

Goal Pathways

Pennsylvania's Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (PA I-MTSS; 2026)

Purpose

Use this handout to help your team choose the pathway that best fits where your school is in the goal-setting process. The questions are designed to support focused discussion as your team connects the school vision, current data, and local context to a meaningful goal or goals.

Directions

1. Deciding which pathway best matches your team's current needs: Identify, Prioritize, or Refine. You do not need to complete every section.
2. Use the prompts in the pathway to guide discussion and capture key ideas. Be prepared to share the goal direction or draft goal language that feels most important and realistic to move forward.

	Prompts	Tips and Examples
Identify <i>Best for teams exploring options</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What part of our vision feels most important to strengthen first? • What do students need to experience more consistently? • What adult practices or systems need to improve? • Where do our IMFR or SWOT results suggest a clear need? • What is important and realistic to focus on first? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Students are not consistently receiving Tier 2 supports within expected timelines. • Look for patterns across data sources, not just one data point. • Focus on clarity—name the need before jumping to solutions.
Prioritize <i>Best for teams with several goal ideas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which possible goal is most connected to our vision? • Which goal would improve conditions for both students and staff? • Which goal is important, feasible, and likely to build momentum? • What goal would reduce fragmentation or improve coherence? • If we could only focus on one or two things first, what should they be? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Focus on improving data meetings before adding new interventions. • Select goals that impact multiple outcomes, not just one area. • Avoid too many goals—1–2 strong goals is better than many.
Refine <i>Best for teams ready to write working goals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What student change do we want to see? • What staff/school change would support that? • How will we know whether progress is happening? • Is the goal clear enough to communicate to staff? • Is it focused enough to guide later action planning? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Increase the percentage of students receiving timely support from 65% to 90% within 8 weeks. • Be specific about how progress will be measured (e.g., tracking logs, walkthroughs). • Check that goals are simple enough to explain in one sentence.