

## **Behavioral and Emotional Wellness Screening – Common Questions and Answers**

### **What is the purpose of the behavioral and emotional screening tools that will be used?**

The screening tools are intended to assess each student's needs in the area of social/emotional growth and development. Screening questions will focus on the daily behaviors, emotions, and social interactions of the child. Furthermore, the screenings identify students that may suffer from depression, anxiety, inattention, defiance, anger, and social delays for which the need for further support may be helpful.

### **How will the screening tools be administered?**

Working with Samaritan Behavioral Health, screenings will be administered by school building staff members under the supervision of mental health professionals. There are three steps to the screening procedure.

#### **Step 1: Screening**

Students in Grades Four through Twelve will complete a series of age-appropriate, evidence-based screening tools in small groups or one-on-one with a qualified screening professional. Parents and caregivers of children in Kindergarten through Grade Three will receive an evaluation to complete and return.

#### **Step 2: Evaluation of the results, answering questions**

If there is a concern that your child is in need of help, he or she will then meet with a trained health professional in private to determine the need for further evaluation. You will be contacted in the event that follow-up support is needed. Staff members will answer questions and concerns of any student that does not require additional follow-up. In this case, parents/caregivers will not be contacted.

#### **Step 3: Notification of the Caregiver**

Once again, you will be notified by program staff only if your child meets with a health professional and the professional recommends further evaluation for your child. Program staff will share the overall results with you and offer strategies to help. (See questions about confidentiality in regards to specific screening questions and answers.)

### **What is the process for getting help?**

Samaritan Behavioral Health is providing support in assessing the completed screening tools and will be available to assess the individual needs of identified students. After this, parents/caregivers will need to decide whether to seek and obtain additional services. Our team can suggest strategies to connect you with available services.

### **Are the screening results confidential?**

To protect your child's privacy, his or her screening results and related files will not be stored with academic records. If program staff believe that your child is in some danger to self or to others, they will take action and notify appropriate personnel and/or necessary authorities. To maintain the expected level of confidentiality, information will be shared with parents/caregivers when there is a risk of harm to their child. In the absence of risk or harm to the student, confidential and potentially sensitive information may not be disclosed to parents/caregivers upon the child's request.

### **What if I provide consent, but my child does not want to participate?**

Because we believe, screening should be totally voluntary, your child may refuse to participate or may refuse to answer any questions during the screening. We may notify you if your child chooses not to participate or is absent on the day of the screening.

**If I have additional questions, whom do I contact?**

Please contact:

Springcreek Primary	Kelsey Smith	937-789-8783	<a href="mailto:smithk@piqua.org">smithk@piqua.org</a>
Washington Primary	Kelsey Smith	937-789-8783	<a href="mailto:smithk@piqua.org">smithk@piqua.org</a>
Piqua Central Intermediate	Jennifer Decker	937-271-4325	<a href="mailto:deckerj@piqua.org">deckerj@piqua.org</a>
Piqua Junior High School	Kelsey Smith	937-789-8783	<a href="mailto:smithk@piqua.org">smithk@piqua.org</a>
Piqua High School	Andrea King	937-654-5971	<a href="mailto:kinga@piqua.org">kinga@piqua.org</a>

If you feel that your child is in need of mental/behavioral health treatment and would like a referral prior to the results of this screening process, please feel free to contact your building representative above.

You are also welcome to contact Mindy Gearhardt at the Board of Education at 937-773-4321 if you have any additional questions about the screening process. Thank you for your consideration.

If in a Crisis, call your community Crisis Hotline or go to your nearest Emergency Department.

Crisis Hotline: 1-800-351-7347

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 9-8-8

Miami County 211 (information about services in Miami County): 1-855-944-3372 or 2-1-1