



MULTI-TIERED INTERVENTION GUIDE

Using Data to Match Students with the Right Support

How to identify student needs and choose the right instructional structure and practice level

Magma Math is built to be a flexible instructional tool that molds itself around the full range of instructional needs in your classroom. Whether you are reinforcing a concept with the whole class, pulling a small group to address a shared gap, or supporting an individual student with a persistent need, the platform adapts to match the structure you choose.

Students stay in one environment regardless of the level of support they are receiving, which means less disruption, consistent data, and a unified experience for every learner in your classroom.

This guide shows how to use Magma Math's data and assignment tools to identify student needs and respond at the right level. For an overview of the platform's features and how to use them across classroom settings, see the Implementation Guide.

Tier 1: Whole-Class Instruction

Tier 1 is what you do with the whole class every day. You assign grade-level content, monitor how students respond, and adjust in real time when something is not landing.

What to assign

Assign a problem set that includes a **mixture of Mild, Medium, and Spicy** problems. This gives you a clear picture of where each student stands—who has the foundational skills, who is solid at grade level, and who is ready for a challenge. You can assign to the **whole class** in one click.

How to monitor

Keep the **Heatmap** open on your device as students work. It updates in real time: green means correct on the first try, orange means they got there after retries, red means they are stuck. When you see mostly green, your class is on track. When orange or red starts clustering on a problem, that is your signal.

Watch for **Common Error** flags—when three or more students give the same wrong answer, Magma surfaces it automatically. That tells you a shared misconception is forming, and you can address it before more students make the same mistake.

How to respond

If the problem is more than a quick fix—if the Heatmap shows orange or red across the majority of the class on a standard—assign a follow-up set that addresses the practice need, whether that means selecting problems on the same standard to rebuild confidence or addressing a foundational skill that needs reinforcement before students can move forward.

Tier 2: Targeted Small-Group Intervention

The **Heatmap** and **Solutions View** in Magma Math help you identify which students share a common gap and respond with targeted practice without pulling them out of the classroom environment. Students continue working in the same platform—they just receive a different assignment matched to what they need.

When to move to Tier 2

The signal comes from your data. After an assignment, check the **Heatmap**—when you notice a group of students who are orange or red on the same problems while the rest of the class is green, that's a pattern worth acting on. Check the **Common Error** flag to see which students submitted the same incorrect answer. If the pattern holds, it's time to support those students through a Tier 2 response.

How to support

Pull the students together and open the **student work** for one of them. Walk through the solution as a group—where did the reasoning go off track? Let the students discuss what they see. That conversation is often more powerful than a teacher explanation, because they are looking at their own thinking.

Then assign a targeted follow-up to just that group, giving them the opportunity to revise their thinking. Magma Math lets you push assignments to the whole class, to a specific group within the class, or to individual students—so the rest of the class can keep working while your small group rebuilds the skill.

How to know it worked

After the group finishes the follow-up, check the **Heatmap** and **Stats Tab** again. Did the orange and red shift to green? If so, those students can move back to Tier 1 whole-class instruction. If the gap persists, diagnose further—use **Solutions View** and **Playback** to see where the misconceptions lie, and find the appropriate level of practice that student needs before trying again.

Tier 3: Intensive Individual Support

Some students have gaps that do not resolve through whole-class or small-group instruction. They may have been stuck on a standard for weeks, or they may have

foundational gaps from prior years. Tier 3 is sustained, one-on-one support tailored to what that student specifically needs.

When to move to Tier 3

When a student consistently struggles on classwide assignments—falling behind the sequenced pace while the rest of the class moves forward—that's a clear signal. The **Progress Tab** confirms the pattern, showing mastery across all assignments over time. When a student has not responded to Tier 1 or Tier 2 instruction, they need individual attention.

How to support

Magma Math's content library spans all grade levels, and you can assign content from any grade to any student. If a student in your class has a foundational gap from a prior year, you can assign problems from that grade level directly to them. The student works in the same platform as everyone else, participates in the same class, and does not see which grade the problems come from—they just see problems matched to what they need.

Students in Tier 3 often need more practice than students in Tier 1 or Tier 2 to build fluency on the skills they are working on. **Practice Mode** is a natural fit for this need—it gives students recommended practice based on their performance, with immediate feedback and unlimited retries, so they can build confidence at their own pace.

How to track progress

Monitor the **Progress Tab** regularly. Is mastery on the target standard trending upward over time? If so, the student may be ready to move back to Tier 2 group work or Tier 1 whole-class instruction. If not, you know to keep the individual support in place and adjust your approach.

Reinforcing Skills Across All Tiers

Students at every tier benefit from reinforcing skills independently. This is the role of **Practice Mode**. In Practice Mode, students receive automatically recommended practice cards based on their performance—both on the assignments you create and on the work they do in Practice Mode itself. As a student's performance changes, the recommendations update to reflect what they need next.

Practice Mode gives students immediate feedback and unlimited retries, so they can build fluency at their own pace. For Tier 1 students, it reinforces and extends what they learned in class. For Tier 2 and Tier 3 students, it provides additional repetition on the skills they are rebuilding—without requiring you to create every assignment manually. Use Practice Mode across all tiers to give every student a way to strengthen their skills outside of your direct instruction.

The Ongoing Cycle

Tiered intervention is not a one-time placement—it is an ongoing cycle. After every assignment, you have new data, and that data tells you whether to stay the course or adjust.

The pattern is the same each time: check the **Heatmap** and **Stats Tab**, figure out whether the issue is class-wide, group-level, or individual, and match your response. A student who needed Tier 3 support last week might be ready for Tier 2 this week. A concept that only a few students struggled with on Monday might show up as a class-wide Tier 1 issue on Thursday.

Because you can push assignments to the **whole class**, to a **group**, or to an **individual student** at any time, you are never locked into a single structure. The data tells you the scope, and you match your response to it. Over time, the **Progress Tab** shows you which students are growing, which are stuck, and which standards need sustained attention—so you can plan your intervention cycles across a unit or grading period, not just one assignment at a time.