

Holistic Student Assessment - Parent FAQ



What is PEAR?

Partnerships in Education and Resilience (PEAR) was initially founded in 1999 as The PEAR Institute at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School and spun off into a Benefit Corporation in 2020. PEAR creates and fosters evidence-based innovations in social-emotional development (SED) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in educational settings. PEAR provides trainings and assessment tools that inform educators about program quality, youth social-emotional development, and academic engagement. PEAR's work bridges research and practice so that all young people can learn, dream, and thrive.

What is the Holistic Student Assessment (HSA)?

The HSA survey is a data-driven tool to promote social-emotional development in young people in school and afterschool settings. Students are asked to share their attitudes, behaviors, and feelings. Their responses help us identify their “resiliencies” – or the strengths that help them navigate life. What we learn about your child's strengths and resiliencies can help their teachers and staff determine the best ways to engage them in learning.

Why Use the HSA this year?

Dealing with effects of the pandemic have impacted how students show up socially and emotionally at their schools and programs. That is why it is critically important for those working with students this year to get a sense of how they are doing in order to best meet their social-emotional and mental health needs. HSA data can give schools and programs insight into student strengths that they can build from and help them understand the areas where students are struggling during this critical time.

What are you going to do with the information you receive from this survey?

HSA data will remain confidential and only those with permission to view your child's private records will be able to access the results. What your child's school or program learns from the HSA will help us to identify the best programs and teaching strategies for them; to support them in tackling challenges and expressing their strengths; and to pull in additional resources for all students as needed.

Taking the HSA

The HSA takes about 20 minutes for students to complete. It is online and is offered in multiple languages. Students take survey independently and teachers and staff will support your child with the technical aspects and can read survey questions aloud if needed.