# USING A SCHOOLWIDE UNIVERSAL SCREENING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AT-RISK STUDENTS

Dr. Stephen Kilgus, Assistant Professor – School Psychology, MU Crystal Taylor, Doctoral Student – School Psychology, MU Danielle Starkey, Tier 2-3 Consultant – MO SW-PBS

#### SESSION EXPECTATIONS

- Be Respectful
  - Promptly respond to attention signal
  - Participate in session activities
  - Use notes for side bar conversations
  - Raise hand to speak; be loud and clear
- Be Responsible
  - Silence cell phones—reply appropriately
  - Tidy area at end of session

#### SESSION OUTCOMES

At the end of the session, you will be able to...

► Select and utilize a standardized screening instrument to identify students in need of Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 supports.

#### THE CHALLENGE

- ► Approximately I in every 3 to 4 youth experience social, emotional, or behavioral (SEB) disorder.
- ▶ I in 10 meet criteria for disorder with severe impairment across their lifetime.
  - ▶ Of the 20% affected only 30% of those actually receive services.

(Merikangas et al., 2010; U.S. Public Health Service, 2000)

#### THE CHALLENGE

- ► Academic success is linked with social & behavioral skills.
- ► Early identification with intervention can decrease the likelihood of academic failure and low outcomes; minimizes impact of risk.
- ▶ Preventive supports reduce the need for more intensive supports later.

(Walker, Cheney, Stage, & Blum, 2005)

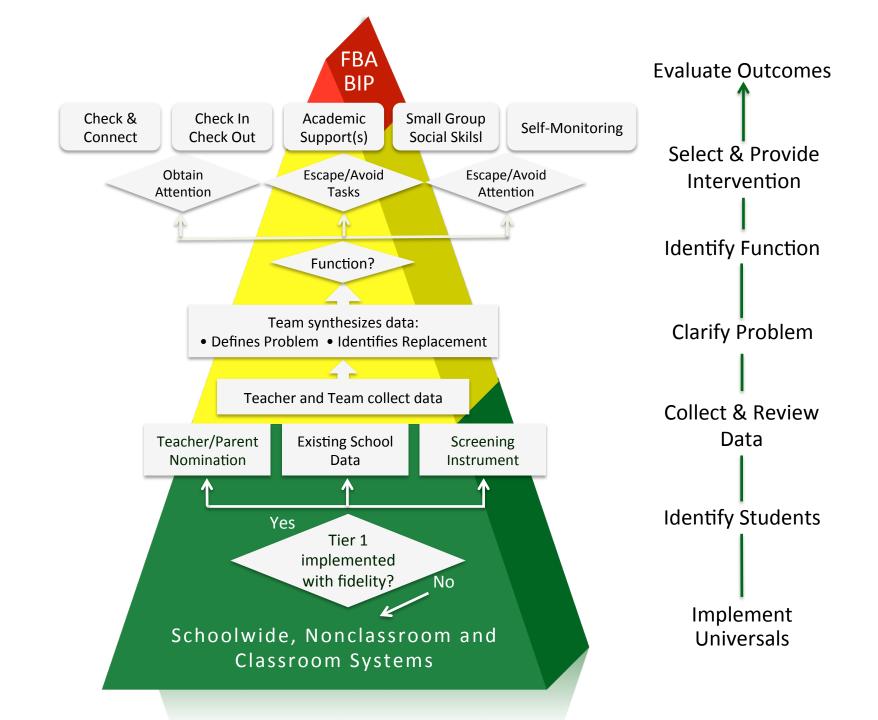
(Albers, C.A., Glover, T.A., & Kratochwill, 2007; Elliot, Huai, & Roach, 2007)

#### THE GOOD NEWS!

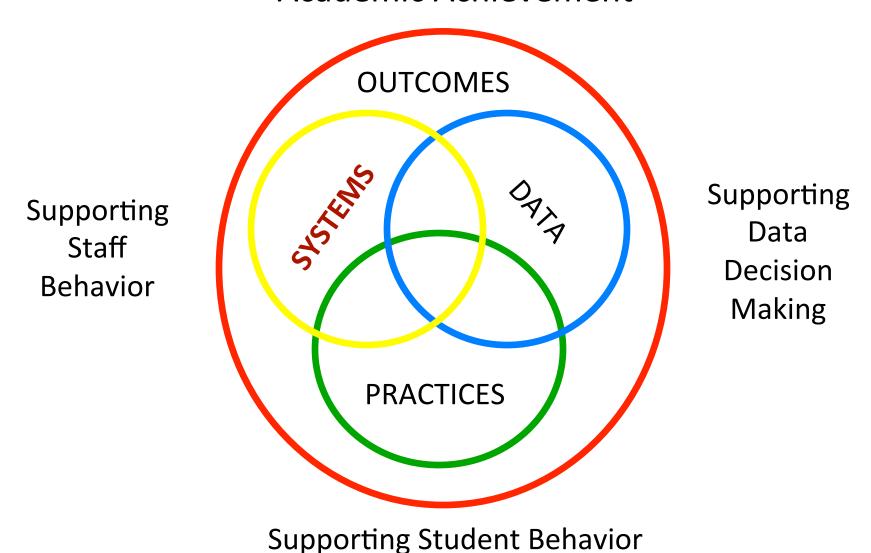
► There is great potential to reduce the number of new cases of SEB disorders and improve the lives of youth who experience these challenges.

### We are limited only by inefficient and ineffective systems!

(NRC & IOM, 2009, p. 16)



### Social Competence & Academic Achievement



#### TIER 2 STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

- Develop a data based process, that includes a minimum of two sources to accurately identify students with internalizing and/or externalizing social, emotional, or behavioral risk factors.
  - I. Nominations
  - 2. Existing School Data
  - 3. Universal Screening Scores

### STANDARDIZED SCREENING INSTRUMENT

- Universal screening is recommended as an evidenced-based practice
  - President's New Freedom Commission & Special Education Task Force
  - ► Surgeon General
  - ► Safe Schools/Healthy Students

### STANDARDIZED SCREENING INSTRUMENT

- Advantages of systematic screening
  - ► Fast, efficient, and respectful
  - ▶ Include all children and youth of interest
  - ▶ If we make an error, the error tends to identify students who are not at-risk
  - ▶ Informs schools about the student population
  - ► Find groups of students with common needs
  - ► Facilitates resource mapping of services

(University of Oregon Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior)

#### UNIVERSAL SCREENING IN A MULTI-TIERED FRAMEWORK

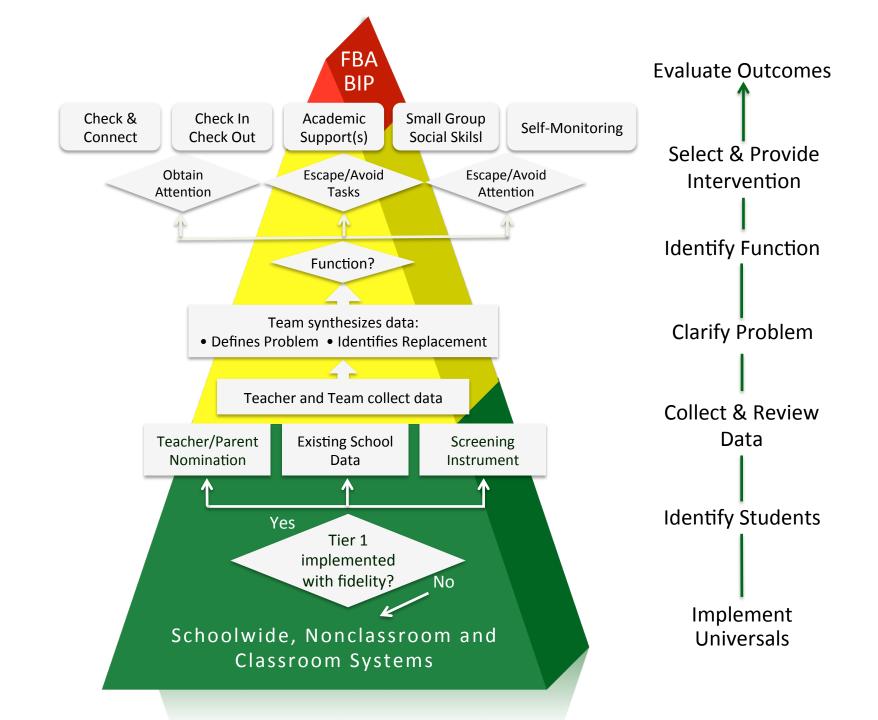
- ► Why Universal Screening?
  - ► Fast and efficient
  - ► Teacher, Parent, and/or student informant
  - ► Systematic decision rules
  - ► Subsyndromal indicators of risk
  - ▶ If we make an error, the error tends to identify students who are not at-risk

### UNIVERSAL SCREENING FOR BEHAVIORAL RISK

Systematic early identification

Comprehensive diagnostic assessments

Levitt, Saka, Romanelli, & Hoagwood, 2007



### HOW DOES YOUR SCHOOL IDENTIFY STUDENTS?

- ► Office Discipline Referrals
- ► Teacher Referrals
- Universal Screeners
- Other ways of identifying students with behavioral risk?

### HOW DOES YOUR SCHOOL IDENTIFY STUDENTS?

Purpose  $\rightarrow$ 

How things are typically done →

How students are identified for intervention

- ODRs
- Teacher referrals
- Parent referral

Which interventions are selected

- Clinical judgment
- "This has worked before

Determine student responsiveness to intervention

- Periodic "check ins"
- Evaluation of ODRs

# THE PROBLEM WITH ONLY USING REACTIVE IDENTIFICATION METHODS ALONE

- The goal of universal screening is not to override referrals, but to complement them.
- Reactive methodologies identifies students showing more intense externalizing behaviors.

## THE PROBLEM WITH ONLY USING REACTIVE IDENTIFICATION METHODS ALONE

► But what about those with internalizing behaviors? Non-disruptive disengagement?

#### HOW CAN SCHOOLS BE PROACTIVE?

Universal screening + Targeted Intervention Planning

Universal Screening

Problem Identification

Progress Monitoring

Glover and Albers, 2007

#### HOW DOYOU SELECT A SCREENER?

- ► Technical Adequacy
- ► Usability
- ► Contextual relevance

#### WHAT SCREENERS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Systematic Screening for Behavior Disorders (SSBD; Walker & Severson, 1990)
- ► Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS; Lane et al, 2007)
- Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 2001)
- ► Behavioral and Emotional Screening System (BESS; Kamphaus & Reynolds, 2007)
- Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS; Kilgus, Chafouleas, & Riley-Tillman 2013)

### SYSTEMATIC SCREENING FOR BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS (SSBD)

- ► SSBD is a multiple gating model of screening
- ► Combination of assessment tools, teacher nomination, and direct observations.
- Identifies externalizing and internalizing behaviors
- ► Cost of manual
- ▶45 minutes to I hour to complete

### SYSTEMATIC SCREENING FOR BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS (SSBD)

Stage

 Teacher Ranking on Internalizing & Externalizing Behavioral Dimensions

Stage II

 Teacher Rating on Critical Events Checklist (CEI) and Combined Frequency Index (CFI)

Stage III

 Direct Observations and Parental Questionnaire

Pass through gate 3, classroom interventions/ referral to multidisciplinary evaluation

#### STUDENT RISK SCREENING SCALE (SRSS)

- Strong psychometric support
- ▶ 14 items (internalizing and externalizing)
- ► No cost
- ► Grade K-6

### STRENGTH AND DIFFICULTIES QUESTIONNAIRE (SDQ)

- Looks at strengths and difficulties of students in sociobehavioral domains
- ► Teacher, parent, and self forms
- ► No cost

### BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL SCREENING SYSTEM (BESS)

- ► An adapted version of the BASC-2
  - ► Uses T-scores to determine risk
- Identifies risk in the following areas:
  - ▶ Behavioral, emotional, and adaptive skills
- ▶ 25-30 items
- ► AIMSweb
- ► Costly for school districts

### SOCIAL, ACADEMIC, AND EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR RISK SCREENER (SAEBRS)

- Low cost, 19 item teacher rating scale assessing the following areas:
  - ► Social behavioral risk
  - ► Academic behavioral risk
  - ► Emotional behavioral risk
- ► Available online: www. fastbridge.org

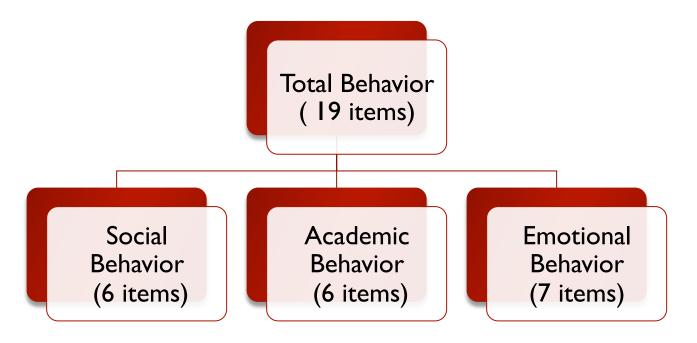


#### **Teacher Rating Scale**

Y	Your Name: Student Date Student Name: Student Grace Student Name: Student Grace						
St							
Т	oday's Date:						
	Using the following scale, identify how frequently the student has displayed each of the following behaviors <b>during the previous month</b> . Circle only one number for each behavior.  0 = Never, 1 = Sometimes, 2 = Often, 3 = Almost Always						
S	ocial Behavior						
	Arguing	0	1	2	3		
	Cooperation with peers	0	1	2	3		
	Temper outbursts	0	1	2	3		
	Disruptive behavior	0	1	2	3		
	Polite and socially appropriate responses tow	ard others 0	1	2	3		
	Impulsiveness	0	1	2	3		
Academic Behavior							
	Interest in academic topics	0	1	2	3		
	Preparedness for instruction	0	1	2	3		
	Production of acceptable work	0	1	2	3		
	Difficulty working independently	0	1	2	3		
	Distractedness	0	1	2	3		
	Academic engagement	0	1	2	3		
En	notional Behavior						
	Sadness	0	1	2	3		
	Fearfulness	0	1	2	3		
	Adaptable to change	0	1	2	3		
	Positive attitude	0	1	2	3		
	Worry	0	1	2	3		
	Difficulty rebounding from setbacks	0	1	2	3		
	Withdrawal	0	1	2	3		

#### **SAEBRS**

▶ Broken into 3 subscales and one broad scale



#### **EVIDENCE FOR SAEBRS**

- ► Kilgus, Chafouleas, & Riley-Tillman, 2013
- Kilgus, Eklund, von der Embse, & Taylor, 2015
- ► Kilgus, Sims, von der Embse, & Riley-Tillman, in press
- ►von der Embse, Pendergast, Kilgus, & Eklund, under review

#### **EVIDENCE FOR SAEBRS**

- ► Populations
  - ► Elementary School
  - ► Middle School
  - ► High School

#### **EVIDENCE FOR SAEBRS**

- ► Psychometrics
  - ► Inter-rater reliability
  - ► Internal consistency
  - ► Concurrent validity
  - ▶ Diagnostic accuracy
  - Structural validity

#### **SCORING SAEBRS**

- Once ratings are complete, users can add scores within each subscale.
- Subscale scores can be summed to get a total behavior score.
- ► CAUTION: Reverse scoring

#### LET'S PRACTICE: SAEBRS

Think of one student in your classroom/ at your school and complete the SAEBRS

#### LET'S PRACTICE: SAEBRS

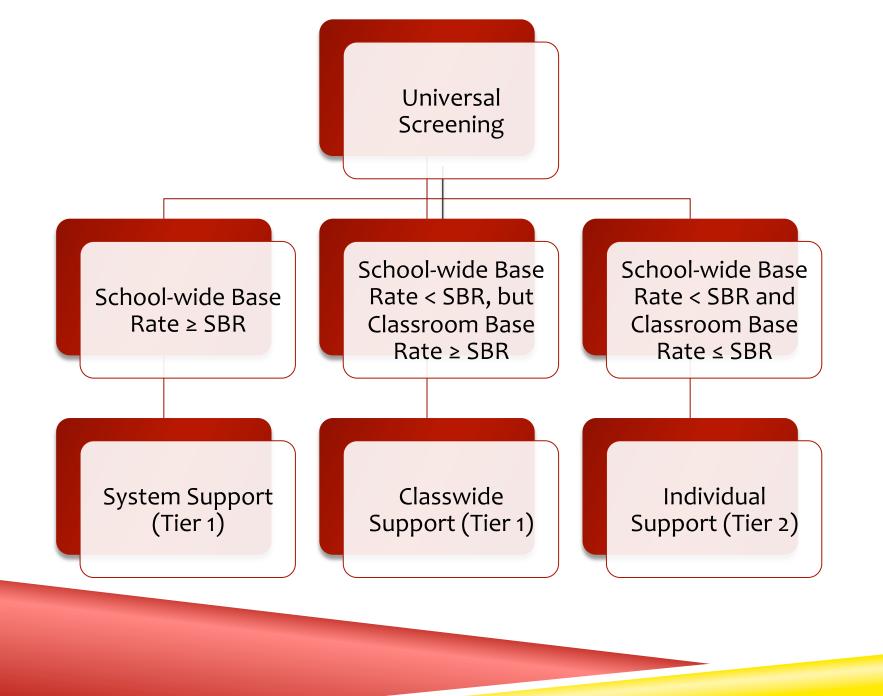
- **▶**Score
  - ► Reverse Score
    - Arguing
    - ► Temper outbursts
    - ▶ Disruptive
    - ► Impulsive
    - Difficulty working independently
    - ▶ Distractedness

- **►** Sadness
- ▶ Fearfulness
- ▶ Worry
- Difficulty rebounding from setbacks
- ▶ Withdrawal

#### HOW TO INTERPRET

	At Risk	Not At Risk
Social Behavior	0-12	13-18
Academic Behavior	0-9	10-18
Emotional Behavior	0-17	18-21
Total Behavior	0-36	37-57

## WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?



## SYSTEM SUPPORTS

- ► Determine the type of risk most prevalent within the school
- **Example: SAEBRS** 
  - Social Behavior:
    - ► Review and revision of school-wide expectations or reinforcement plan (ensure integrity)
  - ► Emotional Behavior:
    - ▶ Implementation of social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum

## **CLASSROOM SUPPORTS**

Determine the type of risk most prevalent within the classroom

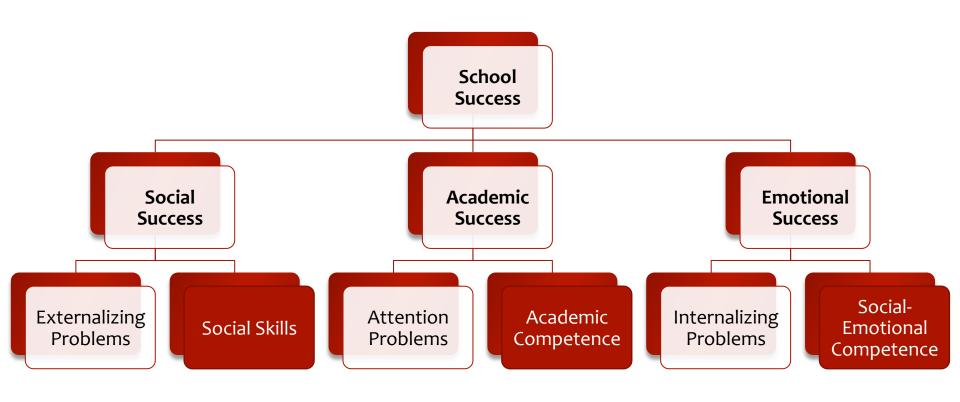
## Example SAEBRS:

- Social Behavior:
  - Classroom Checkup (Reinke, Herman, & Sprick, 2011)
  - Good Behavior Game
- Academic Behavior:
  - Classroom instruction of various academic enablers (e.g., organization, preparedness for instruction)

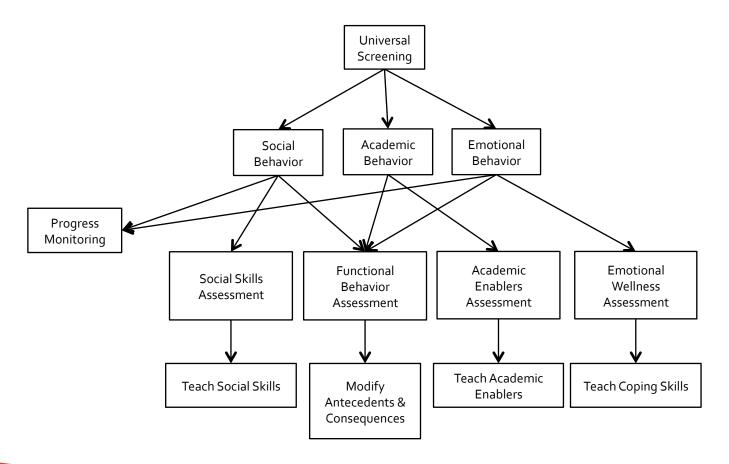
## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTS

- Multiple models for individual student service delivery have been proposed:
- Examples:
  - Solution-focused Emotional & Behavioral Assessment (SEBA; Kilgus, von der Embse, & Eklund, 2014)

## SELECTING INTERVENTIONS



## SELECTING INTERVENTIONS



## CASE EXAMPLE: TOGETHER

#### **Universal Screening**

- ► SAEBRS indicates "Ryan" is at risk for social behavior problems
  - We therefore engage in problem identification assessment specific to the social behavior domain

#### Problem Identification

- ► Functional behavior assessment (How do we modify the environment?)
  - ► **FACTS** → Ryan calls out during instruction, likely to gain adult attention
- Social skills assessment (What to teach?)
  - ► **ISP-SS** → Ryan possesses social skill deficits in self-control

#### **Progress Monitoring**

▶ DBR-SIS → formative assessment of Ryan's 'disruptive behavior' and 'academic engagement'

## CASE EXAMPLE: TOGETHER

## Interventions:

# ► Antecedent/Consequence Strategies

► Check In/Check Out (CICO) to prompt and reinforce appropriate behaviors that might replace calling out (e.g., sitting quietly, raising hand)

# **▶** Teaching Strategies

Social skills instruction of skills related to self-control (e.g., waiting one's turn, raising hand)

## CASE EXAMPLES: ON YOUR OWN

## CASE EXAMPLE: CALLIE

Callie is a second grader at Mizzou Elementary School.

Social	Academic	<b>Emotional</b>	Total
17	7	7	31

## CASE EXAMPLE: CALLIE

- ► Callie's Risk
  - ▶ Academic
    - ► Academic skills- teach classroom strategies
  - **▶** Emotional
    - ► Coping Cat
    - ► Coping skill strategies
  - ► Total Behavior

## CASE EXAMPLE

► Blake is a fourth grader at Mizzou Elementary School.

Social	Academic	<b>Emotional</b>	Total
17	2	17	36

## CASE EXAMPLE: BLAKE

- ► Blake's Risk
  - ► Academic
  - Emotional
  - ► Total Behavior
- ▶ Best to target Academic
  - Classroom observations
  - ► Teach academic strategies
  - Skill groups for academics

## CASE EXAMPLE

Joe is a first grader at Mizzou Elementary School.

Social	Academic	<b>Emotional</b>	Total
7	10	19	36

## CASE EXAMPLE: JOE

- ► Joe's Risk
  - ► Social behavior
    - ► Functional Behavior Assessment
    - ► Social Skill Group
    - ▶ Check in / Check out

## CASE EXAMPLE

Steve is a first grader at Mizzou Elementary School.

Social	Academic	<b>E</b> motional	Total
7	4	12	23

## CASE EXAMPLE: JOE

- ► Steve's Risk
  - ▶ Social
  - ► Academic
  - **▶** Emotional
  - ► Total
- ► Additional Assessments
- ► Skill groups

## LET'S PRACTICE: SAEBRS

- Think back to the student you completed your SAEBRS ratings for.
  - ► What interventions does your school currently implement?
  - ► Would any of these work for your student?
  - ► What's a possible action plan for this student?

#### **BRIEF OVERVIEW**

- Universal screening is a proactive, fast, and efficient way to identify students at-risk for behavior problems
- There are many universal screening options. Schools should choose the best one for their population
- ► SAEBRS is a free screener to assess Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk
  - ► Evidence supports it's use in elementary, middle, and high schools
  - ► Psychometric evidence support's it's usability, diagnostic accuracy, score reliability, etc.

# QUESTIONS?