

# About the DESSA

**Supporting your student(s) with the skills they need to succeed**

This year, a student in your care will be assessed by their teacher or counselor using the DESSA, a suite of research-based assessments and screening tools used with students K-12 created by Aperture Education.

The DESSA will measure your student's grasp of important skills that will help them grow and succeed throughout their school years and even after they graduate from high school. These skills are known as social and emotional skills and include taking responsibility for their actions, working well with others, and more.

The 8 skills measured by the DESSA can easily be taught and learned by students of all ages. They are listed below.

## 8 Skills Measured by the DESSA



Self-Awareness



Self-Management



Personal Responsibility



Decision Making



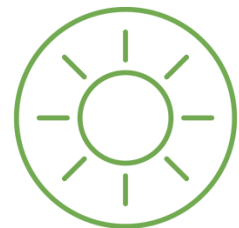
Goal-Directed Behavior



Social Awareness



Relationship Skills



Optimistic Thinking

## What is so important about these 8 skills?

These 8 skills are known as social and emotional skills. They are important because they have been found to have a strong relationship with success in academics and positive engagement in school activities. They are also some of the top skills that colleges and employers are looking for as they recruit.

The DESSA gives teachers and counselors an understanding of which of these skills are strengths for your student, and which ones they need further instruction in. They can then tailor their instruction to your student to help them build the skills they need support in.

One important thing to know about the DESSA is that it is a strength-based assessment. This means it is meant to highlight positive behaviors, help students identify things they are already good at, and help them leverage their strengths to grow in other areas. For example, if a student rates high in Goal-Directed Behavior but low in Relationship Skills, teachers can help that student use their goal-setting skills to improve their relationship skills.

## What kind of questions does the DESSA ask?

That is a great question! The DESSA will ask teachers to assess behaviors they see in the classroom. Sample DESSA questions include:

- How often did the child keep trying when unsuccessful?
- How often did the child offer to help somebody?
- How often did the child get things done in a timely fashion?
- How often did the child work well in groups?

## How is my child's data used?

Your child's data will be used by school/organization officials to make decisions about the type of support they will need in the classroom. Aperture Education has a strong commitment to respecting and protecting your child's privacy. Hundreds of school districts and afterschool programs nationwide utilize the DESSA and trust Aperture Education with protecting their students' data. Aperture Education will never share your child's data with a third party.

## Is there anything else I should know?

If you are curious to learn more about the 8 skills measured by the DESSA, or want to work on any of the skills with your child at home, you can find more information and activities at [www.ApertureEd.com/Parent-Portal](http://www.ApertureEd.com/Parent-Portal).