team got back full editorial control of their documentation and staff workflows. Plus, they were able to link directly to student data with real-time data connectors. “We’re excited about this partnership because we’ve been able to create this tool where we’ll see all those different data points in the platform... We can truly make the whole child decision-making process come to life.”

Schoolytics’ streamlined MTSS documentation tools pull in all the relevant fields, so staff can enter only the latest observations. The ability to securely share the right amount of sensitive student information with the appropriate staff members in real-time is a game changer for multidisciplinary teams.



The screenshot displays the Schoolytics MTSS documentation interface. It features a student profile for Claire Standish with various data points and charts. Below the profile, there is a section for describing concerns and a referral form. An intervention record for Cassie Heron is also shown, including a table of recorded dates and metrics.

Linked MTSS documentation for timely support and collaboration

Recorded Date	Type	Created By	Status	Metric	Summary
2024-01-12	Milestone	AB	Goal Met	60	Student met goal
2024-01-09	Milestone	AB	Making Progress	30	ORF G2
2024-01-09	Milestone	AB	Making Progress	10	ORF G2
2024-01-09	Milestone	AB	Not Met	5	ORF G2



*“Moving forward with Schoolytics has been a positive experience because **we did not have to change our process to meet the platform.** Schoolytics is working with us to make the platform support our process.”*

As staff and student needs evolve, Cicero plans to use the insights from the data to improve the MTSS process. “We think of our problem-solving team as a circle—it’s all about coming back and learning from what the data shows us,” reflects Dr. Rein.

Central to these continuous improvement efforts is the data partnership with Schoolytics.

A unified student data system supports Cicero’s commitment to educating the whole child. Editorial control of their MTSS documentation and workflows ensures that the data tools reflect changes in intervention programs over time.

Looking ahead, Dr. Rein and his team are excited to share their journey with the district community and a wider network of student support teams.

Cicero’s strategic data partnership with Schoolytics, which unifies behavioral, academic, assessment, and intervention data, empowers staff to tackle current educational challenges while also being well-equipped to adapt to future changes, ensuring teachers and students have the support they need to thrive.



See how Schoolytics can help unify your district's student data and MTSS documentation.

[Request a demo](#)

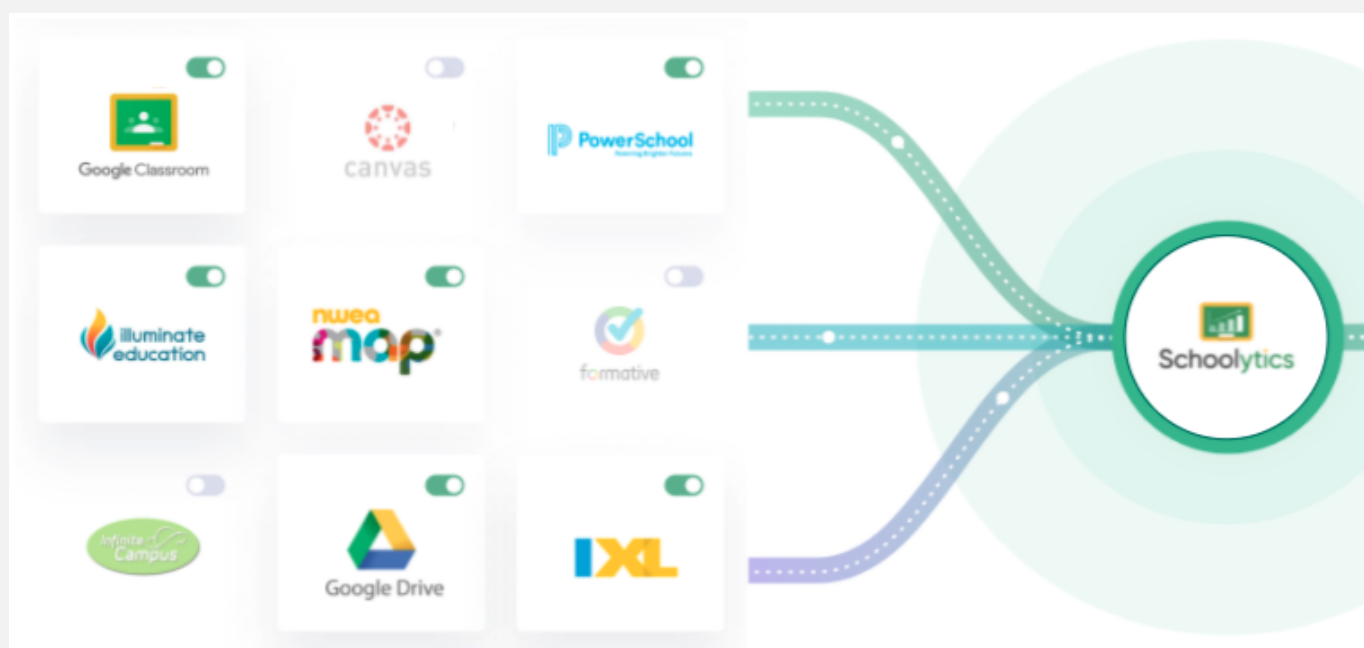
Schoolytics Data Solutions for Cicero

Data Warehouse + Integrations

Schoolytics' out-of-the-box data connectors merge key SIS, assessment, and learning applications into one secure, managed data warehouse, empowering staff to search one place for a reliable, single source of truth on student outcomes.

Adaptable MTSS Tool

Schoolytics' flexible MTSS forms and workflows provide a holistic picture of student support, encompassing referrals, interventions, behavior, and discipline insights. Districts are guided to customize the system to match their unique tools and processes for MTSS.



Advisory Data Partnership

Ensure implementation success from defining your strategic plan to measuring student outcomes. Our team of expert data scientists partners with you to distill complex data into clear, actionable steps, driving meaningful improvements in student outcomes.