

10 Principles of Tier 3



Family voice and choice: Family and youth perspectives are intentionally elicited and prioritized during all phases of the tier 3 process. All planning includes family members' perspectives, and the team strives to provide options and choices to ensure the plan reflects family values and preferences. Family engagement comes with accountability and responsibility.

Team-based: The tier 3 team consists of individuals, agreed upon by the family or through mandates, who are committed to them through either informal or formal community support and service relationships.

Natural supports: The team actively seeks out and encourages the full participation of team members drawn from family members' networks of interpersonal and community relationships. The tier 3 plan reflects activities and interventions that draw on sources of natural support.

Collaborative: Team members work cooperatively and share responsibility for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a single tier 3 plan. The plan reflects a blending of team members' perspectives, mandates, and available resources. The plan guides and coordinates each team member's contribution toward meeting the team's (and family's) goals.

Community-based: The tier 3 team implements service and support strategies that take place in the most inclusive, most responsive, most accessible, and least restrictive settings possible, and that safely promote youth and family integration into home and community life.

Culturally competent: The tier 3 process demonstrates respect for and builds upon the values, preferences, beliefs, culture, and identity of the youth and family and their community.

Individualized: To achieve goals laid out in the tier 3 plan, the team develops and implements a customized set of strategies, supports, and services unique to the youth and family's identified needs.

Strengths-based: The tier 3 process and plan identify, build upon, and enhance the capabilities, knowledge, skills, and assets of the youth and family, their community, and their team members.

Unconditional care: Despite challenges, the team persists in working toward the goals included in the tier 3 plan until the team reaches agreement that a formal tier 3 process is no longer required.

Outcome-based: The team ties the goals and strategies of the tier 3 plan to observable or measurable indicators of success, monitors progress in terms of these indicators or outcomes, and revises the plan accordingly.