

Gardner Public Schools

Mark J. Pellegrino, *Superintendent*



www.gardnerk12.org

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Universal Social, Emotional, and Behavioral (SEB) Screening Frequently Asked Questions

What is universal SEB screening?

Universal social, emotional, and behavioral (SEB) screening is a proactive, prevention-focused approach to supporting the overall wellbeing of students. Just as students participate in screenings for vision, physical health, reading, and other academic areas, universal screening for social and emotional problems provides information to schools regarding the mental health of the student body in general, and identifies students who may be in need of additional social-emotional supports. Screeners are not intended to make any educational diagnoses; rather, SEB screening assesses the early signs of potential or developing psychological or social problems, as well as the presence of resilience and protective factors that would promote greater life satisfaction and success in our students.

Why is Gardner Public Schools using a universal SEB screener?

Gardner Public Schools is committed to the success of our students. Best practice and federal education policy, such as from the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), calls for schools to routinely monitor all student's progress in areas such as academic skills, physical health, and mental health. The social-emotional functioning of each student plays an important role in their learning and long-term success. As such, GPS uses universal screening data to: assess the skills, strengths, and challenges of our students, to inform how GPS staff can best create positive learning environments that support student mental health, and to provide early intervention to students who are in need of additional support.

Does every student have to participate in the SEB screening process?

While participation in the universal screening process is highly encouraged for all students, parents do have the opportunity to "opt out" of SEB screening. If you would prefer that your child does not take part in the universal screening program, please contact the school psychologist in your student's building no later than 11/25/2020.

Waterford Street School:	Megan Wilson	(978) 632-1605, ext. 5123
Elm Street School:	Sarah Carter	(978) 632-1673, ext. 3510
Gardner Middle School:	Allison Doherty	(978) 632-1603, ext. 2002
Gardner High School/Gardner Academy:	Jessica Forst	(978) 632-1600, ext. 1130

Who has access to universal SEB screening data?

Data collected through the SEB screening process will be used with district mental health and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) teams to discuss student mental health trends and needs within Gardner Public Schools. Those involved in those data teams include the school psychologists, school adjustment counselors, school counselors, school administration, and some teachers.

What will happen if a student is identified as being "at-risk"?

When a student is identified as "at-risk," they are identified as needing additional social-emotional or behavioral support in one or more areas. Additional support will be provided to students through small-group skills instruction and/or small group counseling, depending on the needs identified through the BESS universal screener. In the event that a student is in need of these supports, their parent/guardian will be contacted and informed of follow-up procedures, should the parent agree.

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