Students need different support to reach the same expectations.
- Some students only need grade-level supports that are available to all students (Tier 1/Core),
- Some students need supplemental supports (Tier 2) to achieve all grade-level expectations, and
- Some students need intensive supports in addition to existing supports to achieve all grade-level expectations (Tier 3).

Tiers 1, 2, and 3 refer to levels of support provided by educators, not students.
- No student is a “Tier 2 student” or a “Tier 3 student.”
- Each student may receive supports that fall into multiple tiers, depending on their unique needs.

When Tier 1 is not sufficient for most students to achieve grade-level expectations, schools may need to change their core.
- Tier 1 supports should align to the needs of diverse student populations.
  - The core should be responsive to variations in academic readiness, social and emotional readiness, culture, language, and other differences.
- Some schools’ Tier 1 will include more time and/or more specific instruction on necessary skills.