



Student Mental Health Screener

1 message

Christopher Timmis <noreply@dexterschools.org>

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Reply-To: Christopher Timmis <noreply@dexterschools.org>

To: Dexter Community School District Recipients <recipients@dexterschools.parentlink.net>



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

October 15, 2020

Dear DCS Parents,

As part of our plan for this school year, we included a mental health screener for all of our students. We know the past year has been really tough on everyone. The stresses of this pandemic are evident in our entire society and we are always dedicated to supporting our kids. Below is disclosure statement information regarding a screener that we plan to utilize over the next few weeks for all students. Please take a moment to read the information below that pertains to the specific building for your child(ren). If you choose not to allow your child to participate, please email the building principal.

Thank you for your continued support of DCS and the support of All DCS students.

Take care and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD

Superintendent

STUDENT WELL-BEING SCREENER DISCLOSURE

Dexter Community Schools staff care deeply about our students and we want to check in with all students to assess how they are doing during these unprecedented times. To assist us in this effort, the District Mental Health/Social-Emotional Learning Team will be administering an emotional well-being screen to all students in grades Y5 – 12.

Background: For the 2020-2021 school year, The State's Roadmap Back to School Plan recommends that Michigan school districts provide an emotional well-being screener for all students (Y5-12). The screeners will be used to help staff identify how students are currently feeling as they return to school and navigate learning remotely. These tools are being used educationally and not medically. The screeners are not being used to diagnose or treat, but rather to get a sense of how students are currently feeling during the pandemic. Participation is encouraged – if you choose not to participate in the screener, it may be more difficult to identify and address the emotional well being of your child. Procedures for distribution of the screener for each school are detailed below.

DEEC (ANCHOR AND BEACON)

DEEC (Anchor and Beacon) will send a 4-question screener to teachers and parents with questions aligning with the SSIS-SEL ([SSIS Social-Emotional Learning Edition \(SSIS-SEL\)](#)), addressing self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. The screener will be sent as a Google Form for ease of data collection. Results will only be viewed by DEEC principals, psychologists, and social workers. Teachers and parents will receive the screener via email to administer to the students on October 22nd and will need to have it completed by October 29th. The School Social Worker or School Psychologist will follow up with students who are shown to be at elevated risk.

WYLIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wylie will send the Return to Wellness Screener (with questions derived from the PHQ-2 ([Patient Health Questionnaire-2 \(PHQ-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#)) and GAD-2 ([Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item \(GAD-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#)) tools) as a Google Form to students' individual emails. We plan to have teachers prompt students to take the five-question survey during the school day. **Results will only be viewable by the Wylie Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Team (Dr. Porcaro, School Psychologist, Mrs. Nalepa, School Social Worker, and Mrs. Kemp, School Counselor).** Notice will go out to families on October 25th, and students will take the screener on October 26th and 27th. Dr. Porcaro, Mrs. Nalepa and Mrs. Kemp will follow up with students who respond with elevated scores (i.e. "almost all the time") on any question. The screener will also include a question asking students if they would like to talk with a School Counselor or School Social Worker, and the team will follow up with every "Yes" response to that question.

CREEKSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Homeroom teachers at Creekside will share a link to the Return to School Wellness Screener, which is adapted from the PHQ-2 [Patient Health Questionnaire-2 \(PHQ-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#) and GAD-2 [Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item \(GAD-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#), with their students. The screener will be sent as a Google Form for easy collection of responses. We plan to have the homeroom teachers prompt students to take the five-question screener during their morning meeting, but **results will only be viewable by the Creekside Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Team.** Notice will go out to families on October 18th, and students will take the assessment on October 19th & 20th. The School Counselor, School Social Worker, and School Psychologist will follow up with students who respond with an elevated score (i.e., "almost all the time") on any question. We also have a question that asks the students if they would like to talk with a member of the Creekside Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Team. The team will follow up with every "Yes" response.

MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mill Creek Middle School will be using the PHQ-2 [Patient Health Questionnaire-2 \(PHQ-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#) and GAD-2 [Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item \(GAD-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#). The screener is a Google Form for easy collection of responses. We plan to have the homeroom teachers prompt students to take the five-question screener during the school day, but **results will only be viewable by Mill Creek's School Counselor and School Social Worker.** Seventh grade students will take the assessment on October 19th. The eighth grade students will take the assessment on October 26. A member of the district Mental Health/ Social-Emotional Learning team will follow up with students who respond with a score in the 6-12 range. We also have a question that asks the students if they would like to talk with a School Counselor or School Social Worker.

DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Dexter High School will be using the PHQ-2 [Patient Health Questionnaire-2 \(PHQ-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#) and GAD-2 [Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item \(GAD-2\) - Mental Disorders Screening](#). The screener is a Google Form for easy collection of responses. We are sending out a five-question screener to each grade level on separate days starting with the freshman class. **Results of this screener will only be reviewed by district Mental Health /Social-Emotional Learning team professionals and shared with appropriate staff and/or parents on a need to know basis.** Notice will go out to families on October 18th. 9th grade students will take the assessment on October 20, 10th graders, October 23, 11th graders on October 27 and 12th graders on October 27th. A member of the district Mental Health /Social-Emotional Learning Team will follow up with a student whose score is in the 6-12 range. We have provided all of the support staff's contact information on the screener for any student who wishes to contact a mental health professional.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Results of the screeners will only be reviewed by the District Mental Health Team/Social Emotional Learning Committee and shared with appropriate staff and/or parents on a need to know basis. It is not being used to provide a diagnosis or to treat any mental health conditions, but rather as a guide to determine the current emotional well being of our student population.