



## **DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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ROBERT J. O'DONNELL, Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT

Fall 2025

Dear Downingtown Area School District Community,

As part of our DASD Strategic Plan 2024-2030, we have set forth on a path to ensure that *every student is valued, engaged, and instilled with the confidence and skills for future success*. In alignment with this mission, the DASD implements the Behavior Assessment System for Children: Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BASC-3 BESS), which is a social-emotional screening tool for teachers and students in kindergarten through ninth grade.

### **Why Social-Emotional Screening?**

Social-emotional learning is crucial for students' development. It helps them manage emotions, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. By conducting social-emotional screenings, we aim to identify any areas where students may need additional support, ensure they have access to necessary resources, and foster a more inclusive and supportive school environment.

### **What to Expect**

Beginning October 2025 and ending mid-November 2025, in grades K-2, teachers will complete a brief questionnaire for every student in their classroom. In grades 3-9, your student will complete a brief, age-appropriate, questionnaire. These questionnaires will assess the students emotional well-being and social skill development. The screener should take your student no longer than 15 minutes to complete. The results will help us understand each student's unique strengths and needs.

### **Parent/Caregiver Contact**

The BASC-3 BESS provides a score of normal risk, elevated risk, or extremely elevated risk for each student who completes a questionnaire. Any student who rates themselves as extremely elevated will meet with a member of the Pupil Services team on the day of administration and caretakers will be called. Any student who rates themselves as elevated will meet with a member of the Pupil Services team within two weeks of administration and caretakers will be notified. We expect all students to have some level of risk across their educational career. If your student is identified as in need of targeted social-emotional support, our team of Pupil Services professionals will work closely with students and caretakers to provide appropriate school based and/or community resources and guidance.

**Confidentiality**

Please rest assured that all information gathered through the screening will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of enhancing student support. We encourage open communication between school and home. If you have any questions about the social-emotional screening process or wish to discuss how we can best support your student, please reach out to your student's Principal and School Counselor.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your student's education and well-being. We look forward to working together to ensure every student thrives both academically and emotionally.

Sincerely,

Pupil Services Team