

# The DESSA Comprehensive SEL System

The DESSA Comprehensive SEL System (DESSA System) supports student social and emotional learning (SEL) by providing administrators, educators, staff, parents, and students with accurate and actionable data about students' social and emotional strengths and needs. The CASEL-aligned DESSA System is well-suited to inform and support the implementation of an SEL curriculum by helping educators and administrators identify students' social and emotional strengths and areas of need; guide intervention activities at the individual student, small group, classroom, school, or district level; monitor students' progress in building social and emotional skills throughout the school year; evaluate the impact of social and emotional learning interventions; and support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts to promote optimal SEL outcomes in schools and districts.



## DESSA System Components and Features

With its assessment-aligned Growth Strategies, the DESSA System can supplement existing SEL curricula and/or act as a standalone social-emotional learning program for schools and districts.

### Components:

- Brief, 1-minute universal screener of social and emotional competence.
- Detailed assessment of specific social-emotional competencies aligned to the CASEL framework. Use results to differentiate instruction!
- Research-based strategies to promote social-emotional competence. Strategies provided at universal, small group, individual student and home-based levels.
- Ongoing progress monitoring and outcome evaluation tools!

### Features:

- Web-based system.
- A Single System Supports SEL in Kindergarten through High School!
- Screener and assessment available in English and Spanish.
- Nationally-normed with a strong research basis including tested for bias.
- Wide variety of informative reports available at individual student, classroom, school and district levels.
- 24/7 Support and a variety of staff training options available.
- Supports MTSS approaches including PBIS.

# Identify Students' Social and Emotional Strengths and Needs

The DESSA measures the following social and emotional competencies:



The DESSA SEL assessment has been cited by a number of research and media organizations for its strong research-based foundation, emphasis on promoting the social and emotional strengths of children, ease of use, and ability to be used in conjunction with many other effective SEL programs.

## Navigating Social and Emotional Learning from the Inside Out

*from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Wallace Foundation*

## Encouraging Social and Emotional Learning in the Context of New Accountability

*from Learning Policy Institute*

### DESSA Reviews

Durlak, J. A., Domitrovich, C. E., Weissberg, R. P., Gullotta, T. P. (2015). *Handbook of Social and Emotional Learning Research and Practice*. New York: Guilford Press.

“Given its level of comprehensiveness and focus on child strengths, and its fit with other criteria listed here, the DESSA provides useful information for intervention planning and can also be applied to create classroom profiles that can be used for subsequent prevention strategies.”

Denham, S. A., Ji, P. & Hamre, B. (2010). *Compendium of preschool through elementary social-emotional learning and associated assessment measures*. Chicago, IL: Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning.

“Another advantage the DESSA has...is that it is shorter and simpler because the same form can be used with both parents and teachers. This also enables parent and teacher ratings to be directly compared on the same set of behaviors.”