

Using the DESSA as a communication tool with Parents/Guardians



In this approach, the DESSA-mini and/or DESSA items can be used as prompts to spark strength-based conversations with parents/guardians and students. This will enable educators to express care and concern for students and get a quick read as to how students are coping. This can also help educators to select appropriate SEL strategies for students. Although the responses will not be scored, this information can be helpful and build connection to the student and family.

Spark Strength-Based Conversations with Parents/Guardians

“How often has your child been taking an active role in learning?”

“Has your child been speaking of positive things?”

Use the **suggested script** here.

Spark Strength-Based Conversations with Students

“How well are you able to keep trying when you are unsuccessful with your schoolwork?”

“Are you able to do routine tasks or chores without being reminded?”

Use the **suggested script** here.