



# Why MTSS Isn't Just for Elementary Schools: Making the Framework *Work* at the Secondary Level

Dr. Holly Windram and Dr. Sarah Brown  
October 12, 2022

# Presenters



**Holly Windram, Ph.D.**

Executive Director

Hope Network's Michigan Education Corps  
Reading Corps and Math Corps programs



**Sarah Brown, Ph.D.**

Senior Director, MTSS Solutions  
Renaissance Learning

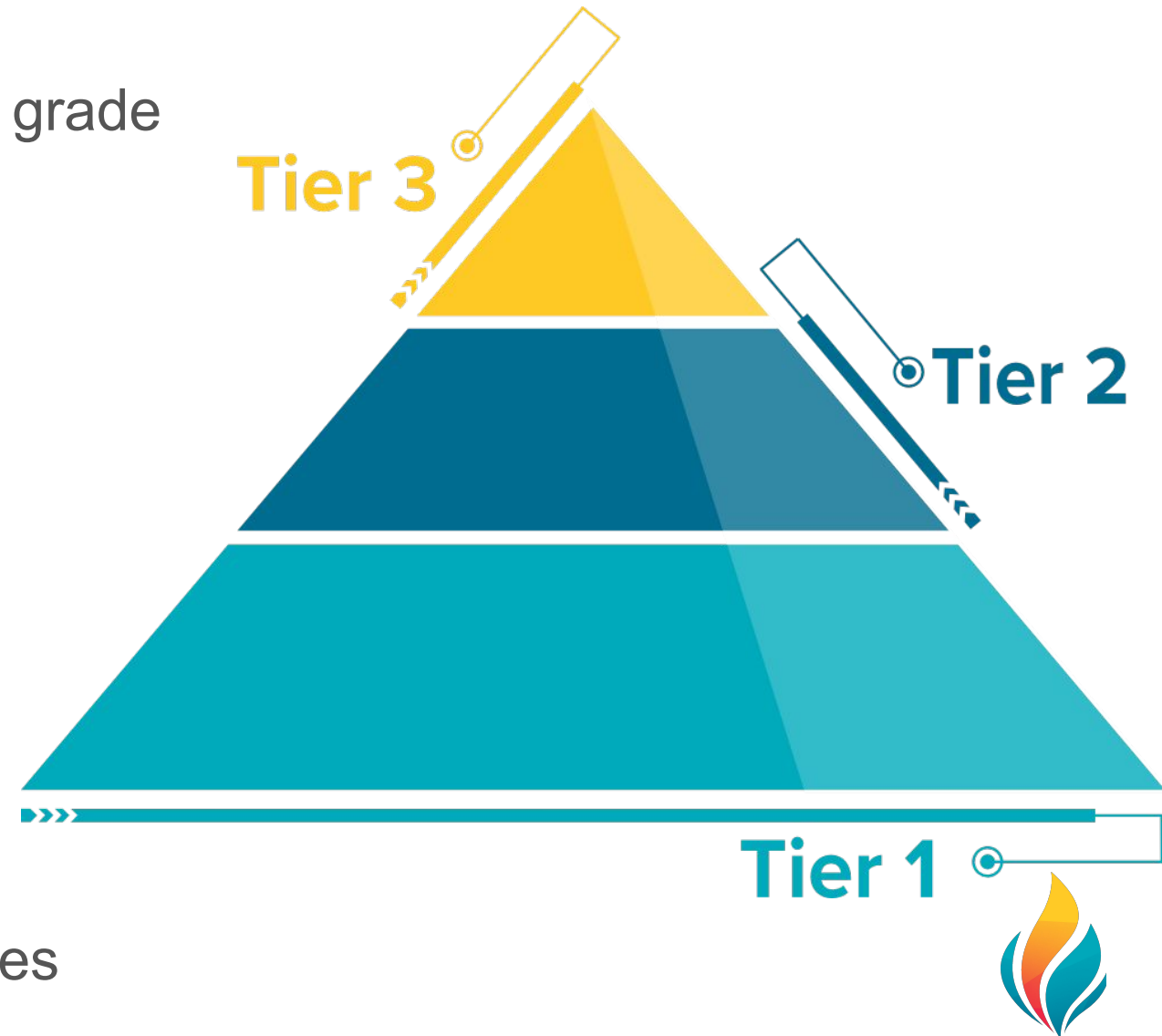


# What Is Secondary MTSS?



# What Is Secondary MTSS?

1. Core instruction = **80%** of students at grade level/meeting standards
2. **Universal screening** with **valid and reliable** tools
3. **Evidence-based, intensity aligned intervention**
4. Consistent **data-reviews** with administrators
5. **Stakeholder alignment** of MTSS language, understanding, and practices



# Secondary MTSS

## Logistical

- More kids = fewer resources
- Staffing/Departmentalization
- Schedule:
  - More adults
  - HS - Graduation Requirements

## Instructional

- Needs actually ARE greater
- Content teacher knowledge to address basic skill deficits
- Fewer evidence-based programs/intervention options
- Data literacy



# Translating to Practice: Universal Screening

## Is:

- Every student 1-3x year
- Reliable and Valid. Both.
- Clear decision-making guidelines
- Student self-report  
e.g., SAEBRS/mySAEBRS

## Is not:

- Early warning indicators
- GPA
- Teacher referral
- Pre-screened at-risk



# Translating to Practice: High Dosage Intervention



1. 3–5 days a week
2. Monitor fidelity
3. Collect progress monitoring data



# Translating to Practice: Teams & Data Reviews

- Why are you meeting?
- Who *is* and who *should* be there?
- When are these scheduled and for how long?
- What are your
  - Decision-making guidelines
  - Documentation of next steps





# How Schools Can Support Data Use

Provide dedicated time to review and act on data

Provide protocols to guide data review process

Invite local experts to model facilitation of data conversations

Communicate the importance of the work

Continuously share the purpose of the work

Celebrate team achievements during staff meetings



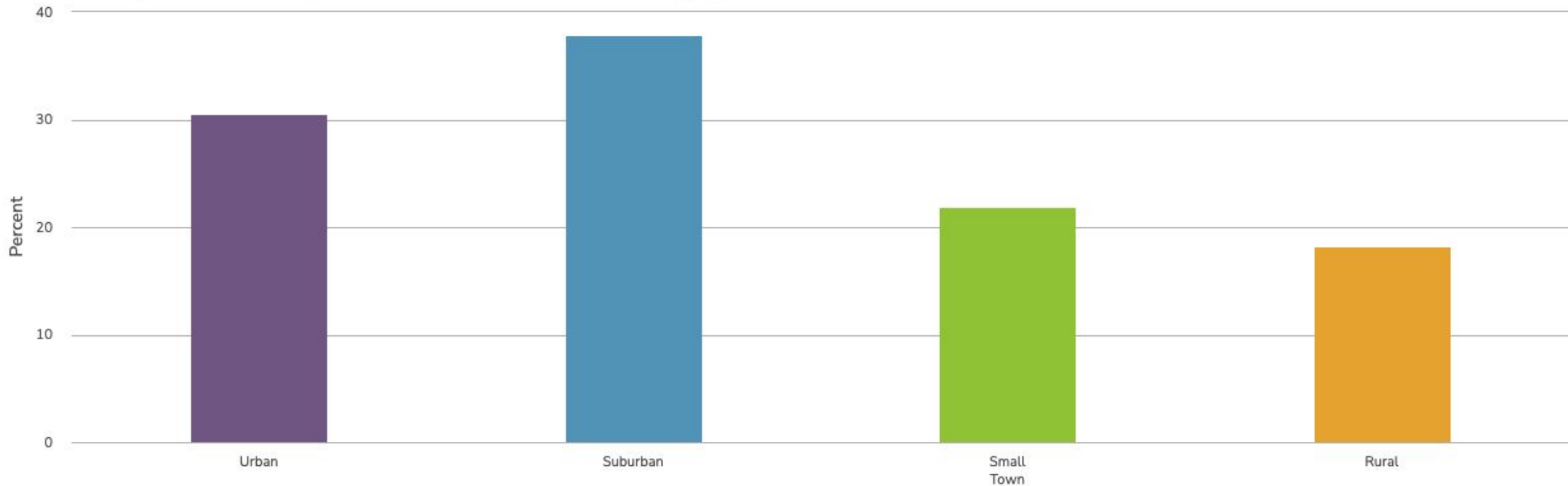
# Survey Insights



# Survey Overview

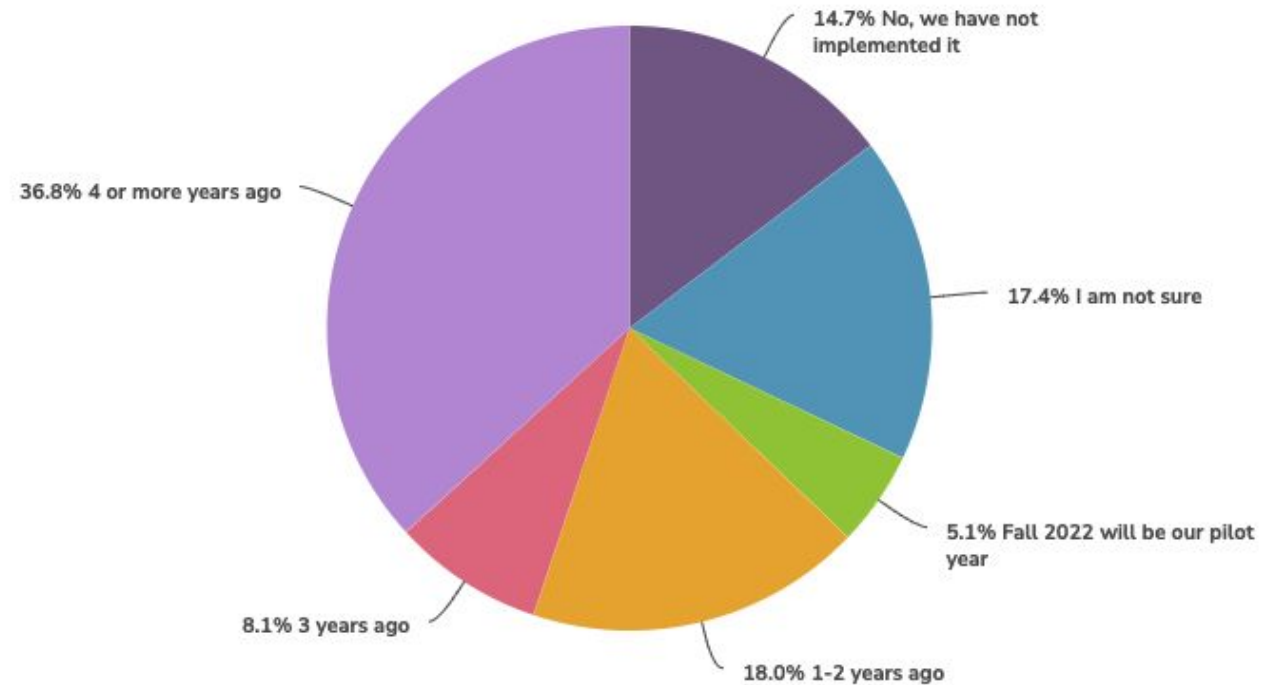
In collaboration with SmartBrief, we sought input from over 400 leaders in secondary education about the challenges or roadblocks districts face when implementing MTSS in middle and high schools.

L. How would you characterize your school/district? Check all that apply.



# Survey Overview

5. Are you currently implementing response to intervention (RTI) or multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) at your school? If yes, when did you implement it?



## Poll

I have the support from district leaders when implementing MTSS initiatives.

- I strongly agree
- I agree somewhat
- I do not agree
- I strongly disagree

I have the tools I need to successfully implement MTSS.

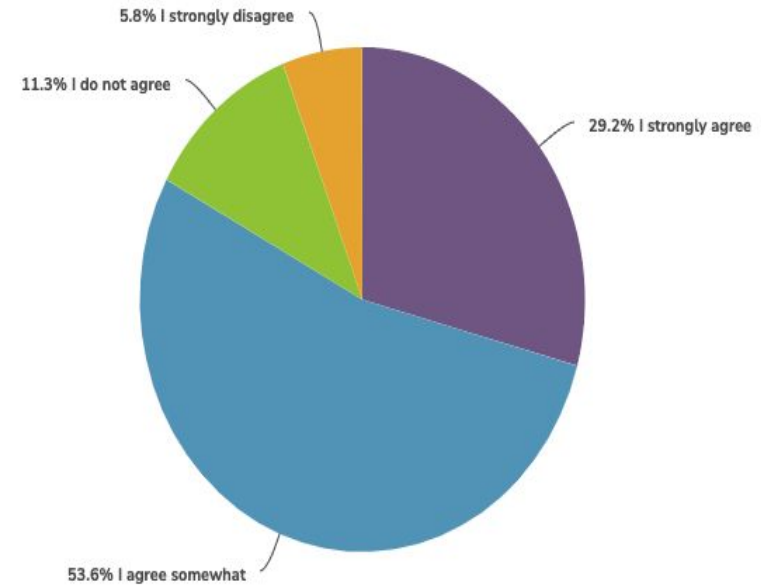
- I strongly agree
- I agree somewhat
- I do not agree
- I strongly disagree



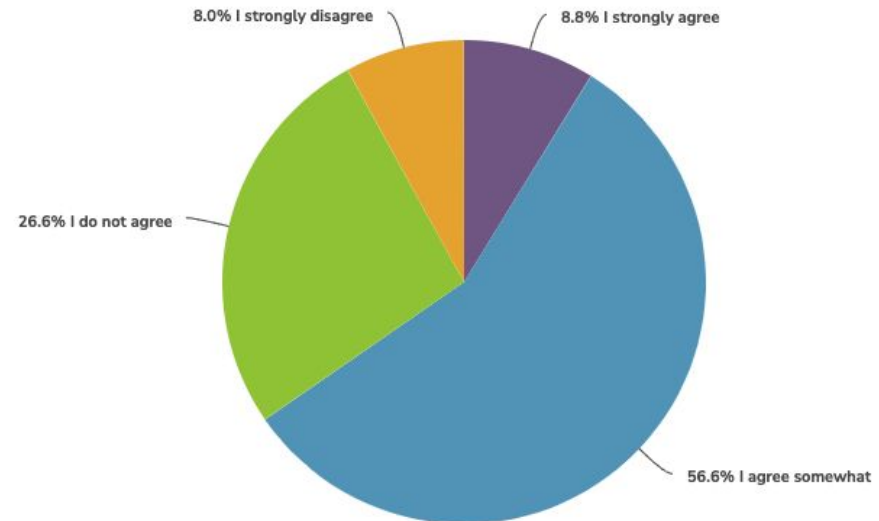
# What the survey respondents said:

- Over 80% felt they had support from district leaders and yet....
- Over 30% of respondents did not feel they **had the tools** needed to implement MTSS successfully

11. "I have the support from district leaders when implementing MTSS initiatives."



12. "I have the tools I need to successfully implement MTSS initiatives."



## More from Secondary Educators

*“Our students are struggling to actively engage in their own learning.”*

*“My district used to do pretty well with Rtl, [but] MTSS is NOT something we've been trained in, nor is it something at the forefront of our ‘professional development’ sessions.”*

*“Implementing MTSS with fidelity continues to be an ongoing challenge across grade levels.”*

*“Student needs have changed, but the dilemma is that our instructional practices have not changed to support what research/evidence have proven to be effective practices. Even prior to the pandemic, our district struggled to provide robust professional learning for teachers. We now see this as a major player in MTSS implementation.”*



# Catch-Up Growth





# Growth

## Evaluate learning over time

*Regardless of starting  
point*



## Poll

How do you currently monitor student progress?

1. Grades
2. Quizzes (teacher-developed or other)
3. Pre- Post- Test
4. Verbal checks for understanding during class
5. Other (we may ask you what you use!)

How do you currently progress monitor students?

1. We don't
2. A published tool with technical adequacy (e.g., FastBridge Learning)
3. The Sped Teachers probably use something for kids on IEPs that are from #2
4. Good question. I don't know.



# Evaluating Growth with Screening Data

FAST - FAST - aReading Middle Schools By Grade



Students

Fall

Winter

Default Performance Band

Search

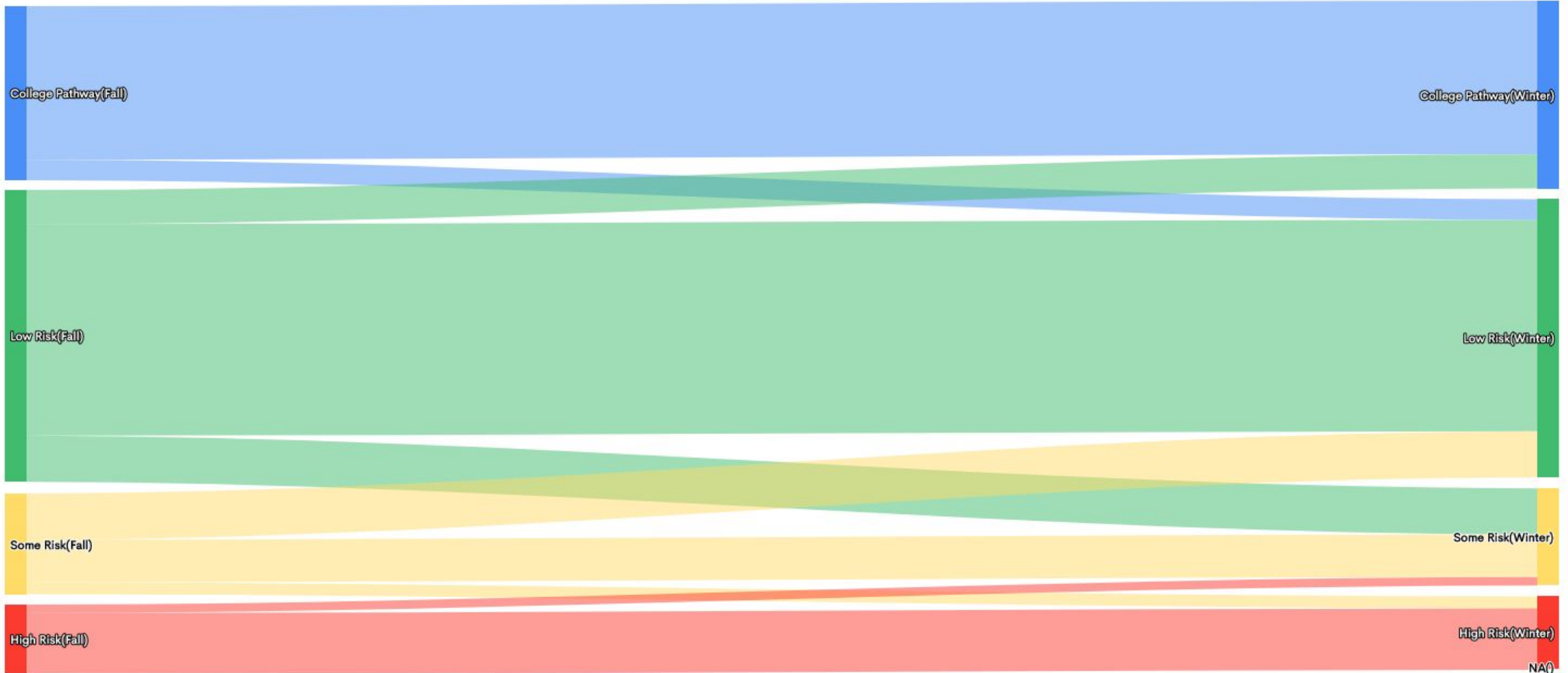
Effectiveness

Program Effectiveness



Longitudinal

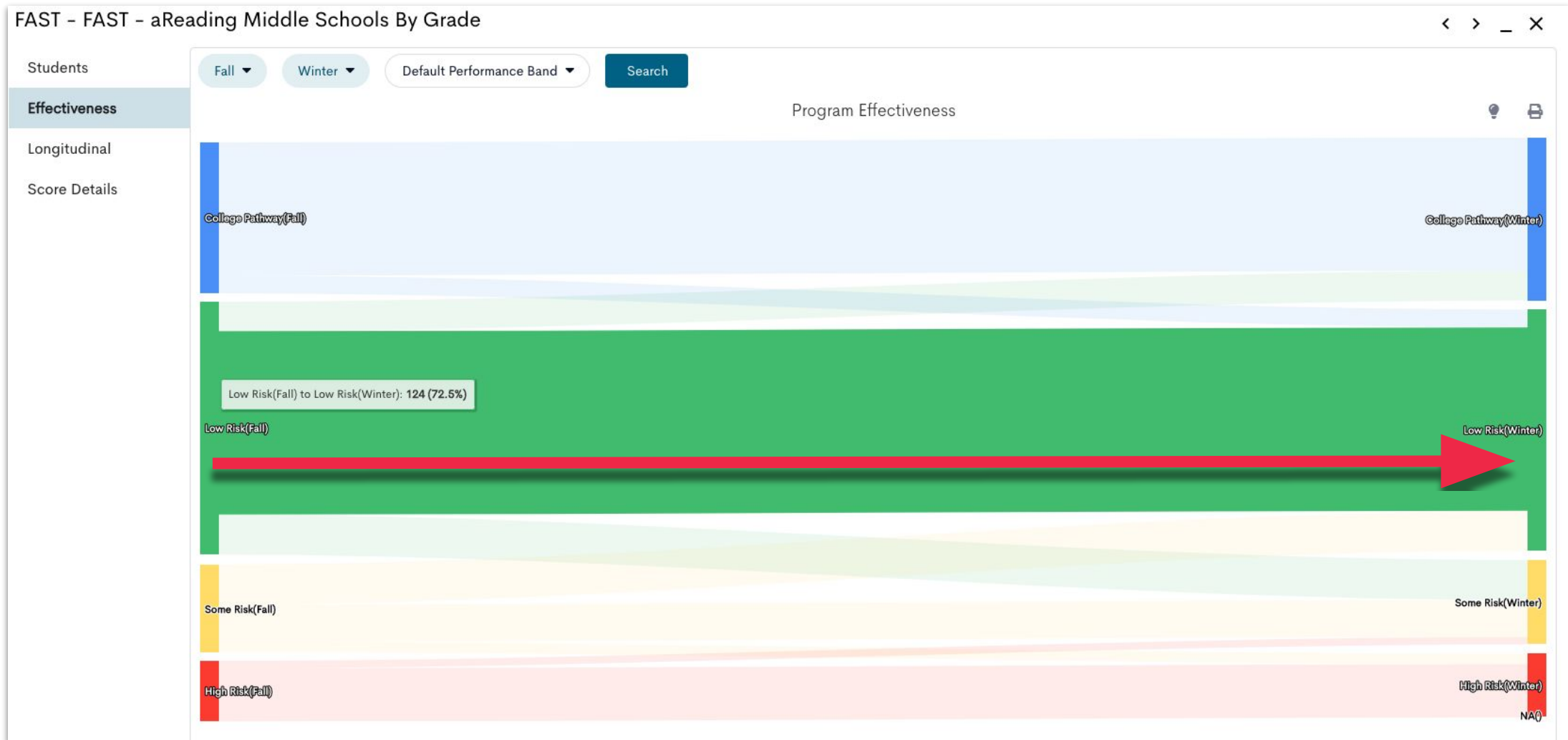
Score Details



NA

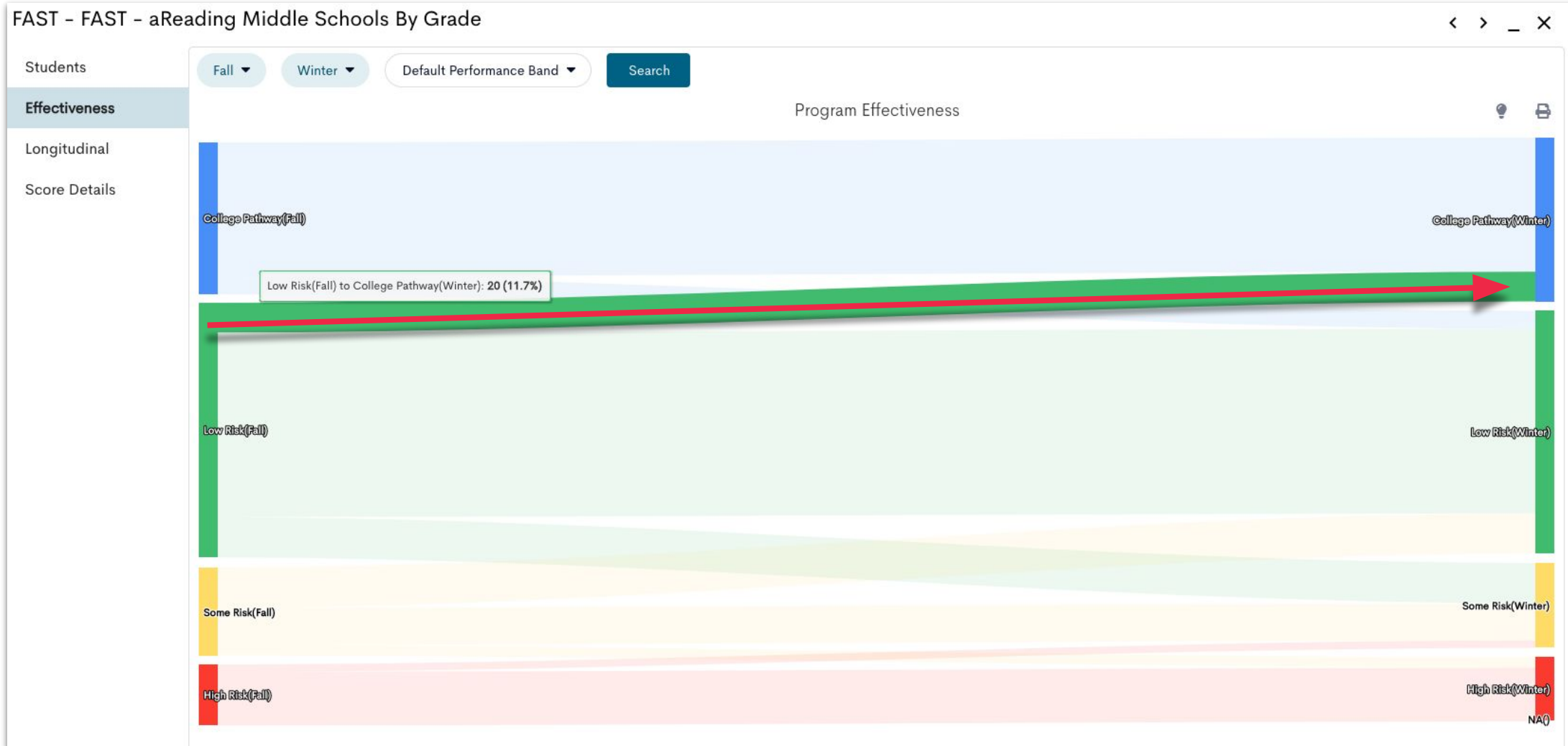
# Tier 1 Growth

*How many students who start the year on track grow enough to stay on track?*



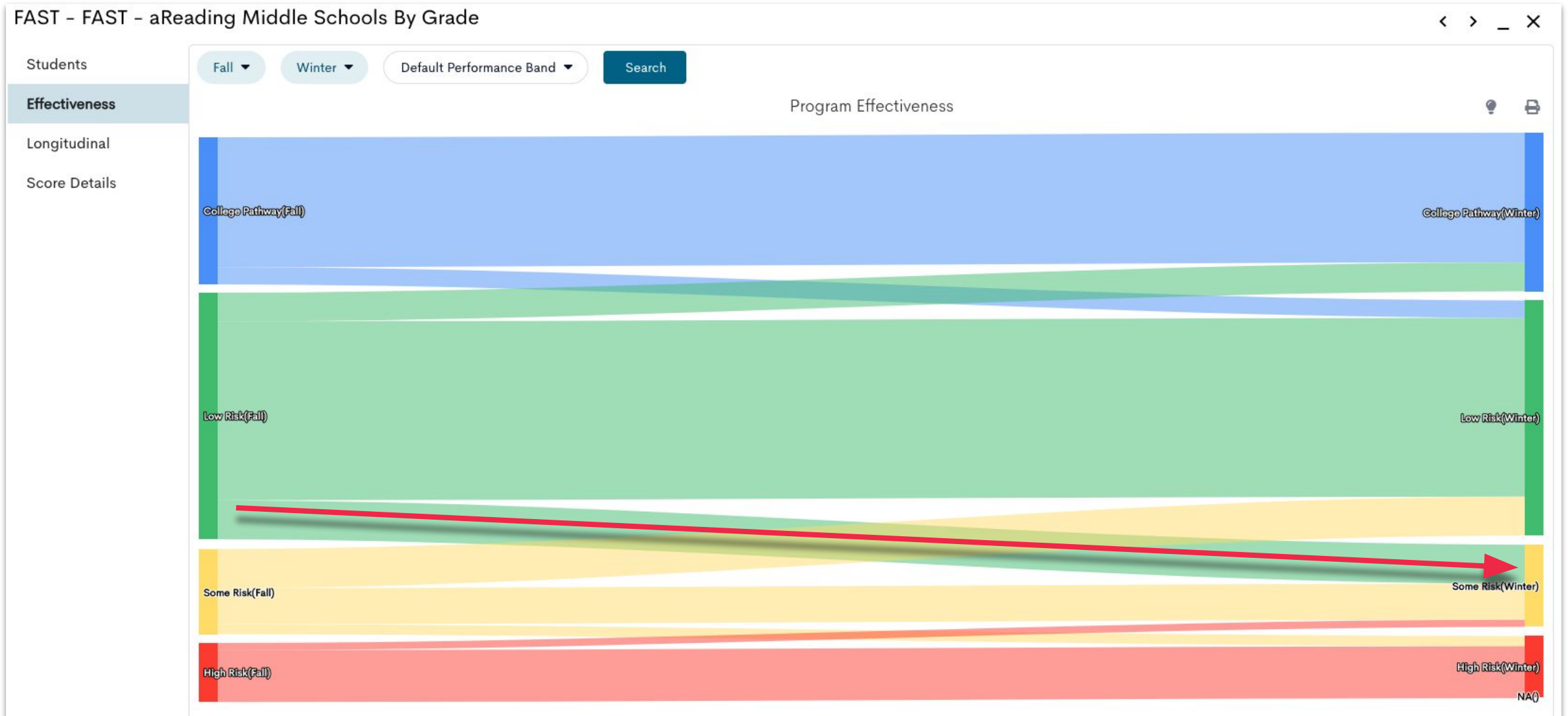
# Tier 1 Growth

*How many students grow so much they are well above expectations?*



# Tier 1 Growth

*How many students didn't grow enough to stay on track?*



# Tier 2 Effectiveness

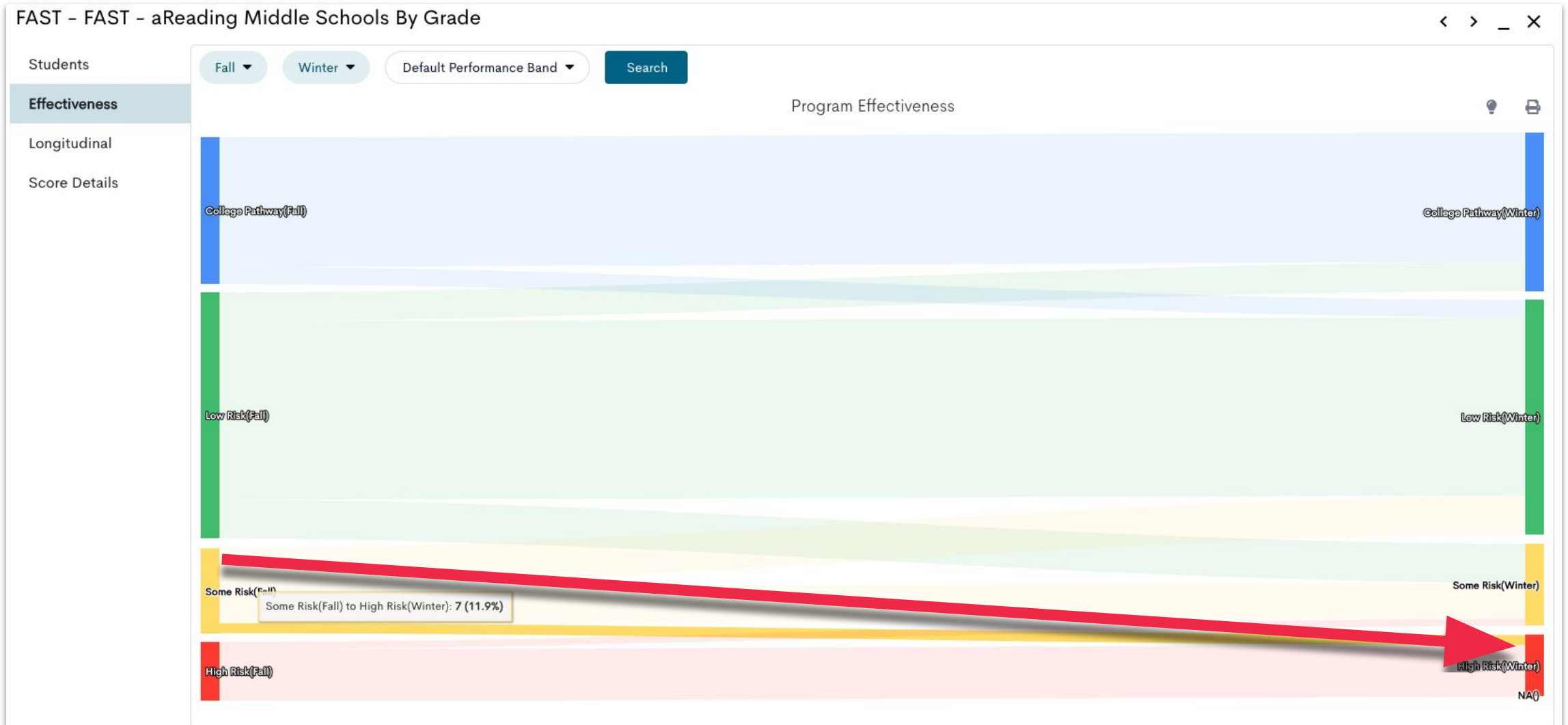
*How did our Tier 2 interventions support student growth?*

FAST - FAST - aReading Middle Schools By Grade



# Tier 2 Effectiveness

*How many students received tier 2 resources that resulted in less growth that they need?*



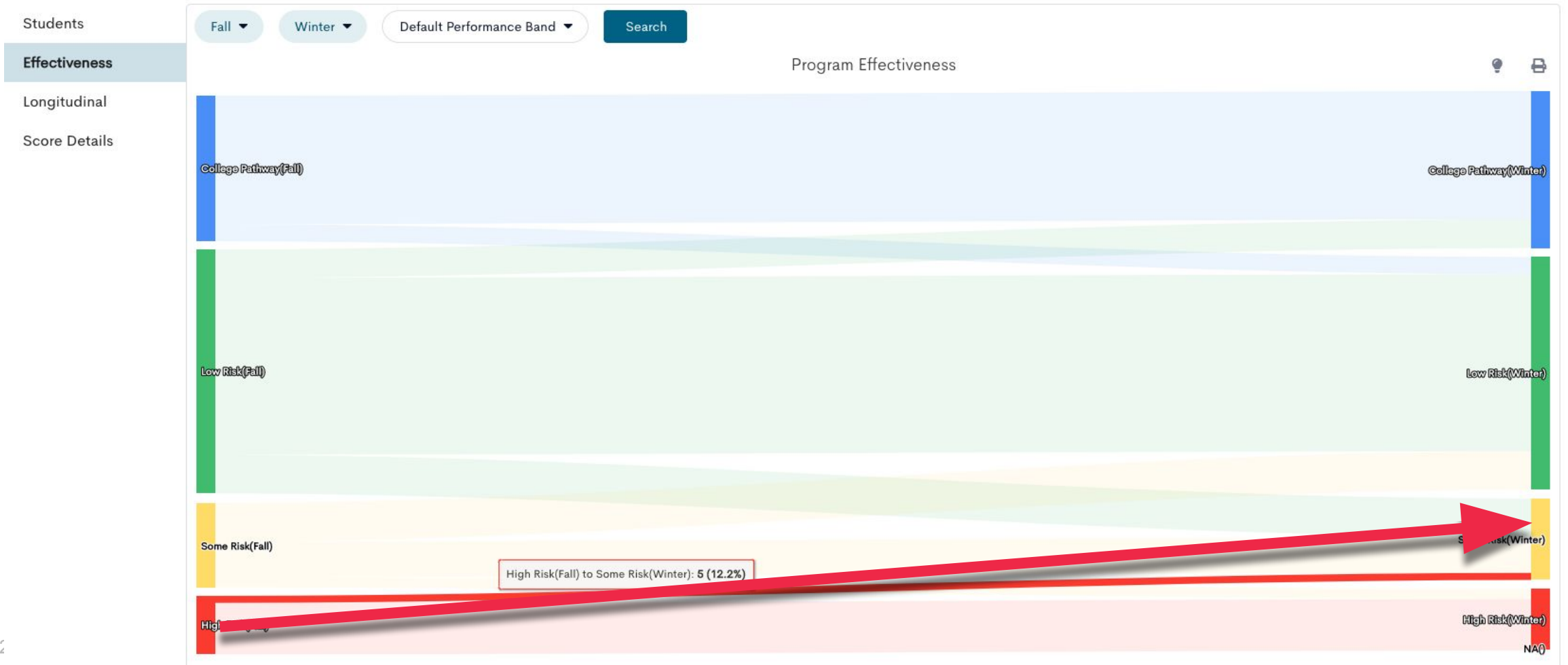


# Tier 3 Effectiveness

*How did our Tier 3 interventions support student growth?*

FAST - FAST - aReading Middle Schools By Grade

< > \_ X



## Poll

Have you examined growth data in a similar way to this before?

A: Yes

B: No

C: Not sure



# Monitoring Individual Student Progress

## Progress Monitoring

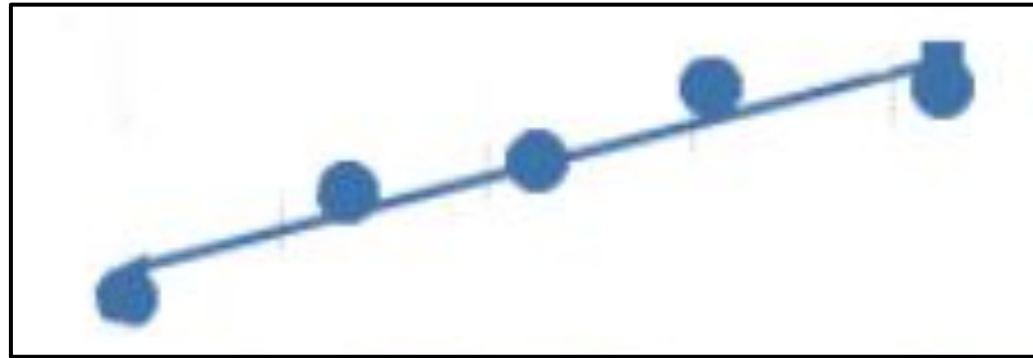
- Standardized, valid, reliable
- Benchmarks + Norms
- Collected weekly/biweekly
- Sensitive to small changes in skills taught in intervention (e.g., FastBridge)

## Monitoring Progress

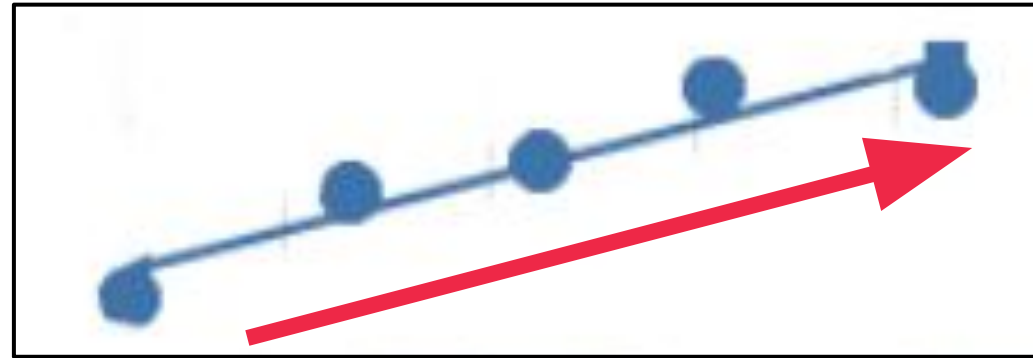
- Formative assessment
- Teacher-developed
- Informs day-to-day
  - Instructional decisions
  - Lesson plans
  - Steps along the path to achieving overall goal(s) (e.g., DnA)



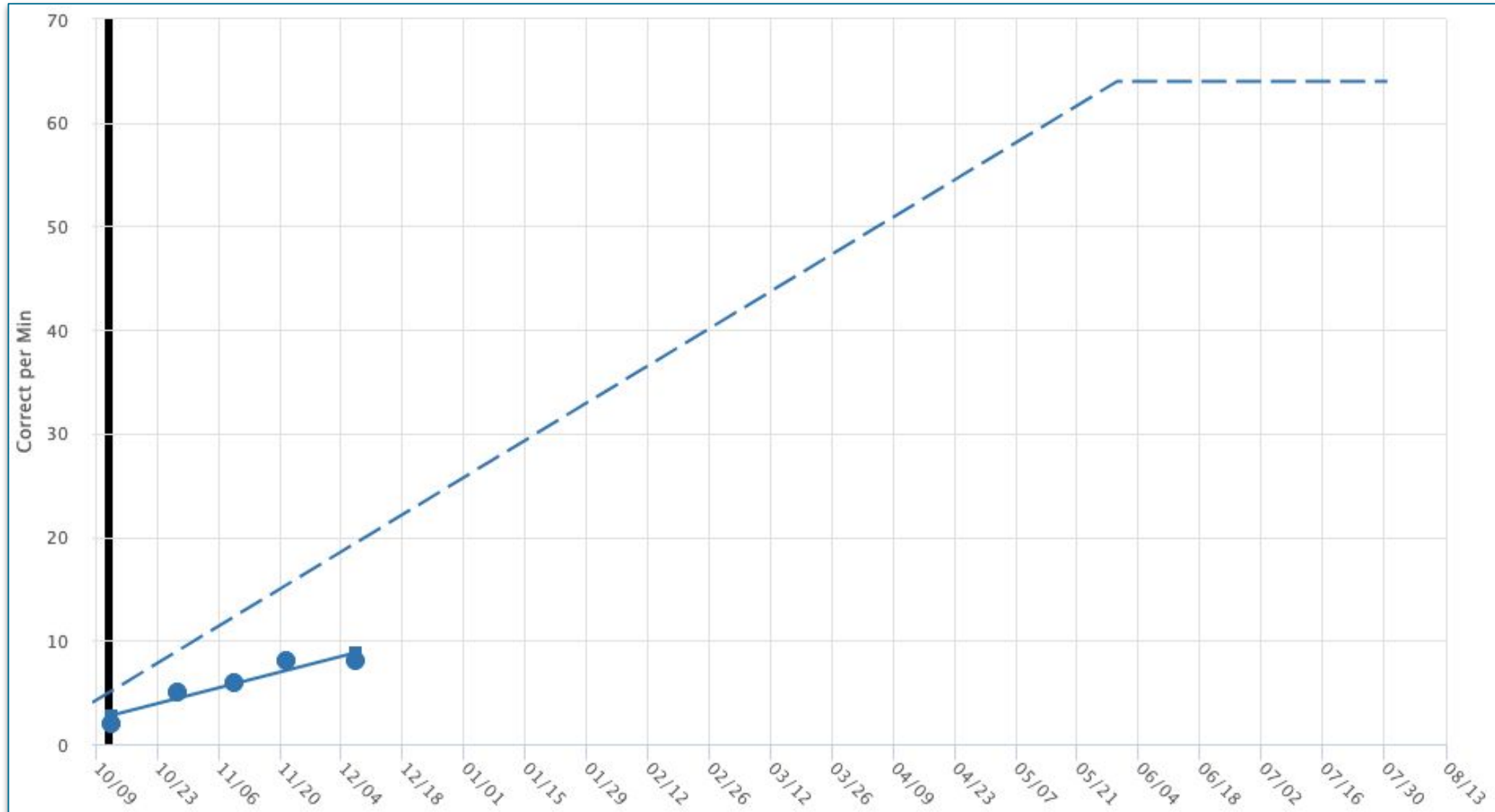
# Evaluating Progress Monitoring Data



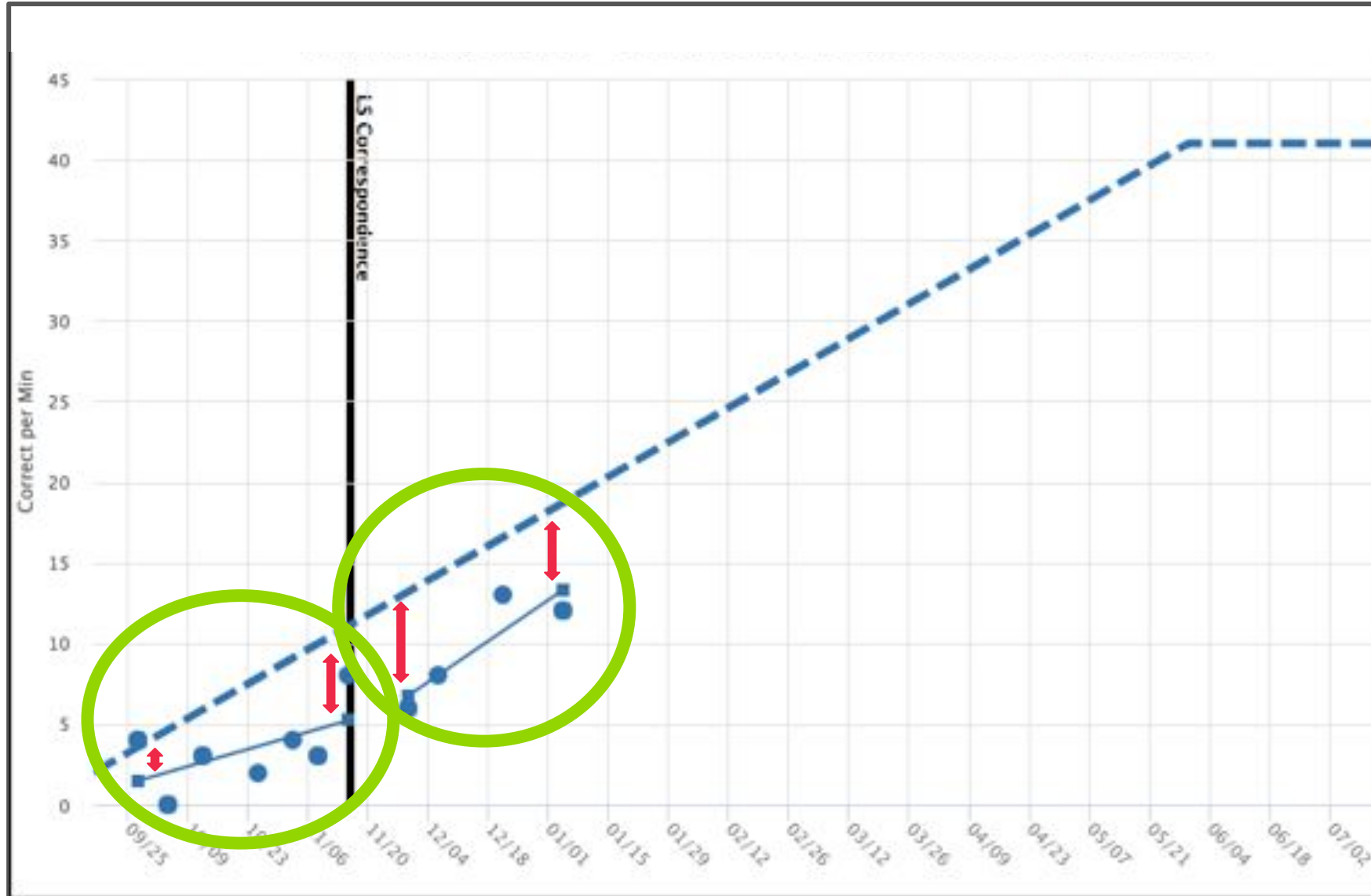
# Evaluating Progress Monitoring Data



# Evaluating Progress Monitoring Data



# Comparing Progress Data to a Goal



# Ways to Look at Student Performance

## Level (Benchmark)

- Compares to a standard or a criterion
- Focuses on the end point of the student target
- Benchmarks or “cut scores”

## Rate of Improvement (ROI)

- Measures change over time
- Focuses on the trajectory of student growth
- Shows student’s progress toward the goal





# Growth

## Evaluate learning over time

*Regardless of starting  
point*



# Common Questions about MTSS







# Mental health needs seem greater than ever before. What is an MTSS framework for this?

- The MTSS framework of using data to allocate resources to support every student's needs applies to mental health
- The Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) is designed to partner educators and mental health providers to support student needs
- Partner with community providers



# Leadership at my school/district is not interested in MTSS. What options do I have?

- **Invite** them for a cup of coffee or buy them lunch
- **Just listen.** What priorities are placed on them? What priorities are personal passions?
- **Show data.** Speaks louder than words
- Casually note: What will make your life and their **life easier**?
- Is there a **cost-savings**? (yes)
- **Offer** to pilot/lead something; schedule a meeting to review in 6-8 weeks.
- **Just do it.** Whole group intervention. Don't ask permission.
- **Enlist help.** Who does intervention at your school - SPED, School Psych? Ask for how you can help one kid?



# Great Next Steps



# Immediate Next Steps

1. Review your MTSS and resources at the core, supplemental and intensive level at a grade level team or whole staff meeting  
*Use the MTSS Essentials eBook if it helps*
2. Review fall screening data to determine if your teams & students would benefit from whole group, tier 1 intervention
3. Make a plan to collect and then schedule a review of progress data for students receiving intervention during your next grade level team meeting





# Steps for the Next Few Months

- Use resources on the MTSS page within Illuminate to ensure teams have the resources they need to efficiently and effectively have data conversations (e.g. data protocols, agendas)
- Schedule time to meet with grade level teams to review progress data for students receiving intervention this fall
- Schedule a meeting to review your winter screening data within a week of data collection being complete.



# Additional Resources



CONTACT SUPPORT LOG IN GET A DEMO

WHY ILLUMINATE SOLUTIONS PRODUCTS RESOURCES RESEARCH ABOUT

## Starting with MTSS Basics

New to MTSS? These resources provide an introduction to the MTSS framework, explain the MTSS tiers, and unpack what an MTSS looks like in day-to-day practices.

WEBINAR ON DEMAND



**MTSS 101: The Essentials**

Jaime Harris, Ed.S., NCSP

### MTSS 101: The Essentials

Explore the essential components of an MTSS framework and the data-driven decisions that drive daily best practices.

WATCH THE WEBINAR

INFOGRAPHIC



**What is MTSS?**

### What is MTSS?

Unpack the components of the MTSS framework and the significance of each.

VIEW THE INFOGRAPHIC

EBOOK

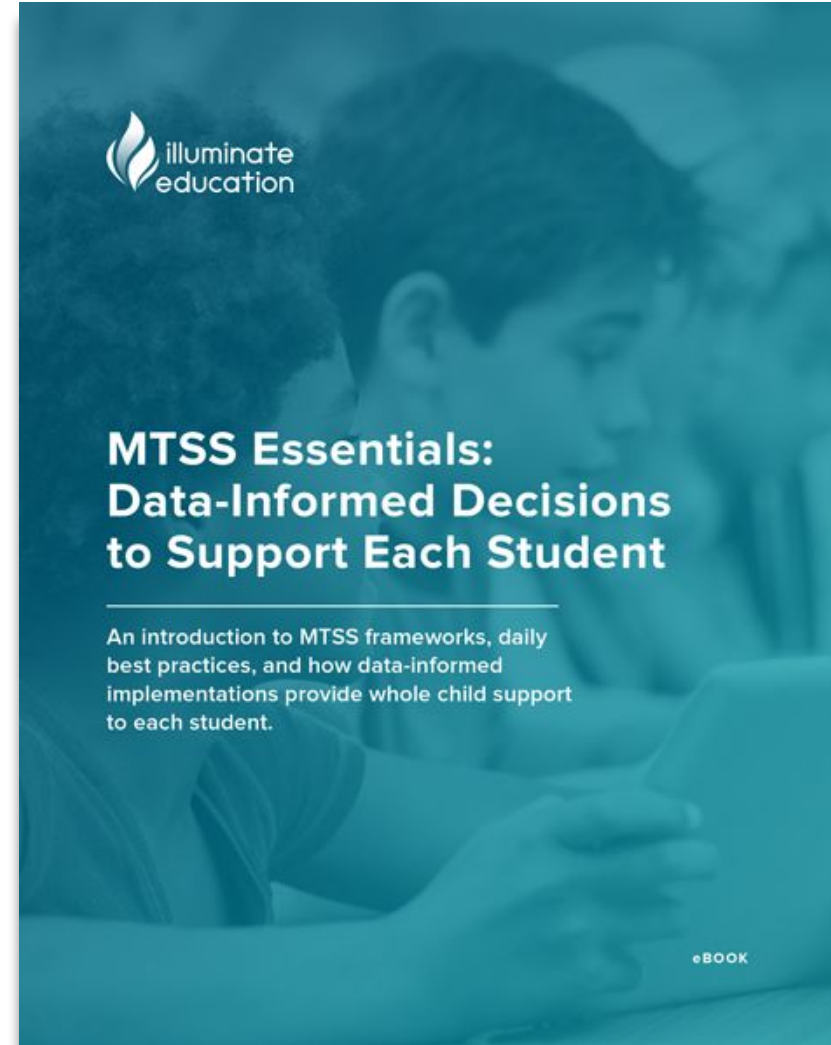


**MTSS Essentials: Data-Informed Decisions to Support Each Student**

### MTSS Essentials: Data-Informed Decisions to Support Each Student

Discover a go-to reference for general MTSS information: understanding the MTSS framework, the MTSS tiers, and the role whole child data play in implementation.

READ THE EBOOK



illuminate education

## MTSS Essentials: Data-Informed Decisions to Support Each Student

An introduction to MTSS frameworks, daily best practices, and how data-informed implementations provide whole child support to each student.

eBOOK



# Longer Q and A

