



Dear Parents,

A child's mental health is important. Good mental health allows children to think clearly, develop socially, and learn new skills. The School District of New London is committed to educating your child and ensuring they reach their full potential. During the fall semester of the 2018-19 school year the school district will partner with the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program at Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley to offer ninth grade students the opportunity to participate in an emotional wellness check-up. The screening program uses a nationally-recognized screening questionnaire that facilitates the identification of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems so that appropriate interventions can be initiated as early as possible. The screening program is voluntary, confidential, and FREE!

For most parents, the screening questionnaire will reassure you that your child is in good mental health. For other parents, the screening program may identify a problem in its early stages. Early detection allows you to seek mental health care, which reduces the chance that a more significant problem will develop in the future.

**How does the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program work?**

**YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE SCREENED WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.** The screening will be completed during school hours in a private setting at the school. All screening results will be kept confidential, stored separately from academic records, and will be not shared with school staff. There are three steps to the screening process:

**Step One:** A brief questionnaire about symptoms related to attention, depression, anxiety, mood, aggression, suicidal thoughts/behavior, as well as alcohol and other substance use will be completed.

**Step Two:** If the results of the questionnaire reveal a potential problem or if a student asks for help, they will meet privately with a trained mental health professional to determine if a further mental health evaluation would be helpful.

**Step Three:** Program staff will contact you by phone or email, **ONLY** if your child meets privately with a trained mental health professional. If this is the case, program staff will share the screening results with you and discuss recommendations for next steps. You will **NOT** be contacted if your child is found not to need additional mental health evaluation.

For additional information please read the attached "*Common Questions and Answers about Connected Community Wellness Screen.*" To ensure your child participates in the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program sign and return the Parent Consent Form on the next page on or before **September 4, 2018.**

The School District of New London provides this screening at no cost to families, but does not provide further evaluation or treatment services.

Please contact the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program at **920-886-9319 x122** regarding questions or concerns. Additional information about the Connected Community Wellness Screen program can be found at <http://www.samaritan-counseling.com/wellness-screen>. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen Parsons  
Connected Community Wellness Screen  
Program Director

## **Common Questions and Answers about Connected Community Wellness Screen(CCWS)**

### **Are CCWS results confidential?**

Yes, screening is confidential. To protect your child's privacy, his/her screening results and related files will be stored separately from his/her academic records. School staff 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 are mandated by law to 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 completely voluntary, your child may refuse to participate or refuse to answer any questions during the screening. We will follow up with the parents and inform you if your child chooses not to participate or is absent on the day of the screening. You and your child can decide to participate at a later date by contacting the Wellness Screening Program at 920-886-9319 x122.

### **Does CCWS recommend treatment?**

The Connected Community Wellness Screen Program and staff do not make specific treatment recommendations; however, a recommendation for a further evaluation may be given. All possible treatment decisions are then made by families in close consultation with a health professional of your choice. Treatment recommendations are beyond the scope of the CCWS.

### **How accurate is the screening questionnaire?**

The Pediatric Symptom Checklist-Youth Self-Report (PSC-Y) was developed by Massachusetts General Hospital and research has concluded that it is effective in identifying youth with possible emotional wellness impairment. However, the questionnaire results are not a medical diagnosis. Medical diagnoses are beyond the scope of the screening program.

### **Can I see the questionnaire?**

Yes. If you wish to review the CCWS 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 do not hesitate to contact Jen Parsons at 920-886-9319 x122, who will gladly assist you.

### **Where does CCSW get its support?**

The program is supported by local community foundations and local school districts. It is operated as a nonprofit public service and accepts individual donations to help offset the cost of screening services to local communities. The program receives no funding from pharmaceutical companies.



## Parent Consent Form

Please complete this form as part of the registration process to let us know whether you want your teen to participate in the screening. If you would prefer to print a copy, you can return the form to the New London High School Main Office on or before September 4, 2018.

I have read the description of the Connected Community Wellness Screen (CCWS) program and understand that: 1) it is confidential and voluntary; 2) CCWS does not diagnose or recommend any particular type of treatment; 3) the PSC-Y is a tool which helps identify emotional wellness impairment and the school district and the Wellness Screen Program cannot guarantee the PSC-Y will always identify every emotional wellness impairment.

\_\_\_ I would like my child to participate in the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program

\_\_\_ I do not want my child to participate in the Connected Community Wellness Screen Program

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ School your student attends: \_\_\_\_\_

If your child **will be participating**, please provide the following information so we can contact you if necessary:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*by providing your email address you will receive quarterly newsletter updates regarding updated teen mental health information

Best times to reach you:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.#: \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.#: \_\_\_\_\_