

All students enrolled in public schools in Louisiana are afforded protection of student records under the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) and La. R.S. 17:3914. Every public school district is required to implement processes to protect the privacy of personally identifiable student information and restrict sharing of that information. LEAs are only able to share personally identifiable information about students with others as long as the data sharing meets one of the law's limited exceptions as described in the Policy Guidance. In accordance with the legislation, LEAs: (1) are prohibited from requiring the collection of non-academic data about students such as political affiliation and religious practices; (2) are permitted to share personally identifiable information under specific circumstances (e.g. LEA officials with a legitimate educational interest; Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes; to appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.); (3) are prohibited from allowing anyone to access student information that is stored by schools or LEAs except authorized stakeholders such as parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, or a person authorized by the state to audit student records.

### **Louisiana School Well-Being Support Services**

All Louisiana schools have been asked to administer a universal social, emotional and behavioral screener to all students in order to assess the impact, if any, of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being of students and to provide appropriate interventions and referral to external services. Universal social, emotional and behavioral screeners are informational and not diagnostic. The data that will be collected will include screening results and personal information, such as age, gender, and race/ethnicity. All information will be kept confidential and in accordance with student safeguards defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and LA Revised Statute 17:3914. Your permission is required, pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), to begin the screening process (see attached Permission page). You also have the right to inspect, upon request, the screening instrument and any questionnaires before they are administered or distributed to your child. You may choose to allow your child to be administered a screener or not and may choose to withdraw your permission at any time. For the purposes of administering a universal social, emotional and behavioral screener, data collection is defined as questionnaires, interviews with your child's teachers or other educators, and direct observations in the classroom or other school setting. Your agreement to participate or your refusal to participate in the screening and/or data collection will in no way impact the services your child receives at [School Name].

As part of the universal social, emotional and behavioral screening and referral process, your child might be asked to complete questionnaires and interviews by qualified professionals, or the school staff will complete a screener to identify any potential social, emotional or behavioral issues. If social, emotional or behavioral needs are identified, you will be notified by the school. You must give informed written permission before your child may be provided social, emotional or behavioral services at the school. If necessary, the school will also link you and your child to external behavioral health services in the area.

If your child is involved in the criminal justice system, the court may require us to report to it about his/her participation or progress with consequences if he/she does not follow the court requirement. These risks will be minimized by providing a person for your child to talk to if he/she becomes uncomfortable or experiences any negative consequences from being administered a screener. If you do not wish for your child to continue being supported with

social, emotional and behavioral services, you have the right to withdraw him/her from the services without penalty, at any time.

**PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM & DATA COLLECTION\***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

By my signature below, I am confirming that I have read the accompanying two pages and have been informed of my rights under PPRA and FERPA.

Please check the appropriate statement, sign and return this form to the school as soon as possible to [Staff Name].

- I give permission for my child to participate in the universal social, emotional and behavioral screening process and data collection.\*
- I do not give permission for my child to participate in the universal social, emotional and behavioral screening process.
- I understand that I will be notified and will be required to provide written informed consent prior to any intervention or other social, emotional and behavioral services are provided for my child.

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date form received by the school system:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Note: For the purposes of the School Behavioral Health Services, data collection is defined as questionnaires, interviews with your child's teachers or other educators, and direct observations in the classroom or other school settings.*