

Social and Emotional Screening Q & A

Question: What is Social and Emotional Screening?

Answer: Universal social and emotional screening provides a **systematic way of looking at data** within a population, which could be an entire school or an entire grade level. DPS uses the BESS, Behavior and Emotional Screening System.



Question: What is the reason for universal screening?

Answer: The purpose of screening all students is to provide a **proactive approach to student needs**. Data from the screening areas is used to drive decisions and provide students with equal access to interventions and supports.



Question: What have schools noticed that have been using the BESS for universal social/emotional screening?

Answer: Schools who have seen progress from one screen to the next (fall to spring or fall to winter), have used data to drive support and interventions for ALL Tiers and had strong school team collaborations.

Question: What strategies have been implemented where success has been documented?

Answer: Tier 1 strategies include: grade level academies to reinforce prosocial behaviors, social/emotional curriculum (Second Step, Peace for Kids, etc.), PBIS practices, morning/classroom meetings, Student and/or Parent Ambassadors to new students/parents, placing all students into tiers based on different categories (academics, social, attendance, health, etc.), and providing an adult mentor in buildings to be an ambassador for the mentee.

Question: What is a Tier 1 team?

Answer: Tier 1 teams have been referred to as **Leadership Teams, MTSS Teams or Universal Teams**. The purpose of this team is to **review all the data** from the universal screening to determine programs, curriculum supports, establish **PBIS** practices, determine **core values** for the school and ensure that **families, community members and stakeholders are often included**.

Question: How long will it take and how often do we need to screen students?

Answer: The BESS takes approximately 10-15 minutes for the students to complete a 28 question self-report online. Teacher reports take approximately 45-60 minutes for a classroom of 25. Parent reports take approximately 10 minutes to answer 29 questions.

Question: How can our school participate in BESS screening?

Answer: Notify Debbie Wright, Social and Emotional Screening Coordinator, at Julia_Jones@dpsk12.net or Debbie_Wright@dpsk12.org

Question: If a student reports a concern on the BESS, is this a diagnosis?

Answer: Identification Is Not Diagnosis. Further assessment is recommended. Only mental health or medical professionals (as determined by each state's licensing laws) are qualified to make a diagnosis.