

Behavioral Health Screening

As parents we all strive to do the best for our children and provide them with what they need to have healthy, happy and successful lives. Parenting is a very difficult and demanding job. We don't always know when to address an issue and when to back off.

We all have experienced anger, worry and fear. But when these emotions begin to disturb the lives of our children — due to their frequency and/or severity, causing problems at school or work, difficulty sleeping, physical symptoms or frequent stress — it may be time to consult a mental health professional.

Unusual changes in behavioral patterns — such as a drop in grades, poor attendance, widespread changes in friendships, changes in sleeping and eating patterns and isolation or frequent calls from school about your child's behavior — are some “red flags” that may signal a need to look further.

Through a School Justice partnership grant and with support from the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Alta Behavioral Healthcare is pleased to share that a Master's level staff is available to complete a **free and confidential** behavioral health screening with your child as part of your school's Early Warning System.

Since October 2016, more than 350 students from grades K-12 have completed the behavioral health screening. This **brief** screening takes place at the school building, is scored the same day, and provides families with the child's scores, recommendations for services, and an agency referral book. The staff member then reaches out to each family to answer any questions and to help coordinate follow-up services.

If interested, parents are encouraged to review the provided consent form and return it to the school office. The screening will then follow.



If you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact Amber Chembars Meyerl at Alta Behavioral Healthcare (330-793-2487), or reach out to a member of your school's EWS team.

Thank you!

