

Behavioral Health Screening (BHS)

How Does the Behavioral Health Screen Work?

Step One: Students will complete a 10 to 15 minute computer-based questionnaire.

Step Two: At the conclusion of the questionnaire, all students will meet with a program staff member. **Students whose answers indicate they do not need additional assistance** will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have after completing the screening. **Students whose answers reveal a potential concern** will individually meet with a trained mental health professional from the West Chester Area School District or CCIU who will conduct a brief mental health assessment to determine if a further evaluation is necessary.

Step Three: Parents will only be contacted if their child needs further evaluation and /or additional mental health supports. If this is the case, program staff will share the overall screening results with parents and discuss ways to obtain additional help outside of the District. WCASD provides this screening at no cost, but does not provide further evaluation or treatment services. It is up to each parent to obtain additional services for their child. **Parents whose children are not in need of mental health services based on the screening will not be contacted.**

FAQ's

Are BHS results confidential?

Yes, screening is confidential. In order to protect your child's privacy, his/her screening results and related files will be stored separately from his/her academic records. Teachers will not be involved in the screening procedure. If program staff believes that your child is in some danger or is a danger to others, they are mandated by law to take action and notify appropriate personnel and/or necessary authorities.

What information will be shared with my child following the screen?

All teens that complete a screening questionnaire will meet privately with program staff to: discuss any thoughts or concerns that came up for the teens while completing the screen; help the teens generate a list of people they could go to for help; and to obtain their feedback about the screening experience.

Teens whose answers to the screening questionnaire reveal potential concerns about their emotional well-being will meet privately with a health professional. The purpose of this meeting is to further explore symptoms that came to light through the questionnaire, find out if these symptoms are causing any significant difficulties in the teen's life and, if so, determine whether he/she might benefit from a more complete evaluation by a mental health or medical professional at a later date. At the conclusion of the private meeting, if the health professional has determined

that a teen might benefit from such an evaluation, the teen will be told that his/her parent(s) will be contacted to discuss a recommendation for follow-up.

What if I provide consent, but my child doesn't want to participate?

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

Does BHS recommend treatment?

The West Chester Area School District staff do not make any treatment recommendations. All possible treatment decisions are made by families in close consultation with a health professional of your choice after the completion of the BHS. Treatment recommendations are beyond the scope of the BHS.

How accurate is the screening questionnaire?

The screening questionnaire was developed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and research has concluded that it is effective in identifying youth with possible emotional problems. However, the questionnaire results are not a medical diagnosis. Medical diagnoses are beyond the scope of the BHS.

Can I see the questionnaire?

Yes. If you wish to review the Universal Behavioral screening questionnaire, the assent form your child will be asked to sign prior to his/her participation in the program, or any instructional materials related to the screening, please submit a request to Fugett Middle School and you will be notified of the time and place where you may review these materials.