

# The MSTAR Universal Screener Overview

A professional development course on Project Share

This course provides a brief overview of the Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR) Universal Screener and describes how to interpret the results obtained after administering the screener. The MSTAR Universal Screener is a formative assessment system administered to all students in grades 5-8 to support instructional decisions. The content of the MSTAR Universal Screener is based on algebra-readiness skills as identified in the Texas Response to the Curriculum Focal Points. Results can help teachers identify students who might not be ready for algebra and identify the intensity of support needed for students who might be at risk for not meeting expectations in algebra and algebra readiness skills.

There are four lessons in this course:

**Lesson 1:** This lesson presents a brief overview of the MSTAR Universal Screener. Learn how this assessment system can help you make instructional decisions to support student learning of algebra-related skills and knowledge in grades 5-8.

**Lesson 2:** This lesson describes how the MSTAR Universal Screener can be used in a Response to Intervention (RTI) framework. Learn how results from the MSTAR Universal Screener can be used to identify students who may be at risk for not being ready for algebra and how to adjust the intensity of instruction based on students' needs.

**Lesson 3:** This lesson provides teachers with an overview of the MSTAR Universal Screener Teacher reports. Learn how to navigate the website and interpret these reports to make instructional decisions. We highlight the Class Performance Report.

**Lesson 4:** This lesson provides administrators with an overview of the MSTAR Universal Screener Administrator reports. Learn how to navigate the website and interpret these reports to make systems-level decisions. We highlight the Class Performance Report.

## How to Join the MSTAR Universal Screener Course in Project Share:

1. Log into Epsilen from <http://www.projectsharetexas.org>. Enter login information at the top right-hand corner of the page. (If you do not have a Project Share account, contact your local [education service center](#).)
2. Select the Courses option from the left-hand menu on the **My Portal** page.
3. Select **Search Courses** from the **Courses** menu.
4. Search for the course by title. Enter the title "MSTAR Universal Screener Overview" and click search.
5. An additional option for searching for a course is to use the search tool in the upper right-hand corner. Enter the name of the course and change the drop-down menu to Courses. Click search.
6. On the search results page, identify the appropriate course and click the corresponding handshake icon under the **Action** column to join the course.
7. When prompted to enter the access code, enter 1899
8. Confirm your name and role in the course and click **Join**.
9. Click on the Syllabus tool in the left-hand menu to learn about the various components associated with the course.
10. To exit a course and access other tools in Project Share, click **Exit Course** in the upper, right-hand corner.