

## FAQ's-Universal Screener Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Behavior Universal Screener?**

It is a screening tool used to help identify students at risk of future academic, behavioral or emotional difficulties in school. Just like some students benefit from additional academic support, there are some students who will benefit from additional support to strengthen their behavioral, social, and emotional skills.

### **How does it work?**

Teachers in elementary schools will complete a one page survey about students' actions and emotions displayed in class during a one week time period. Students at the secondary level will complete the surveys. School staff will use the screening results and data to identify students who may benefit from additional social and emotional support. The data will also be used to analyze and evaluate which school programs and interventions are effective.

### **What universal screener is being used in Cumberland County Schools and how was it selected?**

The BIMAS-2 (Behavior Intervention Monitoring and Assessment System-2) is the universal screener being used. It was chosen after a review of four universal screeners.

### **What is the BIMAS-2?**

The BIMAS-2 (Behavior Intervention Monitoring and Assessment System-2) is a research based, brief and repeatable questionnaire developed and standardized for universal screening along with progress monitoring. It has 34 questions to help develop customized intervention goals and is available in multiple languages. It looks at adaptive skills, internalizing problems, externalizing problems, and school problems.

### **What types of questions are on the screener?**

- During the past week, this student shared what they were thinking about.
- During the past week, this student had trouble paying attention.
- During the past week, this student followed directions.
- During the past week, this student acted sad or withdrawn.

For each question, the teacher or student will answer "never," "rarely," "sometimes," "often," or "very often." The SELF and TEACHER rating forms can be found [online](#).

### **Does the screener diagnose children as having a disability or psychological problems?**

No, this is ***not*** a formal mental health assessment. It identifies potential problems in the same manner as a medical check-up.

### **Who completes the screener?**

Teachers will complete the screener at the elementary level and students will complete it at the secondary level. As the program expands, additional informants such as parents may complete the same questionnaire, providing an even better indicator of students' behavioral health.

### **Why are schools screening students?**

The BIMAS-2 (Behavior Intervention Monitoring and Assessment System-2) can help schools identify students who are at risk of future academic, behavioral, or emotional difficulties so that we can provide them additional support to strengthen their behavioral, social, and emotional skills. Doing this allows

teachers and students to focus more of their time and energy on classroom instruction and academic performance, with fewer behavioral disruptions. It helps promote social emotional well-being for students.

**How long will the screening take?**

The BIMAS-2 (Behavior Intervention Monitoring and Assessment System-2) is estimated to take 3-5 minutes to complete per child.

**Can I see my child's screening results?**

Yes. Contact your child's teacher if you would like information about your child's results.

**How and where is data about my child stored?**

The confidential screening results are stored on a secure server designated only for CCS universal screener data. The data is only accessible to teachers, administrators, parents/guardians and school staff (on a need to know basis).

**What do I do if I want my child to be screened?**

You do not have to do anything. All students are automatically included in the screening, unless they turn in the Opt-Out form.

**What do I do if I do not want my child to be screened?**

Participation in the BIMAS-2 (Behavior Intervention Monitoring and Assessment System-2) is voluntary. Parents will be given one week notification to complete the Opt-Out FORM that will be sent home, and it must be returned by the required date.

**What schools are participating in the screening?**

Here is a [list of participating schools](#). Additional schools will be phased in over the next few years until all schools are served.

**Who do I contact for additional information?**

Contact Dr. Natasha Scott, Executive Director for Student Services at 910-678-2433 or [natashascott@ccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:natashascott@ccs.k12.nc.us)