

2020-2021 Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal: Student Participation in FAST Screeners

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and community regarding FAST Universal Screeners.

What is FAST?

FAST stands for Formative Assessment System for Teachers and was created in 2010 by the University of Minnesota with a goal of making it easier for teachers to collect and use data more effectively. In early 2015, the company FastBridge Learning was launched, which included the assessment platform. FAST has been adopted by schools in 35 states, including a statewide adoption in Iowa. The FAST assessment system includes assessments of reading, math, and social, emotional, behavioral skills.

Why is MPS using FAST?

MPS conducted a pilot of FAST during the 2016-17 school year and the results from the pilot led to the recommendation to use FAST as a district-wide universal screener in math and reading for students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. This selection came out of a need to more efficiently and cost-effectively support screening for use as part of a MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework.

What is a universal screener and how is it used?

Universal screeners are brief assessments given to all students (including students who receive special education services and English learners) throughout the school year to measure academic performance and growth. Information from these assessments, along with other data, is used to help identify students who may need additional supports. Screening assessment data, along with other information about students, is collected, organized and analyzed by teachers and school staff during the fall, winter and spring to determine and modify school-wide practices and classroom-level instruction. The purpose is for staff to collaboratively plan how to best support all students' needs.

Universal screeners are different from State Assessments, in that they serve as a brief check on where students are in the school year, as opposed to a longer, formal, end-of-year summative assessment like the MCAs.

What information will parents receive about their child's performance on FAST assessments?

Parents will receive information about how their child performed on the FAST assessments from their child's school.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact your child's school if you have additional questions or would like more information after you have received your child's results. More information about FAST and the vendor, FastBridge, can be found at www.fastbridge.org.



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Student First Name _____ Student Middle Name _____

Student Last Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Student's School _____ Grade _____

Reason for Refusal (cannot be blank):

Please indicate the District Universal Screener that you are opting the student out of *this school year*.

Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
Kindergarten	earlyReading (required) Concepts of Print Onset Sounds Letter Names Letter Sounds <i>10 minutes total</i>	earlyReading (required) Onset Sounds Letter Sounds Word Segmenting Decodable Words <i>10 minutes total</i>	earlyReading (required) Letter Sounds Word Segmenting Sight Words Decodable Words <i>10 minutes total</i>
Grades 1 and 2	aReading (required) aMath (required) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>	aReading (required) aMath (required) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>	aReading (required) aMath (required) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>
Grades 3 through 8	aReading (required) aMath (required) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>	aReading (required) aMath (required) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>	aReading (optional) aMath (optional) <i>15 to 30 minutes each</i>

I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in district universal screener may impact the school, district, and state's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please return this form to your school secretary, or your child's homeroom teacher.

MPS Staff: Please return this form to your school Test Coordinator, who will keep it in their records.