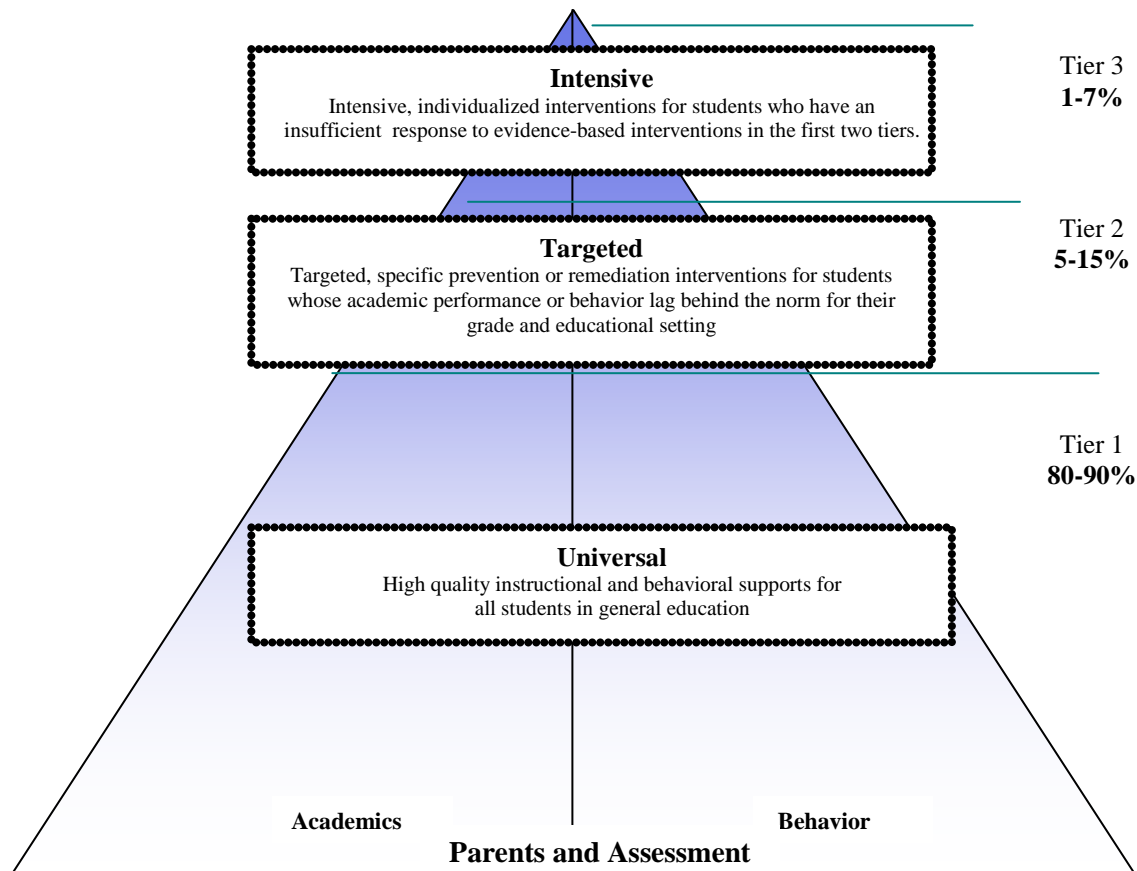


Parent-School Partnerships

Parent-School Partnerships: Parents and staff partnering in student school success. (Taken from Cherry Creek Special Education Redesign *Essential Elements and Vocabulary*)

Parent-School Partnerships: Parent-school partnerships are the mutual collaboration, support, and participation of parents and school staff at home or at the school site in activities and efforts that directly and positively affect the educational progress of children (Moles and D'Angelo, 1993)... Home-school collaboration focuses on encouraging students to be learners at home and at school. Positive family-school partnerships for children's learning are correlated with higher school achievement and positive indicators of school performance. (Taken from Amy Esler, Yvonne Godber, and Sandra Christenson in "Best Practices in Supporting Home-School Collaboration" in *Best Practices In School Psychology*, 2002)



Parent-school partnerships follow the multi-tiered model with a continuum of opportunities being provided for families.

Multi-Tiered Model for Parent-School Partnerships

* (These opportunities are taken from the research, best practices literature, legal resources, and parent/staff input.)

Tier 1: UNIVERSAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Belief in shared responsibility among parents and school for student success**
- Understanding that both parents and schools have important expertise/knowledge**
- Welcoming, caring community for all parents, at all levels**
- Outreach to all parents including those with cultural, language, and learning differences**
- Purposeful, regular positive communication regarding student success**
- Parent knowledge of school-wide behavior and academic expectations, including specific education in home support strategies and reinforcement techniques**
- Parent understanding of student progress indicators, assessment tools**
- Established process for understanding and responding to parent needs**
- Variety of communication systems**
- Multi-layered volunteer structure targeted to all parents**
- Parent involvement in building decision-making**
- Parenting materials/resources/classes available, including district and community links**
- Parent partnership in problem-solving regarding individual student success**

Tier 2: TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES (Includes all Universal)

- Ongoing parent partnership in intervention planning and progress monitoring of student success**
- Parent counseling related to student success**
- Focused, individualized parent partnership plan**
- Social, health, family history and/or other targeted assessment to guide intervention**
- Support groups related to student success**
- Home visits**
- Personalized communication venues**

Tier 3: INTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES (Includes all Universal and Targeted)

- Wrap-around process to develop home-school-community collaboration**
- Special education staffing and IEP process**

*Special thanks to the 2003-04 Cherry Creek Special Education Advisory Committee's Parent Partnership Subcommittee and Mental Health Team Parent Partnership Study Team for their recommendations. Complete summaries of their work are available for school use. Other references are cited elsewhere in this document.