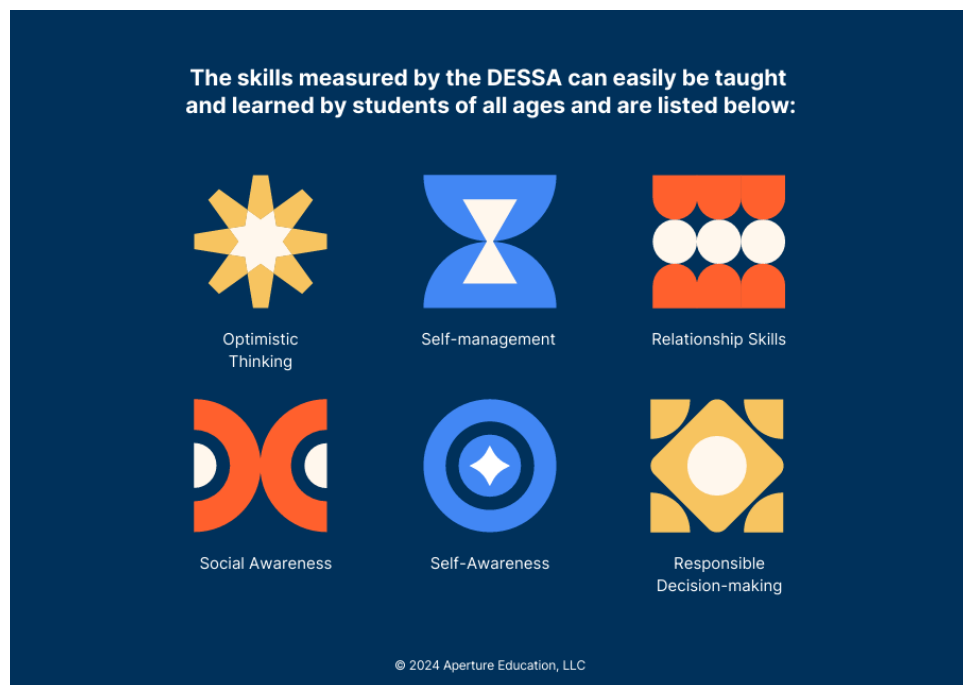


About the DESSA Student Self-Report and DESSA SEIR

Supporting Student Resilience and Wellbeing with Assessments for Lifelong Success

This year, a student in your care will complete two brief research-based assessments: the DESSA Student Self-Report (DESSA SSR) and the DESSA Screener for Externalizing and Internalizing Risk (DESSA SEIR). The two assessments are designed to provide a comprehensive picture of a student's overall wellbeing, supporting both their strengths and any potential needs for additional support.

The DESSA SSR is used to inform schools' instructional decisions to ensure that all students are developing foundational skills necessary for academic success, college and career readiness, and a positive school culture. It measures your student's grasp of important skills that will help them grow and succeed throughout their school years and after they graduate from high school. These skills include taking responsibility for their actions, working well with others, and more.



The DESSA SEIR is used by schools to help identify students who may benefit from additional emotional or behavior support, a critical component to ensuring their resilience and positive wellbeing. It measures two domains: internalizing risks (e.g., feeling sad, lonely) and externalizing risks (e.g., aggressive behaviors, fighting).

What is so important about these skills?

The skills measured by the DESSA SSR are known as social, emotional, and behavioral skills and have been found to have a strong relationship with success in academics, positive engagement in school activities, and mental wellbeing. They are also some of the top skills that colleges and employers look for as they recruit. The DESSA SSR allows your student to report on their use of these skills. It will give your student, as well as the teachers and staff at their school, an understanding of which of these skills are strengths for your student, and which ones they need further instruction in. Students can use this feedback to choose specific skills they want to learn or improve and to set goals for themselves. Teachers and staff can also use the information to tailor their instruction for your student to help them build these skills. One important thing to know about the DESSA SSR is that it is a strength-based assessment. This means it highlights positive behaviors, helps students identify things they are already good at, and helps them leverage their strengths to grow in other areas. For example, if a student has strong Self-Management skills, but needs more support building their Relationship Skills, teachers can help that student use their goal-setting skills to improve their relationship skills.

Why are both assessments being used?

By using both the DESSA SSR and SEIR together, educators and staff will gain a fuller understanding of each student's strengths and needs. This combination will help schools build on important protective factors while identifying areas where additional support may be helpful, allowing them to make informed decisions about programming and follow-up support to ensure each student thrives.

Research supports that when schools measure both risk and resilience factors, they are better able to identify **all** students who need support, and to tailor that support based on data. Some students will need help developing social and emotional skills, some students will need support managing emotional and/or behavioral concerns, and some students will need help with both.

What kind of questions does the DESSA Student Self-Report ask?

Great question! The DESSA Student Self-Report will ask students to rate how often they engage in specific, positive behaviors. Sample questions include:

- I adapt well to new situations.

- I accept responsibility for my actions.
- I cooperate with others to solve a problem.
- I keep working until I achieve a goal.
- I can imagine a positive future for myself.

What kind of questions does the DESSA SEIR ask?

The DESSA SEIR will ask students to rate how often they experience 10 emotional or behavior concerns. Sample questions include:

- I feel lonely.
- I feel nervous with my classmates.
- I fight with others.
- I break the rules.

Will my child see their DESSA SEIR results?

No. The DESSA SEIR results will not be displayed to students. The DESSA SEIR is intended to be used by school teams to identify students who may benefit from additional follow-up or support related to emotional and/or behavioral needs.

How is my child's data used?

Your student's DESSA SSR and DESSA SEIR data will be used by school/organization staff, teachers, and administrators to make decisions about the type of support they need in the classroom. We have a strong commitment to respecting and protecting your child's privacy. Hundreds of school districts and afterschool programs nationwide utilize the DESSA assessments and trust us with ensuring student data privacy. Data is never shared with a third party.

How can I learn more about supporting these skills at home?

If you are curious to learn more about the skills measured by the DESSA SSR, or want to work on any of the skills with your child at home, you can find more information and activities at <https://info.apertureed.com/parent-portal>