Universal Screening Defined

• “Universal screening is the systematic assessment of all children within a given class, grade, school building, or school district, on academic and/or social-emotional indicators that the school personnel and community have agreed are important.”

  • Source: Ikeda, Neessen, & Witt, 2009

Screening for what?
Externalizing Behaviors

• Displaying aggression toward objects or persons
• Arguing
• Being out of seat
• Not complying with teacher instructions or directives

Source: Walker and Severson, 1992

Screening for what?
Internalizing Behaviors:

• Not talking with other children
• Being shy
• Timid and/or unassertive
• Avoiding or withdrawing from social situations
• Not standing up for one’s self

Source: Walker and Severson, 1992
Multiple Gating Procedure
(Adapted from Walker & Severson, 1992)

Gate 1
Teachers Nominate Order Students on Each Dimension (Externalizing & Internalizing)
Pass Gate 1

Gate 2
Teachers Rate the nominated students on an evidence-based instrument
Team Confirmation Process
Pass Gate 2

Two Main Purposes of Universal Screening

• Structured input process to identify students in need of additional supports beyond Tier 1

• Examine the health and quality of Tier 1 support system

Universal Screening

• Produces actionable information to put Tier 2 supports in place

Team Confirmation Process

• Reviewing students and reviewing additional data to minimize diagnostic errors
  – Rule out false positives
    • Students who were incorrectly identified as in need of additional supports
  – Rule in false negatives
    • Students who were incorrectly identified as not in need of additional supports
Determine System Capacity

• Who are Tier 2 case managers?
  – Who can help get the intervention up and running?
    • Counselor, school psych, admin, paraprofessional, teacher on special assignment

• How many students can you currently serve in the Tier 2 system of supports?

Triage Students

• Ranking students from highest to lowest need
  – Need determined by score on universal screening
  – Complimentary source of data
  – Number of teachers who have a concern about the student