

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Using the DESSA-mini in Full-Time Virtual Instruction

The DESSA Scales are nationally standardized, norm-referenced measures that are based upon teachers' observation of students during normal classroom instruction. Virtual instruction may present observation challenges that must be considered when interpreting and using the scores.

We are recommending that educators use the DESSA-mini form 3 or the DESSA-HSE mini form 1 for students receiving virtual instruction.

How to Increase Accuracy of Ratings in a Virtual Learning Environment

- Increase the amount of instructional time prior to the first rating
- Consider what the DESSA-mini looks like in virtual instruction (*K-8 examples*)
- Be mindful when observing students and ensure students have opportunities to demonstrate behaviors found on the DESSA-mini

Educators may find a higher number of students in the Need for Instruction range when reviewing results this year due to the impact of Covid-19 on schools and families. *If a student has not been participating in virtual instruction and therefore does not have ratings it is important to realize that they may be the most in need of check-ins and support.*

TWO WAYS TO USE THE DESSA COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM TO SUPPORT STUDENTS MOST IN NEED

1 Using Standard Scores to identify students in the Need for Instruction Range
If a student falls in the Need for Instruction range it is important to determine if that is due to a lack of opportunity to observe behaviors in the virtual learning environment or if they are not demonstrating the behavior. To support your scores, you can ask Parents and/or Guardians to complete a full DESSA on their child to see if they have similar findings.

2 Triaging Support Based on Student Scores
If the number of students in the Need for Instruction range surpasses the amount of resources available, we recommend ranking the students from lowest-highest and beginning supports with the students who have the lowest t-scores.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RANK-ORDERING STUDENTS

[Watch a video tutorial to learn more about Interactive Reporting here.](#)

- 1 Navigate to **Interactive Reporting (Results > Interactive Reporting)**.
- 2 Use the filters on the left side to bring up the group of students you want to review.
- 3 Select **Need** from the **Descriptive Range Dropdown** to view students in that range.
- 4 Scroll down to student list. Select the **arrow to the right of T-score** to rank order the students from lowest to highest t-score.

The screenshot shows the DESSA Interactive Reporting interface. Step 1 is the 'RESULTS' tab in the top navigation bar. Step 2 is the filter section on the left, including 'STUDENTS' and 'DEMOGRAPHICS' dropdowns. Step 3 is the 'DESCRIPTIVE RANGE' dropdown menu set to 'Need'. Step 4 is the 'T-Score' column header in the student list table, which has a small arrow next to it.

My Students

STUDENTS: SPED: All GROUPS: All GRADES: All

DEMOGRAPHICS: RACE / ETHNICITY: All ACADEMIC / SCORE: All

RATINGS: ASSIGNMENTS: All FORMS: All **DESCRIPTIVE RANGE: Need** DATE RANGE: Sep 2, 2019 - Sep 1, 2020

Clear All Filters

TOTAL STUDENTS IN EACH RANGE (BY LATEST RATINGS)

Descriptive Range	Number of Students
Need	28
Typical	0
Strength	0

Search Name: ONLY SHOW STUDENTS WITH RATINGS 1-20 of 27 PREV 1 2 NEXT

Student Name	Group	Grade	Gender	Descriptive Range	T-Score	Last Rating Form	Last Rating Date	Total Ratings	Download Report
Jessica Chavez	Travis 2	4th	F	Need	28	DESSA-mini Form 1	07/29/2020	1	DOWNLOAD REPORT
Johye Acuff	Adams	U	U	Need	28	DESSA-mini Form 1	07/29/2020	2	DOWNLOAD REPORT
Eric Williams	Adams 2	3rd	M	Need	28	DESSA	11/01/2019	2	DOWNLOAD REPORT
Anne Stone	Jarman 3	6th	F	Need	28	DESSA-mini Form 1	07/29/2020	1	DOWNLOAD REPORT

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