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Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing and Externalizing Overview

This document provides general information about the Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing and Externalizing.

Author: Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MIBLSI)

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Student Risk Screening Scale – Internalizing and Externalizing

The Student Risk Screening Scale - Internalizing and Externalizing (SRSS-IE; Drummond, 1994; Lane & Menzies, 2009) is a universal screening tool used three times per year to identify students who may be at risk for challenging, antisocial behavior. The SRSS-IE is conducted to better inform instruction. It is not used to exclude students from the instructional environment. Rather, it is used to select appropriate supports for students. The SRSS is not used independently to determine special education eligibility or make other high stakes decisions. The SRSS-IE, like all universal screening tools, is not used to label students. The SRSS-IE is not intended as an assessment of traits or personality. It should be used as one of multiple data sources to indicate student risk.

Systems-level data allow educators to assess how well school systems and practices are meeting all students' social and behavioral needs. Student-level SRSS-IE scores help educators to identify students who may need additional support. Schools want the best possible outcomes for all students. To accomplish this, schools provide supports to students early based on each student's need. Collecting information with the SRSS-IE helps schools to allocate resources so students can be successful with social behavior, which improves opportunities for academic success. The screening data can be used in conjunction with other data collected as part of regular school practices to examine the overall level of risk in a building, inform teacher-level interventions to support increased engagement in instruction (e.g., incorporating the use of simple, effective strategies such as instructional choice and increasing students' opportunities to participate in instruction), as well to offer students extra assistance as needed (with parent permission).

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Universal Screening and SRSS-IE

Universal screening is the systematic assessment of all students on academic, behavior, and social-emotional indicators for the purpose of identifying students who are at-risk, and may require support that varies in terms of level, intensity and duration. Screening is a key component of prevention efforts. This is similar to universal screening for vision and hearing. Numerous school districts across the country implement universal screening, most commonly in the area of reading.

Schools are engaging in universal screening for behavior as a means to support prevention efforts by informing instruction and identifying students who may need additional supports to be successful in school. Early detection of students potentially at risk and connecting students with appropriate resources when needed has increasingly become a standard practice in light of increases in school violence.

SRSS-IE Items, Scoring, and Cut Scores

The SRSS-IE consists of 12 items that teachers use to rate their classroom of students based on the teacher's current knowledge and observation of each individual student's behavior.

1. Steal
2. Lie, cheat, sneak
3. Behavior problems
4. Peer rejection*
5. Low academic achievement
6. Negative attitude
7. Aggressive behavior
8. Emotionally flat
9. Shy; withdrawn
10. Sad; depressed
11. Anxious
12. Lonely

Teachers rate the frequency (0=never, 1=occasionally, 2=sometimes, 3=frequently) with which students display the behaviors described on the SRSS-IE. Scores are calculated to form one of three risk categories, Low, Moderate, or High Risk. The Externalizing 7, Internalizing 5, and Internalizing 6 scores are used for interpretation of risk, NOT the individual item ratings. The students and students' families are not directly involved in the data collection. Item-level data are not shared with others because overall scale scores are what predict risk.

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Table 1. Items and Cut Scores for Each Scale

Elementary, Middle and High School SRSS-Externalizing Items and Cut Scores	Elementary SRSS-Internalizing Items and Cut Scores	Middle and High School SRSS-Internalizing Items Cut Scores
Items 1-7 0-3 = low risk 4-8 = moderate risk 9-21 = high risk	Items 8-12 0-1 = low risk 2-3 = moderate risk 4-15 = high risk	Items 4, 8-12 0-3 = low risk 4-5 = moderate risk 6-18 = high risk

Frequency of Administration

SRSS-IE is administered 3 times per year

- Fall: September/October (4-6 weeks after the school year start)
- Winter: December (prior winter break)
- Spring: April/May (6 weeks prior to the end of the school year)

Screening windows are posted on the MIBLSI website's Evaluation page (https://miblsi.org/evaluation).

Communication with Families

The SRSS-IE is a universal screener, which provides an estimated level of risk. Assessment beyond that of an initial screener requires parent permission. The SRSS-IE is completed by teachers for the purpose of providing better support to students. It is not a test for identifying psychological disorders (or disorders of any type). Although active parent consent is not required for districts to administer universal screening assessments, it is best practice for districts to communicate with all parents about the assessments used to make decisions about how to best meet the needs of all students. Parent consent is required for students to participate in supplemental interventions.

Training to Use the SRSS-IE

The SRSS-IE is intended to be completed by teachers who have known the student for a minimum of 30 school days. A trained SRSS-IE Coordinator should be involved in helping school staff to understand the purpose of the SRSS-IE, how to accurately complete student ratings, and interpret the results.

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Storing SRSS-IE Data

SRSS-IE data should be stored securely and kept confidential just like any other universal screening or student educational data. Many districts use google spreadsheets with careful attention to sharing settings. Other districts use Excel spreadsheets housed on a secure server. Another option is to build data entry and reporting into a school information system or other data warehouse.

SRSS-IE Research

The SRSS-IE has demonstrated strong technical adequacy and has been shown to predict other student outcomes such as attendance, discipline referrals, GPA, and reading scores (Lane et al., 2015; Lane et al., 2016). Research on the SRSS-IE is ongoing and the body of evidence continues to grow with respect to the technical and practical applications of the SRSS-IE.

Additional Resources

There are several web-based resources available for the SRSS-IE:

- [Comprehensive Integrated Three-Tiered Model of Prevention (Ci3t) website](#) (ci3t.org)
- The [Student Risk Screening Scale – Internalizing and Externalizing page](#) (https://miblsi.org/evaluation/student-assessments/student-risk-screening-scale) contains general information about the screener including links to download the SRSS-IE Excel and Google Spreadsheets.
- The [Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing and Externalizing Coordinator page](#) (https://miblsi.org/teams-roles/specialized-functions/data-coordinators/student-risk-screening-scale-internalizing-and-externalizing-coordinator) contains resources for coordination of SRSS-IE.
- The [Student Risk Screening Scale – Internalizing and Externalizing Training page](#) (https://miblsi.org/training-materials/miblsi/srss-ie-coordinator-training) contains the information and materials on the coordinator training.

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