



HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to another great year of teaching and learning! We are excited to work with you and your student(s) this year. We know you trust us to do what is best for your student, and we vow to do just that.

We strive to effectively communicate the different screenings, assessments, programs, titles, policies, and supports in which your student(s) is involved. Educators tend to use acronyms as a shortcut, and we understand they can be easily misunderstood. This document is a guide to inform you of these acronyms and what they stand for, and to offer a brief description of each.

1. **DIBELS NEXT (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills):** is a set of curriculum-based measures for reading that assesses a student's development as a reader. Each assessment is designed for a specific grade level ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade and measures critical reading skills. There are specific windows of time that these assessments must be given. These benchmark tests and screenings help our teachers correctly support the reading needs of each child.
2. **SWIS (School Wide Information System):** is a data system that tracks any office discipline referrals completed throughout the year. By analyzing where, when, by whom, and how often discipline referrals are occurring, we are better able to target problem behaviors and be more proactive in our approach to supporting all students, re-teaching behavioral expectations in specific locations or times of day/year where we notice spikes in referrals. By using this data system, we can see if our efforts result in student progress.
3. **SRSS (Student Risk Screening Scale):** is a brief assessment completed by teachers to screen for social, emotional, and behavioral concerns. The assessment is designed to be used in a proactive manner to provide students more support before problems escalate.
4. **EWI (Early Warning Indicators):** are data points that middle and high school staff use to determine which students are at risk of dropping out or becoming less engaged in school. Attendance, behavior, and course proficiency data are reviewed by school leadership three times per year to identify students who may need more support to stay engaged in school.
5. **CICO (Check-in, Check-out):** is a Tier 2 Intervention, which means it is designed for students who have a moderately difficult time following school expectations. Students "check in" with a trusted adult at the beginning of the day. As the day progresses, students receive written feedback about their behavior: they are either acknowledged or given positive corrective feedback for improvement. At the end of the day, the student "checks out" with the trusted adult. This intervention works best for students who are motivated by adult or peer attention.

6. **i-Ready:** is a K–12 tool that is individualized for each student who uses it. It pinpoints a student’s needs in reading and mathematics down to the sub-skill level and monitors the progress of each student as the year progresses. It is exclusively done on the computer. Students have a login and are able to access it from home, as well.
7. **MiBLSI (Michigan Integrated Behavioral & Literacy Support Initiative):** partners with school districts to help implement and sustain behavior and reading supports for improved student outcomes. They support the Hastings Area School System and ensure long-term sustainability for those programs.
8. **MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support):** addresses academic, social, emotional, and behavioral development of students from early childhood to graduation. It provides multiple levels of support for all learners (struggling through advanced).
9. **PARS (Promoting Adolescent Reading Success):** is a pilot program being run by MiBLSI at the middle school to implement MTSS for reading. The intent of this program is to determine how to significantly increase the reading skills of secondary students who are reading well below their grade level. Students who meet the criteria for added reading instruction will have one of the following classes in addition to their core reading class: Phonics for Reading; Reading for Meaning 1, 2, 3; Reading for Science; and Reading for Social Studies. Each class works on foundational reading skills, such as comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary.
10. **SAT/PSAT:** is a set of standardized college admissions tests developed by College Board. The SAT and PSAT measure mathematical and verbal reasoning, while others measure knowledge in specific subject areas, such as science.
11. **M-STEP:** is a state assessment designed to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. These standards broadly outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be prepared to enter the workplace, career education training, and college.
12. **Hearing/Vision Screenings:** are offered free of charge to all children in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) conducts the screenings in schools and at your Local Health Department.

Please know that we are here to support you and your student(s). Feel free to ask questions of your building administrators and staff should the need arise.

It’s a great day to be a Saxon!

Sincerely, Your District Implementation Team

Matt Goebel, Teresa Heide, Cortney Coats, Melissa Priest, Keriann Poquette, Adam Case, Dora Leonard