

BIMAS-2 FAQs

What is a Behavioral Universal Screener?

It is a tool used to help identify students who are at risk of future academic, behavioral, or emotional difficulties. Just like some students benefit from additional academic support and interventions, we know some students would benefit from additional support to strengthen their behavioral, social, and emotional skills.

What is the universal screener being used?

The screener being used is the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System, or BIMAS-2™. It assesses behavior concerns and social-emotional wellness. It is not a diagnostic tool. PreK-12 teachers report on students demonstrated behavioral, social and emotional skills. It asks students who are ages 12 to 18, to self-report their behaviors and emotions over the last week.

How will the tool be administered?

In elementary school, the classroom teacher will complete a one-page questionnaire for each student regarding their behavioral, social, and emotional skills. In middle and high school, the administrator chooses one teacher to complete the questionnaire for a group of students. Students (ages 12-18) will complete a one-page questionnaire that takes approximately five minutes to complete.

Why is PPSD using the BIMAS-2™ screener?

This screener can help us identify students who are at risk of academic, behavioral, or emotional difficulties and provide additional support to strengthen these skills. The tool also allows us to monitor and track students' behavioral health over time, looking for any changes that could be a concern.

The data generated will also help us determine district and school-wide programs, interventions, and training needs for staff and can analyze and evaluate which school initiatives are effective and identify opportunities for improvement.

What type of questions are on the screener?

The following are examples of questions included on the screener:

- During the past week, I shared my thoughts with others.
- During the past week, I had trouble paying attention.
- During the past week, I followed directions.
- During the past week, I was sad or withdrawn.

For each question, the student will answer “never,” “rarely,” “sometimes,” “often,” or “very often.”

[You can access a copy of the Standard Form online.](#)

Can this screener be used to diagnose mental health or other psychological disorders?

No. This is a behavioral screener, NOT a diagnostic tool. If you are concerned about your child’s mental health, contact your pediatrician or your school’s Counseling Office for a list of local therapists, agencies and other resources to support your child.

Does my student have to participate?

We believe that a student’s emotional health is as important as their academic skills and physical health in their readiness and ability to learn. Just like our schools begin to administer academic screenings starting in Kindergarten, looking at our students’ social-emotional wellness provides another point of information to ensure our students are equipped to learn.

Families who wish to have their children opt out of the BIMAS-2™ screening should notify their child’s building principal.

 BIMAS Opt Out Letter

What will the district do with the data collected from the administration of BIMAS-2™?

This valuable screening tool provides us insight into the social and emotional health of our students. It also allows us to monitor and track students’ behavioral health over time, looking for any changes that could be a concern. Just like with our reading and math screenings, we will be using this information to provide interventions to students to help them grow. On a larger scale, the data generated from the BIMAS-2™ can help inform district and school-wide mental health and social emotional learning initiatives, prevention, intervention, and training needs for staff.

How can I see my student's BIMAS-2 results?

Contact the school principal to request to see BIMAS results.