Universal Behavior Screener (UBS)
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents & Guardians

Q: What is a universal behavior screener?
A: A universal behavior screener is a brief tool used to help schools understand how students are doing behaviorally in the school setting. Just as academic screeners help identify specific academic skills needing attention, behavior screeners help schools identify students who may benefit from behavioral supports or interventions. The goal is to identify needs early and provide support before concerns become more significant and impact student success in school.

Q: Why have Oglethorpe County Schools decided to use a universal behavior screener? What are the benefits?
A: Oglethorpe County Schools uses a universal behavior screener to support the early identification of students who may benefit from additional behavioral support. The screener helps the district provide timely interventions through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). The screener supports the district's commitment to creating positive learning environments and ensuring students have the support they need to be successful in school. Benefits include early identification of student needs, proactive support before concerns become more significant, data-informed decision making, and equitable access to appropriate interventions and resources.

Q: Will my child be directly involved in the universal screening process?
A: Grades K-5: Students in grades K-5 will not be directly involved in the universal behavior screening process. The screener is completed by the student's homeroom teacher based on observations of the student's behavior in the school setting. Students will not be asked to answer questions, fill out forms, or participate in any activities related to completing the screener.
Grades 6-12: Students in grades 6-12 will complete a brief self-rating questionnaire on 25 behavior attributes using a scale of 'not true,' 'somewhat true,' or "certainly true." The questionnaire is designed to be simple, brief, and easy for students to complete.

Q: What kinds of things are asked on the screeners?
A: The screeners look at areas such as emotional well-being, relationships with peers, behavior in school, attention and focus, self-management, and positive social skills. The purpose is to help schools identify strengths and areas where students may benefit from additional support.

Q: How long does the screener take?
A: Students in grades K-5 do not complete a screener. The SRSS-IE screener is completed by school staff. Students in grades 6-12 complete the SDQ, a brief self-rating questionnaire that typically takes 5-15 minutes to finish.

Q: Can I review the screener questions before my child participates?
A: Yes. The screening tools used by the district (SRSS-IE and SDQ) are publicly available online and may be reviewed at any time. Parents and guardians who would like to review the screening questions in person may also contact the MTSS Coordinator at their child's school to arrange a time to review the materials.

Q: How will my child's school use the data that is collected from the universal behavior screeners?
A: The data collected from the universal behavior screeners help your child's school better understand the behavioral needs of students. The results are used to identify students who may benefit from additional support, evaluate the effectiveness of schoolwide programs and interventions, and guide decisions about resources and services. Schoolwide trends may also be reviewed to help strengthen support for all students.

Q: What if I have additional questions?
A: Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the MTSS Coordinator at their child's school with any questions about the screening process or for additional information.

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If further assistance is needed, parents and guardians may also contact the District MTSS Coordinator, Stephanie Ring, at sring@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us.