



PLEASE RETURN ASAP!

*Southeast Polk 8th grade students
will be offered Teen Screen
during the 2010-2011 school year*

*We are careful to safeguard
the emotional health of our students.*

Teen Screen is a voluntary ten-minute questionnaire.

*Please read the attached information and return the parent
permission form with your student's registration information.*

*Thank you for your consent to give the Teen Screen emotional
health assessment. We are proud to partner with you.*

Questions?

*Call Cathy Beck Cross at Central Place
266-6795*

TeenScreen Parent Consent Form

Please return this form ASAP!

I have read and understand the description of the TeenScreen Program offered **8TH GRADE STUDENTS** at Southeast Polk Junior High School. I understand that if I consent to my child's participation in TeenScreen, the screening will be offered to my student on one of the following dates:

September 15, 2010; November 4, 2010; January 27, 2011; or March 3, 2011

Please select one of the following:

I would like my child to participate in the TeenScreen Program (please complete **entire** form)

I do not want my child to participate in the TeenScreen Program (please complete top portion only)

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name (Print): _____

Student's Name (Print): _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: _____ Date signed: _____

If your child WILL BE participating, please provide the following information so we can contact you if necessary: (Please list each parent/guardian in the household separately.)

Parent/guardian #1:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone#: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Best times to reach parent/guardian #1:

1) _____ Tel. #: _____

2) _____ Tel. #: _____

Parent/guardian #2:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone#: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Best times to reach parent/guardian #2:

1) _____ Tel. #: _____

2) _____ Tel. #: _____

TeenScreen Parent Consent Letter for Southeast Polk Junior High

Attn: Parents of students in 8th grade 2010-2011

June 2010

Dear Parents,

As parents you are well aware that the physical and mental health of young people plays a key role in their ability to succeed in school, have rewarding relationships with family members and friends, and lead productive and happy lives. Southeast Polk High School is committed to working with you not only to educate your children, but also to ensure that they reach their full potential outside of the classroom. To that end, we are offering parents of students enrolled in Health class this semester the opportunity to have their teens participate in a wellness check-up called TeenScreen. TeenScreen is a nationally-recognized program developed by Columbia University to identify risk factors associated with depression, anxiety, and alcohol and substance abuse. The program is free and completely voluntary and confidential.

The teen years are a time of tremendous change. TeenScreen can help parents better understand the changes their teens are experiencing. No matter what the results of your teen's screening are, the program will provide you with important information. For most parents, this screening will reassure you that your teen is just experiencing typical "growing pains." For other parents, TeenScreen can help you pinpoint a problem in its early stages, giving you the ability to secure needed help for your teen and reduce the chance that a more significant problem will develop in the future.

I hope you will take advantage of this confidential check-up. Please read the information below and in the attached "Common Questions and Answers about TeenScreen," and then sign and return the Parent Consent Form on the next page to indicate whether you want your teen to participate.

How Does TeenScreen Work?

Cathy Beck-Cross, director of Southeast Polk's Central Place Family Resource & Community Education Center, will be in charge of the program. It will take place during school hours in a private setting at the school. Your teen will not be screened without your permission. All screening results will be kept confidential, stored separately from academic records, and not shared with your teen's teachers. There are three steps to the screening procedure:

Step One: Teens complete a 10-minute questionnaire about vision, hearing and dental problems, symptoms of depression and anxiety, suicidal thinking and behavior, and use of drugs and alcohol.

Step Two: Teens whose answers reveal a potential problem and teens who ask for help then meet with a trained mental health professional in private to determine if further evaluation would be helpful. Teens whose answers show they probably do not need help meet briefly with other program staff to answer any questions they may have about the program and to give them the opportunity to ask for help with any other concerns the screening did not cover.

Step Three: You will be contacted by program staff only if your teen meets with a mental health professional and the professional recommends further evaluation for your teen. If this is the case, program staff will share the overall results with you and discuss ways you can get help for your teen. You will not be contacted if your teen is not found to need additional mental health services. If a vision, hearing or dental need is identified during the screening process, program staff will first attempt to reach you by telephone, and if unsuccessfully, will notify you by letter.

Southeast Polk High School provides this screening at no cost, but does not provide further evaluation or treatment services. It is up to you to decide if you want to obtain any additional services for your teen.

Please do not hesitate to call Cathy Beck-Cross at 266-6795 or beckc@se-polk.k12.ia.us if you have any questions. You may also find information about the TeenScreen Program at www.teenscreen.org.

Sincerely,
Glenn Dietzenbach
Principal, Southeast Polk High School

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Columbia University Teen Screen Program
TeenScreen Consent and Assent Policy for School-Based Screening Sites
Effective Date August 1, 2006

Overview

TeenScreen is a voluntary program that requires both parental consent and teen assent for participation. Because we strongly believe in consent and assent being clearly given, school-based sites (including school-based and school-linked health centers) are required to obtain written (“active”) consent from parents or legal guardians for the screening of minor students. In order to ensure a uniform approach to this important step in the screening process, all school-based TeenScreen sites are required to use standard consent letters, consent forms and assent forms provided by the national TeenScreen Program. Following are some specific aspects of our consent and assent policy for school-based sites and adult/emancipated participants.

School-Based Sites

Before a student aged 17 or younger can participate in TeenScreen, a parent or legal guardian must receive the TeenScreen Parental Consent Letter and complete and return the TeenScreen Parental Consent Form. Students who do not have parental consent cannot be screened, even in emergency situations. Following receipt of the Parental Consent Form, the student must be asked to review and sign the Participant Assent Form. Any student who does not give their assent for screening cannot be screened, even if parental consent was granted. Blanket consents given for school activities or health programs cannot be used as a substitute for a signed TeenScreen Parental Consent Form.

Adult and Legally Emancipated Participants

TeenScreen requires that all sites obtain written (“active”) consent for screening from participants themselves rather than their parents when they are 18 or older or are emancipated under state law. The national TeenScreen Program provides a standard Participant Consent Letter and Form and a Participant Assent Form for these participants. As with the consent and assent forms for minor youth, use of the standard forms for adult/emancipated participants is required.

While parental consent for screening is not required for adult/emancipated participants, the national TeenScreen Program recommends that sites seek written permission from these participants to share their results with their parents if a referral for further evaluation is recommended.

Common Questions and Answers About TeenScreen

Are TeenScreen results confidential?

In order to protect your child’s privacy, his/her screening results and related files will not be stored with his/her academic records. Teachers will not be involved in the screening procedure. If program staff believes that your child is in some danger or is a danger to others, they will take action and notify appropriate personnel and/or necessary authorities.

What if I provide consent, but my child doesn’t want to participate?

Because we believe screening should be totally voluntary, your child may refuse to participate or refuse to answer any questions during the screening. We will notify you by letter if your child chooses not to participate or is absent on the day of the screening.

Does TeenScreen recommend treatment?

The TeenScreen program and staff do not make any treatment recommendations. All possible treatment decisions are made by families in close consultation with a health professional after the completion of the TeenScreen Program. Treatment recommendations are beyond the scope of the TeenScreen Program.

How accurate is the screening questionnaire?

The screening questionnaire was developed by Columbia University and research has concluded that it is effective in identifying youth with possible emotional problems. However, the questionnaire results are not a medical diagnosis. Medical diagnoses are beyond the scope of the TeenScreen Program.

Can I see the questionnaire?

Yes. If you wish to review the TeenScreen screening questionnaire, the assent form your child will be asked to sign prior to his/her participation in the program, or any instructional materials related to the screening, please submit a request to Cathy Beck-Cross at Central Place Family Resource & Community Education Center, 6540 NE 12th Avenue, Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327, 266-6795 (beckc@se-polk.k12.ia.us) and you will be notified of the time and place where you may review these materials.

Where does TeenScreen get its support?

The program is supported by foundations and local communities. It is operated as a non-profit public service and accepts individual donations to help provide free screening services to local communities. The program receives no funding from pharmaceutical companies.

