Oak Park Elementary
School District 97

Student Well-Being Check-Ins FAQ

In our ongoing effort to support students, confidential well-being check-ins for students in grades 6-8 begin in District 97 in January 2027. This meaningful pilot is in preparation for the 2027-28 school year, when the State of Illinois will require check-ins for all students in grades 3-12 in all public school districts. (Senate Bill 2160)

Below you will find frequently asked questions regarding the Student Well-Being Check-Ins.

“Who will see my child’s results? Will this go in their permanent record? Will it affect their future?”
Screening data is protected by FERPA and Illinois law. Results are used only to identify support. They are not shared with colleges, employers, or public agencies. They are not placed in transcripts or used for discipline.

“If my child is flagged, will they be treated differently? Will teachers see them as a problem student?”
A screening result is a signal for support, not a diagnosis. This is like a vision screening: it doesn’t define a child, it helps us see them more clearly.

“Was I consulted? Can I say no?”
Families receive advance notice and have the right to opt their child out. We want you as a partner in this process — not a bystander. Families choose whether to participate in any follow-up supports.

“My child doesn’t need mental health screening — they’re fine.”
Universal screening benefits the whole community, not just students with known concerns — just like vision screening. It helps us support the students who are quietly struggling and would never ask for help.

“This is government overreach into family life.”
We share your commitment to family rights. Families receive advance notice and always have the option to opt out. Our goal is partnership, not surveillance. You remain in charge of any follow-up decisions. We know there are historical reasons why communities may be cautious about sharing information with institutions.

“What if my child gets labeled as a problem?”
Screening results are confidential. They are not placed in transcripts, shared with colleges, or used in any disciplinary process. A result means a counselor may reach out — nothing more.

“We don’t talk about mental health in our family.”
Mental health is part of how we all feel and function every day. This screening is about helping students manage stress, focus in school, and build strong relationships — strengths that every family wants for their child.