

Missouri Social and Emotional Development Standards and DESSA Crosswalk

Prepared November 2022

Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released a comprehensive document outlining social and emotional standards for students in kindergarten to grade 12. The DESSA is a standardized, norm-referenced behavior rating scale that assesses the social and emotional competencies of students in kindergarten to grade 12. It 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 can be used to inform how a student is progressing with their social and emotional development. This crosswalk outlines the overlap between Aperture's competencies measured by the DESSA and Missouri's social and emotional development standards.

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. Overview of Alignment of Aperture’s Competencies to Missouri Social and Emotional Standards

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. This table uses the standards outlined for middle school students, however, the DESSA alignment is consistent for all grade bands.

Standard	Competencies	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
SE 1: Understanding Self as an Individual and as a Member of Diverse Local and Global Communities	SE.1.A.06: Identify individual strengths and areas for personal growth and good citizenship.	X						X	X
	SE.1.B.06 - Identify and develop personal planning strategies to manage individual, family, and school responsibilities.		X			X	X	X	
	SE.1.C.06: Demonstrate skills needed to participate in team building.		X	X	X				

Standard	Competencies	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
SE 2: Interacting with Others in Ways that Respect Individual and Group Differences	SE.2.A.06: Identify the interpersonal skills needed to maintain quality relationships.	X	X		X				
	SE.2.B.06: Identify and develop strategies to promote acceptance and respect in the school and community.			X	X				X
	SE.2.C.06: Apply problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills to new challenges.					X	X	X	

Standard	Competencies	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
SE 3: Applying Personal Safety Skills and Coping Strategies	SE.3.A.06: Identify problem-solving, decision-making, and refusal skills needed to make safe/healthy choices in social situations.	X	X			X	X		
	SE.3.B.06: Identify behaviors that compromise personal safety of self and others.		X	X				X	
	SE.3.C.06: Review and revise strategies to cope with life-changing events.	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.