

## Problem Solving Method of Decision Making

Within a RTI/MTSS system, a problem solving method is used to match instructional resources to educational need. The problem solving method is used at all three tiers: for all students (Tier 1), for groups of students (Tier 2), and for individual or small groups of students (Tier 3). Problem solving typically consists of four steps, as shown in the figure below.

### Step 1. Identify the Problem

Determine the gap or difference between the expectation and what is actually occurring in terms of student performance. Problems may be defined using school-wide, small group, or individual student data.

### Step 2. Analyze the Problem

Use information collected from a variety of sources, such as universal screening, SWIS, progress monitoring, student work, parents' input, etc., to determine why the learning and/or behavior problem(s) may be occurring.

### Step 3. Develop and Implement an Action Plan

- Set a goal that describes the expected improvement in learning or behavior,
- Select the instruction and/or intervention(s) that will address the problem,
- Identify how progress will be monitored, and
- Carry out the instructional changes and/or interventions and check to make sure they are being completed with fidelity.

### Step 4. Evaluate the Plan

Collect and use school-wide, small group, and individual student data to determine if the action plan is working or if changes are needed.

