

Notice to Parent/Guardian for Social and Emotional Wellness Assessment

The Somers Central School District is dedicated to educating the whole child, which includes promoting students' Social and Emotional Wellness. Now, more than ever, it is evident that our students' emotional and academic well-being go hand in hand. Our singular mission in this effort is to proactively support students' emotional wellness so that they are better prepared to engage in their learning and social experiences.

In the 2021-2022 school year, an SCSD team of administrators, school psychologists, school counselors and social workers carefully researched multiple screening tools for students. After conducting a pilot with students in grades 5, 6, 9, and 10, and gathering direct feedback from students on their experience in taking these screeners, CoVitality's Social Emotional Health Survey was selected. This school year it will be administered to all students in grades 5-12. Grade 5 will be administered the Primary Version and grades 6-12 will take the Secondary Version.

This is a strengths-based survey. It recognizes that all students have strengths that can be nourished for greater personal and academic engagement and success. It will also help us to identify specific skills in need of further development through our social emotional instructional curriculum, both on an individual and grade level. In the event that wellness and safety concerns are identified for an individual student, a member of our school-based support teams will contact parents to work together to best support our students' needs.

This is an electronic assessment that will be administered two times per year in school. The first assessment will take place between September 14-23. The second will take place between March 1-10. The assessment takes 10-15 minutes. Results will be posted to the Campus Backpack, similar to STAR academic testing. Resources will be included to help parents understand and support their child's strengths and areas for growth. The district will also host an evening event in late October to take a deeper dive into CoVitality and to relay strategies to support students at home. The assessment questions are included for your review. To ensure assessment validity, please do not share these questions with your child in advance.

Student participation in the assessments is voluntary. Parents can opt out prior to the date of administration, and students may choose to opt out on the day of administration. While participation is optional, it is encouraged, as each student's experience offers significant value for understanding the needs in our schools.

If you do not want your child to participate, please email Mariellen Coogan at mcoogan@somersschools.org by September 9. Students may also choose to opt out on the day the screener is given. Students who opt out will remain with their class and work quietly. If you have additional questions, please contact Phil Kavanagh, Director of School Counseling and Student Support, at pkavanagh@somersschools.org.