



Fulton Public Schools

Dr. Jacque Cowherd, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ty Crain, Assistant Superintendent

Karrie Millard, Director of Special Services
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September 15, 2017

Dear FPS Parents and Guardians,

As you were informed in past semesters, our district is continuing participation in a Missouri Foundation for Health grant, titled "Shared Services for Mental Health Assessment, Counseling and Consulting in the School Setting" partnering with the Missouri School Boards' Association and the University of Missouri.

The goals are:

1. Increase teacher capacity to promote mental health and address mental health concerns in their classroom
2. Increase parent engagement regarding mental health.
3. Improve identification, referral, and treatment of students in need of mental health services within tiered systems of support.

Fulton 58 is continuing to refine the process of providing social-emotional support. Specifically, the district is working to directly link services to the assessed needs of our students. The goal of this system is to provide all students with timely and targeted interventions based upon the results of universal screening tools.

Universal screening helps school staff determine potential needs for enhanced student support. These screening assessments are administered to all students two times per year. The use of universal screenings refines and strengthens our efforts to help all of our students be successful by allowing us to take positive and preventative measures as early as possible. Through screening, schools have been able to provide identified students with mentoring, social skill building, and other supports to help them engage positively in learning. You will be notified if your student is selected for participation in an intervention program and will have the opportunity to determine if participation is appropriate for your child at that time.

Teachers will complete the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBERS) for FPS students in their classroom. Teachers at Fulton Education Center will complete the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) for FPS preschool students in their classroom. The DECA also provides social-emotional learning strategies linked to the screening results. Students in 5th-12th grades will also have the opportunity to complete a self-report measure called the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). Please see additional information about the screening and screeners below.

Screening tools are available at your school for your review. Please contact your child's school counselor if you have questions about your child's participation or would prefer your child not participate in the screening. All students may choose to opt out of completing the self-report tool. Thank you for your willingness to assist FPS in refining a system of student supports that is linked directly to data. This will ensure that each of our students has the opportunity to receive the assistance they need.

Sincerely,

Jacquie A. Cowherd, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Information: Fulton Mental Health Screening 2017-2018

The Fulton Public School's District School Mental Health Team will be conducting a voluntary district-wide mental health screening this fall. **The purpose of the screening is to identify social-emotional supports to help all Fulton students be successful.** This screening is being supported by the Shared Services for School Mental Health (S3MH) Project funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health. All information collected through the screening will be kept confidential. Screening tools are not diagnostic. Rather, screening data will be used to identify students who may benefit from additional assessment or supports for emotional or behavioral problems. As part of the screening process, teachers in all buildings will complete a brief assessment of students' social, academic, and emotional behavior. Students in 5th - 12th grade will also complete a brief behavioral self-assessment. Participation in the screening is completely voluntary; parents or guardians may notify their building administrator if they do not want their child to participate, and students can also opt out themselves.

Why screen? Fulton School District is committed to helping all students be successful at school. The district already provides a variety of emotional and behavioral supports. Conducting a social-emotional health screening gives Fulton School District one more tool to best serve young people in this community. Screening data can help identify students who may need additional help and allows for earlier identification of possible problems. The screening also provides a snapshot of current social-emotional needs of students in the district to inform ongoing improvement efforts.

What screeners will be used? Teachers in all buildings will complete the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBERS) for students in their classroom. Teachers at Fulton Education Center will complete the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) for FPS preschool students in their classroom. Students in 5th – 12th grades may complete a self-report measure called the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).

Is the screening mandatory? No. Parents/guardians can request for their child not to participate in the screening process. Students can also opt out of completing the self-report tool.

When and where will the screening take place? Teachers will complete the screeners during regularly scheduled, district professional development in October. Students will complete the screener during a school day in October. Screeners will be completed online.

How long does the screening take? It is estimated that teachers will spend about 20-35 minutes completing the screening tool for students in their classroom. The self-report measure takes about 5 minutes for young people to complete.

How much does it cost? The screening will be completed at no cost to the Fulton School District with the support of the Shared Services for School Mental Health (S3MH) Project.

Where will the data be stored? Teachers and youth will complete the screeners online, so data from the screeners will also be saved in a secure file.

Who will have access to the results? Screening results will be used to identify Fulton students who may benefit from further assessment or supports. Technical assistance will be provided by trained staff supported through the S3MH Grant. School personnel, including teachers, school counselors, teachers, and/or staff, will have access to student data. Results will be de-identified and shared more broadly at the district level to inform ongoing planning and improvement efforts.