

Mi-Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap: Recommendation around Mental Health Screening

Roadmap Recommendation: “Schools should implement a mental health screening for all students by a trained professional, if possible. Any screening should be compliant with HIPAA and FERPA policies. Screening instructions (offered verbally to younger students) should provide age-appropriate and transparent disclosure of protocols in place to protect confidentiality while adhering to mandated reporting guidelines.” **Roadmap Recommendation:** “Provide all staff with timely, responsive, and ongoing training/professional development as well as needed tools, resources, and implementation support, focused on a variety of topics, including: **social-emotional learning**, trauma-informed best practices, identification of students at risk, proper local referral protocols, and self-care to promote holistic wellness and resilience and to prevent burnout and vicarious trauma.”

School-wide: Provide training to staff on social-emotional learning. Implement a comprehensive social-emotional curriculum, such as the [Michigan Model](#).

STEP 1: INFORM PARENTS & GUARDIANS ABOUT SCREENING

Parent/Guardian Consent for Screening and Assessment: Although **consent is not required** to administer universal screening, the following language can be included in the “start of the year” paperwork for all families: “The health and safety of our students is our top priority. To help identify students in need of additional support services, we will be administering universal screenings called (**insert what tool you will be using and give brief explanation of the tool). Screening responses will be used to identify students who may need additional support and connect them with appropriate resources, including school health professionals (such as a school social worker or counselor), who may offer additional screening to determine specific concerns.”

STEP 2: SELECT & ADMINISTER A UNIVERSAL SCREENER

Select at least one of the following Universal Screeners to administer with all students in the building

Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) (Teacher Administered)

What is it? A universal screening tool that is completed by teachers 3x per year on each student. It identifies students who are at risk for externalizing and internalizing problem behaviors and helps to determine those students who may need more targeted mental health screening.

[For More Information on the SRSS](#)

Daily Check-In (Individual Student Screening)

What is it? A universal screener that individual students complete to self-assess their emotional state and readiness to learn. The screener helps to identify how students are feeling and provides information to teachers and school staff in order to best support students.

[For More Information on the Daily Check-In Tool](#)

Student Questionnaire (Individual Student Survey)

What is it? A universal survey tool that identifies student strengths, challenges, hopes, and needs. This tool also identifies adults that a student is connected to both in the school and outside of school.

[For More Information on the Student Questionnaire](#)

Data from the screeners above should be used in conjunction with other data sets such as behavior data to identify students in need of additional support.

STEP 3: IDENTIFY STUDENTS WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SCREENING & SUPPORT

A team of individuals should meet at least monthly to review the above data to determine who needs additional support. It is best practice to implement interventions with 72 hours of identification of need.

STEP 4: PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO STUDENTS (LOW RISK)

- Provide self-care resources
- Refer to classroom-based SEL
- [Check-in, Check-out \(CICO\)](#)
- [2x10 Strategy](#)
- Sensory and Mindfulness

STEP 4: ADMINISTER ADDITIONAL SCREENING & ASSESS NEED

Targeted Mental Health Screening

- A mental health professional meets with the student individually (or parent and guardian for elementary) to administer additional screening measures and assess need.
- [ASQ-SE; BASC-BESS; or MAYS! 2](#)
- [For More Information on Targeted Health Screening](#)

STEP 5: IDENTIFY STUDENTS WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND/OR REFER FOR SERVICES

Communicate with parent/guardian unless contraindicated due to safety risk

Moderate Risk

- Provide self-care resources
- Refer to stress management group or SE skills group
- Outside agency referral, plan and support

High Risk

- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)
- Crisis and Reintegration Plan
- Outside agency referral, plan, and support
- Referral for 504 or IEP

For all referrals: Start with local providers & CMH first, use telehealth and online crisis management as a last resort
Adapted from Jackson County ISD Recommendations for Mental Health Screening