

# Nevada's Social, Emotional, and Academic Development Competencies and DESSA Crosswalk

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Nevada's State Department of Education outlines Social, Emotional, and Academic Development standards for students in kindergarten to grade 12. Schools and districts in Nevada might consider measuring student growth across these standards using the DESSA. The DESSA is a CASEL-aligned, 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. This crosswalk outlines the overlap between Aperture's competencies measured by the DESSA and Nevada's Social, Emotional, and Academic 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 Nevada’s Social, Emotional, and Academic Development 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. These standards are not organized by grade band.

Competency	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Self-Awareness	Identify one’s emotions	X							
	Maintain an accurate and positive self-concept	X	X						X
	Recognize individual strengths	X							X
	Experience a sense of self-efficacy	X	X						X

Competency	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Self-Management	Regulate emotions	X	X			X			
	Manage Stress	X	X			X			
	Monitor and achieve behaviors related to school and life success		X			X	X		

Competency	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Social Awareness	Exhibit empathy		X	X					
	Appreciate diversity		X	X	X				
	Understand social and ethical norms for behavior			X		X		X	
	Recognize family, school, and community supports			X					

Competency	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Relationship Skills	Build and maintain relationships with diverse groups and individuals		X		X				
	Communicate clearly to express needs and resolve conflict				X	X			

Competency	Definition	SA	SM	SO	RS	DM	GB	PR	OT
Responsible Decision-Making	Problem-solve effectively					X	X	X	
	Maintain accountable behaviors in school, personal, and community contexts		X			X		X	



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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](http://www.ApertureEd.com).