



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIMEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
67-1225 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
PHONE: (808) 887-7636 • FAX: (808) 887-7640

January 22, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Waimea Elementary School has been working to create a system for social-emotional support, driven by data, regarding the needs of our students. Such a system would allow us to move toward our goal of proactive interventions, helping students build skills *before* their areas of need contribute to significant challenges or distress. This would benefit students and our school community as a whole.

One of the steps in this system is data collection. **A universal behavior screener, administered school-wide, would allow us to identify students who are at risk for emotional and behavioral concerns.** The use of universal screenings refines and strengthens our efforts to help all of our students be successful by allowing us to take **positive and preventative** measures as early as possible. The screener we will use, the BEISY, looks at internalizing and externalizing behaviors. Internalizing behaviors are negative behaviors focused inward on the self, such as social withdrawal or anxiety. Externalizing behaviors are those focused outward, such as aggression toward others. The results of the tool will be used to provide identified students with mentoring, social skill building and other supports to help them engage positively in learning. We are working on building our system of support, and may not be able to provide interventions for *all* identified students as “at risk” at this time; the need for intervention will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, beginning with the most elevated risk scores. **As with our academic universal screenings, you will be notified if your student is selected for participation in an intervention program, and may opt out of the intervention(s) if you so choose.**

Research suggests that delaying treatment or failing to treat emotional or behavioral challenges can negatively impact learning, and may even contribute to behaviors that are resistant to treatment in the future. The identification and support of children at risk for emotional or behavioral difficulties through the use of universal screeners can help prevent more significant challenges.

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If you need assistance understanding this document,
please contact the Principal at (808) 887-7636

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Maintaining confidentiality is extremely important to us. The BEISY is based off of observable behaviors in the classroom, and is completed by the classroom teacher. Teachers can therefore access the results of the students in their classroom, but only those personnel on the Student Support Team (Counselors, Administrators, our Student Services Coordinator, our Student Support Advisor) can access the results of any/all students, for the purposes of determining appropriate supports. Further, the results of this screener will **not** be included in any child's permanent school record.

Thank you for your willingness to assist us in building a system of student supports that is linked directly to data. This will ensure that each of our students has the opportunity to receive the assistance they need to achieve academic and social-emotional success. If you would like to know your child's scores, or would like to understand more about our screener or this process, please contact the Counselors at extension 225 (Erin) or 235 (Meghan).

Sincerely,

Scott Tamura
Principal
Waimea Elementary School

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