

It's Not Just
One More Thing
It's **EVERYTHING**

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Support of the Whole Student

Whole Child Focus:

Supports students' social, academic, emotional, and personal development.

Relationships Matter:

Creates a sense of belonging through a trusted adult advocate.

Active Academic Support:

Provides personalized attention to meet unique needs and promote success.

Life-Ready Skills:

Equips students to navigate challenges and succeed beyond high school.



Alignment is the KEY

NOT SEPARATE INITIATIVES. ONE Integrated Student Support System.



Every student. Known. Supported. Monitored. Empowered.

No student slips through the cracks.

Why intentional structures of support matter

Challenger recruits and serves

- 390 students (max of 400)
- 70% First Generation College Students
- Populations underrepresented at the college level
- 44% Free and Reduced Lunch

This means we know that many of our students have gaps in their understanding of how to navigate the path to and through college or career building.

Outcomes



98% of students report feeling connected to adults within the building AND believe that they are a valuable part of the overall school community.

100% Graduation Rate

95% of our students graduate with an Associates Degree
97% pass their college courses with a C or better

95% of our students leave Challenger with a solid future plan:

80% of our students enroll in 4-year college or university
15% of our students enroll in a 2-year college program

PAA

**Personal Adult
Advocate**

A Program

PAA is an intentional structure in place for every student to have a default place of support in both the adult and in the other students in their group.

A Person

The personal adult advocate is the adult in the building that each student has to seek support, to ask questions, and to see the big picture of the student's school life.

A Gathering

PAA is also a time that we schedule during the school day for all members of the group to gather together for the intentional purpose of relationship building and support of one another.

Support of the Family

Ease of communication - one point of contact

Regular communication - not just negative

Authentic relationships with families

A partner at school with consistency

**Lessens the burden on counseling and admin department
to be more available for specific work with families**

Communicating with Families

Once a month contact with an update on grades

Student Led Conferences

Reaching out for minor concerns

Calling together a family conference

Exploring Grouping Options

Same Age Groups

- **Shared Struggle**
- **Same group for all 4 years**
- **Ability to reinvent with every group**

Mentor Model

- **Support from upper grades immediately**
- **Creates cohesion across all grade levels**
- **Onboarding and culture building comes from students**

Identifying + Filling Gaps

- Self-Advocacy
- Future Planning/College Applications
- Planning ahead
- Planning backward from a goal
- Talking with adults
- Making decisions
- Soft skills of being a college student and professional bound adult

A positive, supportive “coach” when those gaps create stress and fear.

Gaps that still existed...





Connections
Every year!

Why Connections?

- **A seminar class already existed.**
- **Every Student, Every Semester built into the schedule**
- **Dedicated Staff**
- **We designed an intentional and vertically aligned curriculum to guide students through all 4 years and beyond.**
- **Gave the class credit and a “final exam.”
(SLC- Student Led Conference)**
- **Teachers and PAA know what topics and work are being covered.**

What Makes Connections Aligned?

Intentionally Scaffolded Based on the Needs of Each Grade Level

“Man - I really wish they taught that to us in school”

9th Grade

I'm New Here...

Easing the transition from
8th to 9th grade

10th Grade

Focusing on the Future...

College and Career
Exploration

11th Grade

Moving with Intention...

Creating the plan and
executing it

12th Grade

Time to Go...

Navigating Senior Year
and Preparing to Launch

How to:

- Use a planner
- Email professionally
- Navigate different LMS platforms
- Dress for Success
- Focus on what supports exist on campus and in the building

How to:

- Build Strong Student Habits
- Develop workplace readiness skills
- Explore careers and postsecondary pathways
- Prepare for future success
- Internships

How to:

- Make informed postsecondary decisions
- Prepare for college admissions and testing through ACT prep
- Develop workplace and life readiness skills

How to:

- Navigate the college application process
- Plan and Prepare for independent living and life after high school
- Strengthen workplace readiness and professional communication skills

SLC's - Student Led Conference



- A chance for every student to showcase their semester to an important adult in their life.
- Originally a paper portfolio - now using google sites - it is a one stop shop to highlight everything that student does during that semester (their individual student work, their clubs and activities, and their personality outside of the classroom).
- Serves as an intentional touchpoint between the family and the PAA

Even with both of these in place... Gaps still existed



- Still struggling with failures and other gaps, students go back to their home high school.
- Prior to the requirement of MTSS at the high school level, we already had Students of Concern as a practice with our whole staff (though it was an ever improving process) where we were using PAA as the first intervention.
- Still with both Tier 1 processes in place there were gaps
- MTSS became the obvious next step for what could help us reach those students who we felt to be at risk of falling between the cracks.





MTSS

**Multi-Tiered System of
Supports**

Aligning Our Student Support Process

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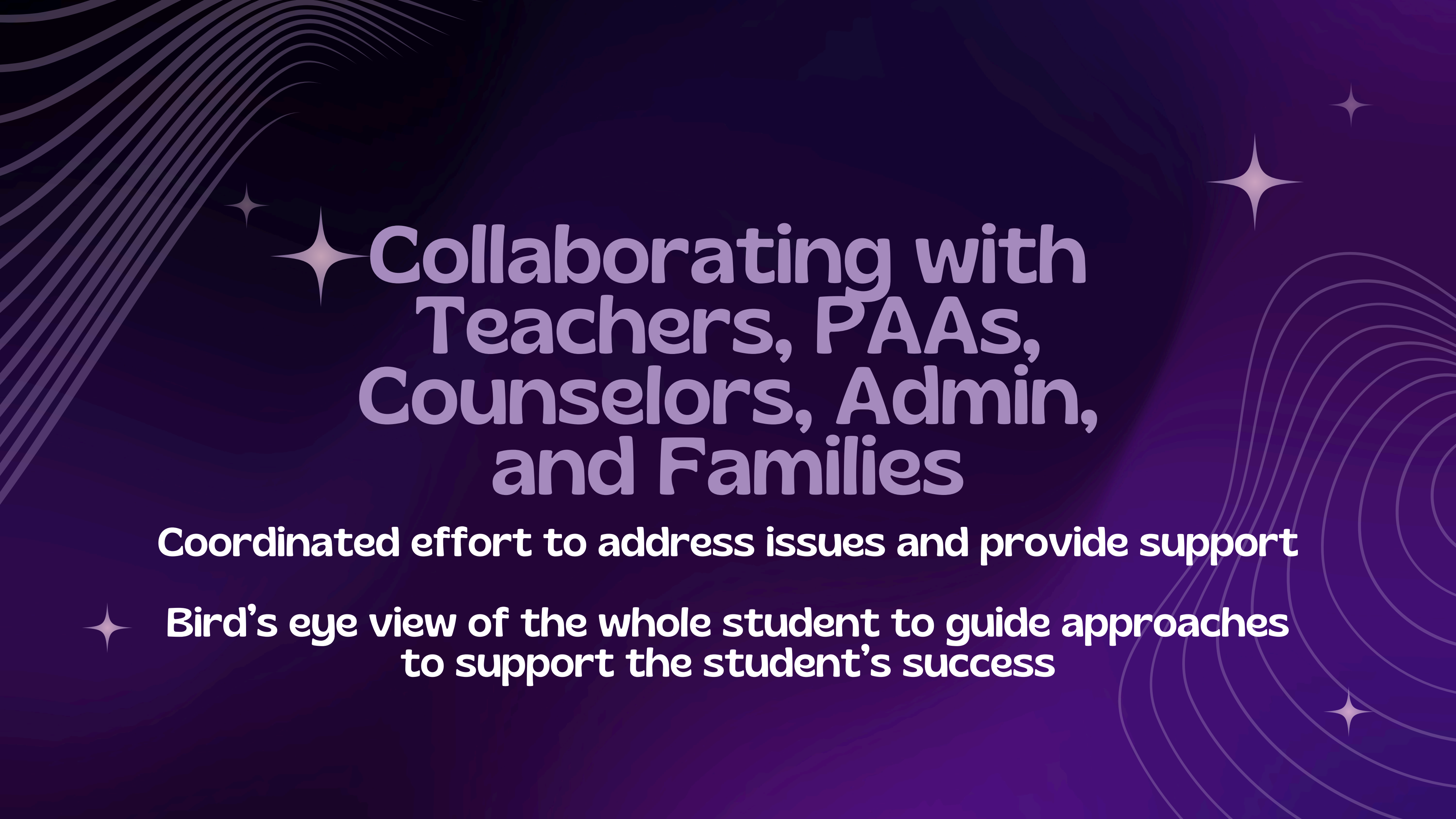
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Before	After
Individual Concerns addressed separately	Structures team-based process
Reactive Interventions	Proactive student support
Limited Follow-up	Clear accountability and monitoring
Focus on immediate issues	Focus on long-term student growth

What we changed...

Structure	Collaboration	Impact
Formalized support process	Teachers	Coordinating Interventions
Clear accountability	PAA's	Continuous Monitoring
Consistent procedures	Student Services Team	Long term student growth



Collaborating with Teachers, PAAs, Counselors, Admin, and Families

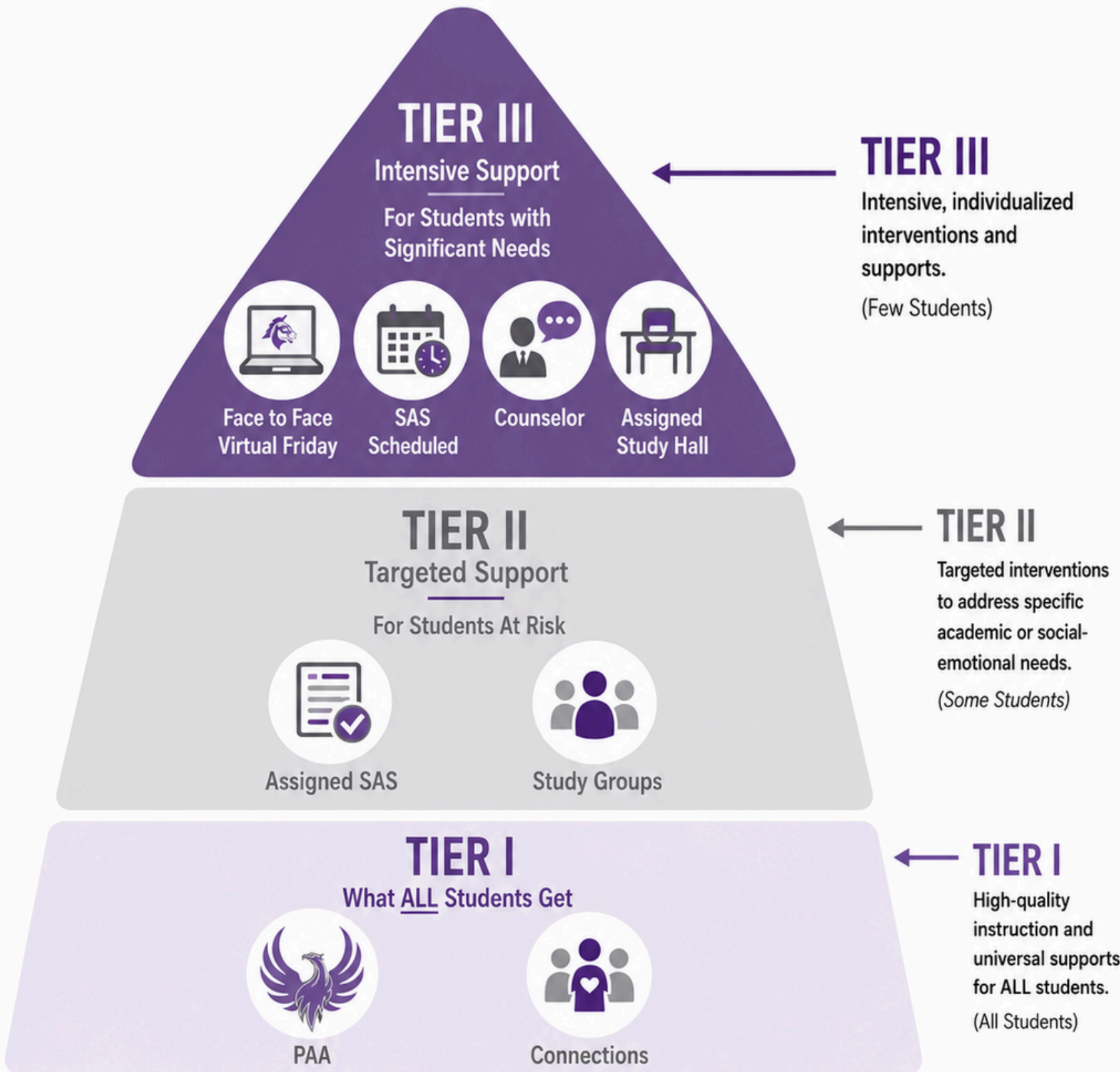
Coordinated effort to address issues and provide support

**Bird's eye view of the whole student to guide approaches
to support the student's success**

Alignment

CHALLENGER DOES MTSS

Meeting Students Where They Are. Helping Them Get Where They're Going.



One Team. Every Student. No Limits.

- Bi-weekly meetings with the Student Services Team
- Spreadsheet with concerns updated with the teacher's weekly
- Monday PAA Check-ins for college grades
- PAA contact/intervention

The PAA Role in MTSS

Advocating for students

- Liason between families and school for questions/issues
- Having the knowledge of the student across all 4 years

Coaching Self-Advocacy

- From day one-modeling and teaching what self-advocacy means
- Coaching what to say when issues and questions arise
- PAA relationship is a testing ground and safe place for trial and error



**MTSS works better because:
students are already known,
communication already exists,
data has context,
Interventions are proactive.
You are not waiting for failure**



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What is next?
**How can our team
improve?**

Cycle of Improvement



Assess

Does every student have a consistent adult connection?

Are students monitored academically and socially?

Are support systems aligned and integrated or operate separately?

Are interventions proactive rather than reactive?

Is there a process for monitoring students across multiple years?

Analyze

What are we doing well?

Where are our biggest gaps?

Which gap has the greatest impact on students?

- Adult Connections**
- Student Monitoring**
- MTSS Processes**
- Family Communication**
- College/Career Readiness**
- Social-Emotional Support**
- Other: _____**

Analyze

What systems do we already have in place that are meeting student's needs?

- Advisory
- Seminar
- MTSS or similar process
- Family Communication structure
- Others

Where are our biggest gaps?

- Adult Connections
- Student Monitoring
- MTSS Processes
- Family Communication
- College/Career Readiness
- Social-Emotional Support
- Other: _____

Analyze

What structures need to be integrated and aligned to better meet the needs of our students?

Do we need to add integrated structures to what already exists?

Plan

Timeframe	What will we do?
Summer	One thing we can start immediately
1st Semester	One process or structure we will build
By Next School Year	One long-term goal

If you could improve only ONE thing to ensure every student is known, supported, and monitored, what would it be?

What is the smallest action that would make the biggest difference?

Commitment

We commit to: _____

We will begin by: _____

Who is responsible? _____

★ By what date? _____

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