



**MIDTOWN**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

January 2022

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 (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 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 was administered during the Fall semester (Sep. 16 – Oct. 1) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> administration will be 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 the opt-out of the screening form via the link below by Friday, February 11, 2022. If you opt out for your child during the fall administration, you DO NOT need to submit another opt out request. Student who opt out for fall are automatically opt out for spring.

<https://forms.gle/m4aAYV3bHAzwLFvS8>

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](mailto:Shannon.hervey@atlanta.k12.ga.us).

Sincerely,

Betsy Bockman, Ph.D.  
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 2021-2022 SY. I understand that by completing this form via the link below, my student WILL NOT be included in the school-wide screening.

<https://forms.gle/m4aAYV3bHAzwLFvS8>

