



# Why mental health screening?

- Mental health screening can serve as a powerful tool to ensure that all students receive the support they need, regardless of background or circumstance.
- Offering screenings to students can enable us to proactively identify mental health issues early and provide timely interventions.
- Mental health screening is a critical step toward creating an environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive mentally and emotionally.



# What is a mental health screener?

- A screening **tool to help identify symptoms** of mental health conditions allowing for early intervention and connection to appropriate services and support for students.

[School Screening Readiness Report](#)



## Landscape Scan on Screening Practices

In accordance with Public Act 103-0546, ISBE conducted a statewide assessment to better understand the current practices school districts and school entities employ regarding mental and behavioral health screening of students.

In 2023, nearly 40 percent of Illinois youth who experienced major depressive episodes were unable to access necessary care.

The 2023 Landscape Scan identified that approximately 71 percent of Illinois school districts already engage in some form of wellness screening activities.

Students and school personnel expressed strong support for mental health screenings and emphasized the importance of early identification for both internalizing and externalizing mental health issues.

[Landscape Scan report](#)





## When do schools have to implement universal mental health screening?

- Public Act 104-0032 requires school districts to offer mental health screenings to students, **at least once a year, beginning with the 2027-28 school year.**
- This requirement is **only** in effect for school years in which the state has successfully procured a screening tool that offers a self-report option for students and is made available to school districts at no cost.
- At least one screening must be **offered to students** by the end of the 2027-28 school year.

[Public Act 104-0032](#)



## Which **grade levels** are mandated to complete health screenings according to state requirements?

PA 104-0032 requires school districts to offer mental health screenings to **students enrolled in grades 3 through 12.**

Public Act 104-0032



## Do **SEL screeners** meet the requirements of a mental health screener?

- **SEL screeners do not meet** the requirements of a mental health screener.
- Schools that are currently using an SEL screening tool are encouraged to administer these screeners alongside a qualifying mental health screening tool.



## What **research** has the state done about screening in Illinois?

- Pursuant to [Public Act 103-0885](#), the Illinois State Board of Education submitted the [School Screening Readiness \*\*Report\*\*](#) to the governor and General Assembly on March 31, 2025.
- Additional **research** can be found on ISBE's Mental and Behavioral Health Screening [webpage](#).