

CHRISTOPHER CHEW, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

COURTNEY L. MORAN, M.Ed.  
Assistant Superintendent



GERARD COUGHLIN, M.Ed.  
Director of Special Education and SEL

MAGALY RODRIGUEZ RONAN, M.Ed.  
Director of Equity, Curriculum, and Instruction

JENNY LIN, CPA  
Director of School Finance

**Westford Public Schools  
Administrative Offices**

23 Depot St. • Westford, Massachusetts 01886  
www.westfordk12.us • (978) 692-5560 • FAX (978) 392-4497

February 2024

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians of Students in **Grade 10**,

In compliance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 96 & 97, our school system will be conducting verbal screenings of students in grades 8 and 10. The intent of this screening is to help prevent students from beginning the use of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs, along with providing assistance to students if they are currently using such substances.

The Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program screening process will be incorporated into our annual state mandated screening program. All screenings will be conducted confidentially by our school nurses and school social workers in private one-on-one sessions. We utilize the CRAFFT+N screening tool, which is the most commonly used substance screening tool for adolescents in Massachusetts. This year, vaping questions have been added to the screening tool. The verbal screening of students in grade 10 will take place on the following dates:

Westford Academy will be screening the week of March 3rd.

Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener. The screener will provide brief feedback to any student who reports using substances, or who is at risk for future substance use. If needed, we will refer students to our counseling staff for further evaluation. This program focuses on substance use prevention and does not generate disciplinary action. Results of the screening will not be included in your student's school record.

As with any school screening, you have the right to opt your child out of this screening. To opt-out, we request that you send a written note or call the health office no later than March 10th to opt out. The screening is voluntary, and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions.

I ask that you discuss this screening with your child along with the importance of avoiding substance abuse. Feel free to contact a school nurse with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christopher Chew  
Superintendent of Schools

# Westford Public Schools

Administrative Offices

23 Depot St. • Westford, Massachusetts 01886

www.westfordk12.us • (978) 692-5560 • FAX (978) 392-4497

February 2023

## SCREENING BRIEF INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT)

### SCREENING OPT-OUT

In order to exercise your parental right to opt your child out of the SBIRT screening, this form must be completed and returned to the school nurse no later than Friday March 1, 2024.

I \_\_\_\_\_ excuse my child \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Name* *Student's Name*

from the SBIRT Substance Abuse Screening.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*