

DRAFT

Dear K-8 Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are thrilled to let you know we are focused on supporting your child's social-emotional needs this school year! Over two decades of research has shown the important roles social and emotional skills play in each child's success in school and the community. Skills such as demonstrating self-control, persisting at challenging tasks, and making good decisions are all necessary to being successful students and adults. The process by which students learn these and other similar skills is called social and emotional learning (SEL).



As part of state and local priorities, your child's teacher will be completing a short 8 question tool called the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment, or DESSA-mini. This tool asks how often a child has demonstrated specific social and emotional skills in the past month.

Some sample DESSA questions include:

- *How often did the child keep trying when unsuccessful?*
- *How often did the child offer to help somebody?*
- *How often did the child work well in groups?*

The purpose of the DESSA is to identify which SEL skills your child has already learned and what skills he or she might still need to develop. Once our teachers identify the skills their students still need to learn, they will teach those SEL skills. Our goal is to ensure that your child is continuously developing the SEL skills that they need for lifelong success. We believe that the information gathered from the DESSA will be beneficial to your child's overall success both inside and outside of the classroom.

We are excited to implement the DESSA this school year. **If you would prefer that your child not be included in this assessment, please let your child's principal know.** If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office.

You can find out more information at the CT Department of Education website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2021/CSDE-Announces-New-Partnership-to-Launch-Statewide-K12-Social-Emotional-Learning-Assessment-System>

Sincerely,

Gail Dahling-Hench

DRAFT

Dear DHHS Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are thrilled to let you know we are focused on supporting your child's social-emotional needs this school year! Over two decades of research has shown the important roles social and emotional skills play in each child's success in school and the community. Skills such as demonstrating self-control, persisting at challenging tasks, and making good decisions are all necessary to being successful students and adults.



As part of this state and local initiative, your child will be completing a 55 question tool called the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment, or DESSA-mini. The online self-assessment takes about 7 minutes to complete. Upon completing the DESSA, students are engaged with instant feedback on eight social competencies.

The purpose of the DESSA is to identify which SEL skills your child has already learned and what skills he or she might still need to develop. Our goal is to ensure that your child is continuously developing the SEL skills that they need for lifelong success. We believe that the information gathered from the DESSA will be beneficial to your child's overall success both inside and outside of the classroom.

The DESSA is published by Aperture Education. Hundreds of school districts and afterschool programs nationwide utilize the DESSA and trust Aperture Education with protecting their students' data. Aperture Education will never share your child's data with a third party. We also chose Aperture Education because they offer a Family Resources page on their website that provides resources, tips, and strategies to parents on supporting their child's social and emotional development. To view additional information about the DESSA, the privacy policy, or the Family Resources page, visit www.ApertureEd.com You can find out more information at the state department of education website: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2021/CSDE-Announces-New-Partnership-to-Launch-Statewide-K12-Social-Emotional-Learning-Assessment-System>

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Sincerely,

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