

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

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

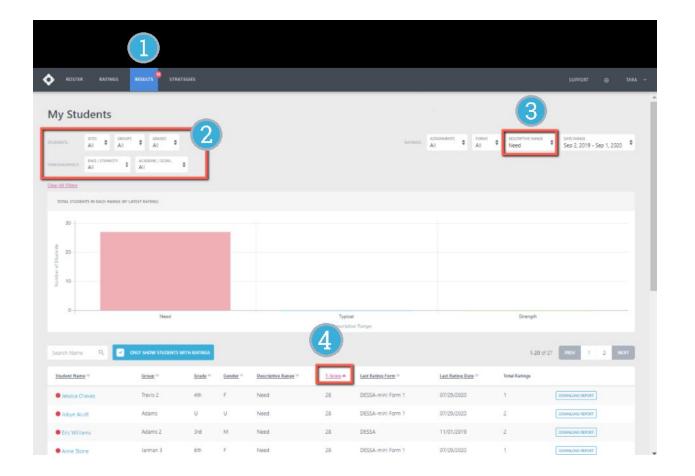
amount of resources available, we recommend ranking the students from lowest-highest and beginning supports with the students who have the lowest tscores.



review.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RANK-ORDERING STUDENTS Watch a video tutorial to learn more about Interactive Reporting here.

- Navigate to Interactive Reporting (Results > Interactive Reporting).
 Use the filters on the left side to bring up the group of students you want to
- 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.



To review more full detailed guidance, *please click here*.

