

Wyoming Career, Vocational, and Health Standards and DESSA Crosswalk

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Although Wyoming's State Department of Education does not outline social and emotional learning standards for students, Wyoming's standards for career and vocational readiness and health align with Aperture's competencies. Schools and districts in Wyoming might consider using the DESSA to assess students' skills in these areas. The DESSA is a standardized, norm-referenced behavior rating scale that aligns with CASEL's five-domain competencies and is appropriate to be completed for high school students. The DESSA can be completed by teachers, guardians, and out of school time staff in about 5-8 minutes. The DESSA is strength-based; the items focus on positive social and emotional skills.

The DESSA is organized into subscales that provide information about eight social and emotional competencies. These competencies include:

1. **Self-awareness:** a child's realistic understanding of their strengths and limitations and consistent desire for self-improvement;
2. **Social-awareness:** a child's capacity to interact with others in a way that shows respect for their ideas and behaviors, recognizes their impact on them, and uses cooperation and tolerance in social situations;
3. **Self-management:** a child's success in controlling their emotions and behaviors, to complete a task or succeed in a new or challenging situation;
4. **Goal-directed behavior:** a child's initiation of and persistence in completing tasks of varying difficulty;
5. **Relationship skills:** a child's consistent performance of socially acceptable actions that promote and maintain positive connections with others;
6. **Personal responsibility:** a child's tendency to be careful and reliable in their actions and in contributing to group efforts;
7. **Decision making:** an approach to problem solving that involves learning from others and from their previous experiences, using values to guide action, and accepting responsibility for decisions;
8. **Optimistic thinking:** an attitude of confidence, hopefulness, and positive thinking regarding themselves and their life situations in the past, present, and future.

Table 1. Alignment Between Wyoming’s Career and Vocational Readiness Standards and Aperture’s Competencies

Note. SA = Self-Awareness, SM = Self-Management, SO = Social Awareness, RS = Relationship Skills, DM = Decision-Making, GB = Goal-Directed Behavior, PR = Personal Responsibility, OT = Optimistic Thinking. The alignment applies across all grade bands.

Career and Vocational Education Standards	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Career Development and Readiness	Students demonstrate career planning and employability skills.	X					X	X	X
Communication and Collaboration	Students develop the skills necessary to effectively lead, collaborate, and communicate.		X	X	X				
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate technology, tools, and resources.					X	X	X	
Technical Literacy	Students effectively read, evaluate, write, and communicate technical information.							X	
Technical Proficiency and Productivity	Students safely, ethically, and productively use existing and new technologies and systems.		X				X		

Table 2. Alignment Between Wyoming’s Health Standards and Aperture’s Competencies

Note. SA = Self-Awareness, SM = Self-Management, SO = Social Awareness, RS = Relationship Skills, DM = Decision-Making, GB = Goal-Directed Behavior, PR = Personal Responsibility, OT = Optimistic Thinking. The alignment applies across all grade bands.

Health Standards	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Health Information, Products, and Resources	Students will access, analyze, and evaluate health information, products and resources.					X		X	
Problem-Solving and Decision Making	Students will use critical thinking and systematic processes to examine health related problems and make decisions that enhance health and reduce or avoid health risks.	X		X		X			X
Effective Communication	Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and reduce or avoid health risks.		X		X				
Personal and Social Responsibility	Students will demonstrate the ability to use personal and social skills that are associated with taking responsible action for enhancing health and reducing or avoiding health risks.	X	X		X		X		



Aperture Education empowers over 3,000 schools and out-of-school-time programs across North America to measure, strengthen, and support social and emotional competence in K-12 youth and educators. This system enables education leaders to make strategic, data-based decisions about SEL within their organizations. The Aperture system includes the DESSA suite of strength-based assessments, CASEL-aligned intervention strategies, and robust reporting, all in one easy-to-use digital platform. Aperture has supported over one million students in their social and emotional growth and continues to develop innovative solutions to bring the whole child into focus. To learn more, visit www.ApertureEd.com.