

The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Comprehensive System

The DESSA Comprehensive System is comprised of two innovative rating scales designed to screen, assess, guide intervention planning, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes related to social-emotional competence and resilience of students in grades K-8.



WHAT DO THE DESSA-mini AND DESSA MEASURE?

The DESSA-mini provides one score, the Social-Emotional Total, which summarizes a student's overall social-emotional competence. Use this for initial screening for all children in your classroom.

The DESSA measures eight key social-emotional competencies identified in the research literature as essential to a child's success in school and life:

- **Self-awareness:** A child's realistic understanding of his/her strengths and limitations, and consistent desire for self-improvement.
- **Social awareness:** A child's capacity to interact with others in ways that show respect, tolerance, and cooperation.
- **Self-management:** A child's success in controlling his/her emotions and behaviors, especially in new and challenging situations.
- **Relationship skills:** A child's skill at promoting and maintaining positive connections with others.
- **Goal-directed behavior:** A child's initiation of, and persistence in completing, difficult tasks.
- **Personal responsibility:** A child's tendency to be careful and reliable in his/her actions and to contribute to group efforts.
- **Decision making:** A child's approach to problem-solving, learning from experience, using values to guide behavior and accepting responsibility.
- **Optimistic thinking:** A child's attitude of confidence, hopefulness, and positive thinking.



WHY THE DESSA COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM IS THE BEST CHOICE:

- **Simple and Easy to Use.** The DESSA and DESSA-mini are easy for parents, teachers and out-of-school-time program staff to complete with no training required. (**Online administration, scoring and reporting is available for the DESSA and DESSA-mini.**)
- **Research-Based.** Nationally standardized, with documented reliability and validity, the DESSA and DESSA-mini meet or exceed professional assessment standards.
- **Comprehensive.** The System provides a comprehensive, integrated approach to screening, assessment, progress monitoring, and outcome evaluation.
- **Inclusive.** The DESSA covers a wide range of the most important social-emotional competencies of school-aged children.
- **Standards-Aligned.** The competencies measured by the DESSA are aligned with many states' educational standards in the social-emotional domain.
- **Strength-Based.** The System builds the skills that are essential for children's healthy social-emotional development.
- **Promotes Collaboration.** The DESSA provides specific techniques and strategies for promoting collaboration between staff and parents.



The mission of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) is to promote children's social-emotional development, foster resilience, and build the skills necessary for children to be successful in school and life.

Comprised of both education and mental health professionals, the DCRC team develops research and strength-based assessment and strategy resources to support teachers, out-of-school-time program staff, mental health professionals, and parents in their efforts to enhance children's social-emotional well-being and promote resilience.

The resources developed by the DCRC currently encompass the age range from infancy through the eighth grade. Resources for secondary school-aged youth are in development.

THE DESSA COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

The DESSA Comprehensive System is a two-part system designed to help school and after-school program staff promote the healthy social-emotional development of all children. First, use the universal screener, the DESSA-mini, to evaluate all children in your class. Then administer the DESSA to those children identified as at risk for social-emotional difficulties. The DESSA is a thorough assessment of social-emotional competencies that provides a variety of tools to chart and communicate results, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes.

Screen with the DESSA-mini. Consisting of four different 8-item forms, the DESSA-mini enables teachers and staff to screen each child's social-emotional competence in about one minute, or an entire classroom in one planning period.

Assess with the DESSA. Children who receive low scores on the DESSA-mini should be assessed with the full 72-item DESSA, which provides a wealth of information on eight critical social-emotional competencies related to resilience.

Summarize the Social-Emotional Competencies of a Class. The DESSA Classroom Profile identifies common strengths and needs of groups of children. Available on request.

Monitor Progress. The alternate forms of the DESSA-mini and the Ongoing Progress Monitoring form provide a simple and efficient way to track changes in social-emotional competence over time.

Evaluate Outcomes. The 72-item DESSA can be re-administered and pre- and post-test scores compared to evaluate each child's progress.



THE DESSA-mini KIT

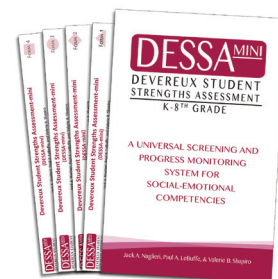
This comprehensive kit contains the following resources to screen children's social-emotional competence and monitor progress across time:

DESSA-mini Record Forms: Four equivalent 8-item forms. Each kit contains one pad of 25 copies of each of the four DESSA-minis. Available in English and Spanish.

Ongoing Progress Monitoring Forms: Used to track and evaluate progress over time, this form provides a visual display of each child's progress. Each kit contains one pad of 25 copies.

DESSA-mini Manual: This comprehensive manual includes all of the technical information needed to administer, score, and interpret the DESSA-mini. It also provides a description of the DESSA Comprehensive System.

DESSA-mini Kit | Item #40070 | \$104.95 Complete Kit
Also available in web-based format with intervention strategies



THE DESSA KIT

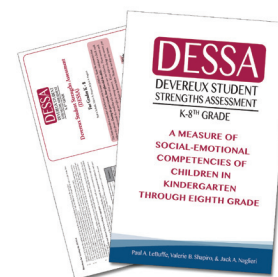
This kit contains the following resources to assess children's social-emotional competencies related to resilience, plan strategies, and evaluate outcomes:

DESSA Record Forms: A single form is used by all raters. Available in English and Spanish, in paper form or online format. Each kit contains 25 paper forms.

DESSA Norms Reference Card: A larger print version of the norms tables.

DESSA Manual: This comprehensive manual includes all of the information needed to administer, score, and interpret the DESSA, and describes the use of the DESSA in assessment, intervention planning, and outcome evaluation.

DESSA Kit | Item #40080 | \$115.95 Complete Kit
Also available in web-based format with intervention strategies



The above assessments and resources are packaged together in the kits. Individual replacement materials are also available. Visit apperson.com/selplus for pricing and availability.

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