

Date: September 13th, 2021

Dear APS Parents and Guardians:

Atlanta Public Schools is committed to creating a culture of student support, and supporting the needs of the whole child. One way we are addressing the whole child is by identifying student strengths and areas for growth relative to social, emotional, and behavioral well-being. In our continuing efforts to support the well-being of all students, we will be administering a universal screener of social, emotional & behavioral health. The assessment consists of a brief rating scale that will be completed by the homeroom or advisement teachers to aid in identifying students who may be at risk to develop academic or other school-related concerns. In addition, students ages 8 and above (3rd – 12th grade) will be invited to complete a self-rating that will take 5 – 15 minutes to complete. We acknowledge the importance of parent input into this screening process, therefore parents of students grades Pk-12 will also be invited to complete a brief rating scale about their student(s). Together, this information helps us to understand the needs of all students, and to make effective plans to support those needs at the school, class, and individual levels.

The universal screener that was chosen by the District to help identify student strengths and areas for growth is the BASC-3 BESS (Behavior and Emotional Screening Scale). The screener will be administered during the Fall semester (Sep. 16 – Oct. 1) and during the Spring semester (Feb. 16 – Mar. 1) to help support students and promote their social emotional well-being.

No action is required if you agree with your student's participation in the screening; if you would prefer that your student **NOT** participate in the universal screening, please complete and sign the portion below to opt-out of the screening and return this form to the homeroom teacher by September 16th.

If you would like more information about the universal screener, have any questions regarding the screener or screening process, or would like to inspect the screener, please contact APS' Director of Student Support & Interventions, Dr. Shannon Hervey at Shannon.hervey@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Sincerely,



Sharyn Briscoe, Principal

I have read the above statement and request that my child **OPT-OUT** of the BASC-3 BESS (Behavior and Emotional Screening Scale) universal screening for the 2021-2022 SY. I understand that by signing this form, my student WILL NOT be included in the school-wide screening.

Student's Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

