



**September 1, 2023**

Dear 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 one of your student's teachers to aid in identifying students who may be at risk of developing academic or other school-related concerns. In addition, students ages 8-18 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 student's 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 (Sept. 18 - Oct. 20) to help support students and promote their social emotional well-being.

**No action is required if you agree with your student completing the self-rating scale of the BASC-3 BESS; if you would prefer that your student NOT complete the self-rating scale, please complete and sign the portion below to opt-out of the student self-assessment of the screening, and return this form to Tina Pellechia, Counselor by 9/13/2023. Or you can use the QR code as well:**



For more information about the universal screener, and to review frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the screener please visit <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/67035>. Beginning September 18th, parents can submit BASC-3 Bess screener information for their student(s) by visiting, <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/67035>. If you would like to inspect the screener, please contact APS' Coordinator of Counseling, Jennifer Wilson, at [Jennifer.Wilson@apsk12.org](mailto:Jennifer.Wilson@apsk12.org) to arrange a virtual meeting.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Betsy Bockman, Principal**

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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 2023-2024 SY. I understand that by signing this form, my student **WILL NOT be administered the BASC-3 BESS self-rating scale.**

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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