



Connecticut EdSERT Participation

An Educator's How-To Guide



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Introduction

Welcome! The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) launched a statewide social and emotional learning (SEL) assessment initiative in 2021 with the goal of improving the social and emotional skills and habits of all Connecticut students K–12, which in turn will contribute to positive school climates and better student academic outcomes. As part of this work, CSDE wants to support Connecticut educators' well-being and capacity to build their students' social and emotional skills.

Ensuring educators have the support and resources they need is critical to reaching these goals. Educators with strong social and emotional competence are necessary for building the social and emotional competencies of their students. When you feel more confident in supporting students with these skills, you create more positive learning environments and help your students achieve better outcomes.

The Educator Social-Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) program will help you learn more about key social and emotional skills and how those skills are reflected in your teaching practices. It will give ideas on how to promote social and emotional skills in your students. As you participate in EdSERT, it can also support your overall well-being by promoting close relationships and connections with colleagues and by increasing your coping skills and resilience.

This guide outlines the necessary steps for accessing the EdSERT learning modules in the Aperture System and reviewing the material for each competency. You will be participating in EdSERT alongside your colleagues. Although much of the content is designed to be self-reflective and self-directed to be personally meaningful to you, we recommend finding opportunities to share your learning and experiences with your colleagues.

Overview and Timeline

Connecticut EdSERT Implementation Overview and Timeline

The timeline below represents an overview of the major EdSERT activities across the 2023–2024 school year. Your school’s EdSERT Facilitator will be responsible for regularly sharing information and communicating with you and your colleagues about these activities.

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Introduction to EdSERT Module. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the CT pre-evaluation survey. Complete the Optimistic Thinking module. Participate in a small-group PLC meeting and reflection discussion. (x1) Complete your first DESSA rating.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small-group PLC meetings and reflection discussion. (x2) Complete the strategy check-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the second Competency module. Participate in a small-group PLC meeting and reflection discussion. (x1) Voluntary participation in focus groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small-group PLC meetings and reflection discussion. (x2) Complete the strategy check-in. Complete your second DESSA rating.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the third Competency module. Participate in a small-group PLC meeting and reflection discussion. (x1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small-group meetings and reflection discussion. (x2) Complete the strategy check-in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the fourth Competency module. Participate in a small-group PLC meeting and reflection discussion. (x1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small-group PLC meetings and reflection discussion. (x2) Complete the strategy check-in. Complete your third DESSA rating.* Complete the CT post-evaluation survey. Voluntary participation in focus groups

*If assigned to rate students

Welcome to EdSERT

The Educator Social-Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) program is a comprehensive set of research-based resources developed specifically for educators. EdSERT provides you with strategies to enhance your use of social and emotional practices in your classroom, which benefits your students and your well-being!

EdSERT uses a self-reflective and self-directed approach to implement strategies that support your social and emotional teaching practices. Additionally, large- and small-group meetings help you build connections with your colleagues and support your overall well-being as an educator. The main components of participating in EdSERT include:

Professional Development

Learn why social and emotional skills are important for all members of school communities.

Self-Reflective Assessments

Reflect on your existing teaching practices and identify strengths and growth opportunities.

Personal Development Plan

Choose a focus area and set your intentions to enhance your teaching practices.

Strategies

Implement self-directed practices to enhance your social and emotional teaching practices.

Strategy Check-Ins

Complete brief check-in surveys on your use of strategies for each competency.

Pre- & Post-Evaluation Surveys

Complete two evaluation surveys to provide feedback on your participation in EdSERT.

The EdSERT program is organized into nine modules and is accessed in the Aperture System. The first module is an Introduction to EdSERT. The remaining modules focus on eight key social and emotional competencies.

EdSERT Social and Emotional Competencies Promoted



Self-Awareness



Self-Management



Social Awareness



Relationship Skills



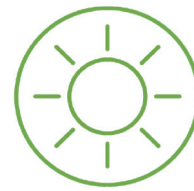
Goal-Directed Behavior



Personal Responsibility



Decision Making



Optimistic Thinking

During the 2023–2024 school year, you will complete **four** of these **eight** modules beginning with **Optimistic Thinking**. Your EdSERT Facilitator will tell you which other modules you will be completing.

Each module will include:

- an introduction to the competency.
- a self-assessment to reflect on your current use of key social and emotional teaching practices related to that competency.
- a personal development plan to help you select focus areas and set your intentions to implement new practices.
- a set of strategies aligned to the practices in the self-assessment.
- an end-of-module survey to share your experiences.
- a strategy check-in survey (sent by your facilitator) to reflect on your use of strategies from that competency.

Accessing the EdSERT Program

Step 1: If you have an Aperture System account, skip this step. If you need to activate your Aperture System account, use these steps:

- Look for an email from platform@apertureed.com with the subject line “Welcome to Aperture!”
- Select the Create Account button in the email to open the activation window.
- Enter a password for your account.
- Select the checkbox to agree with the Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions.
- Select Activate.
- Email invitations are active for only 7 days. If you receive a message that the link has expired, please request a new invitation by contacting your EdSERT Facilitator.
- If you do not have an Aperture System account, contact your EdSERT Facilitator.

Step 2: After logging into your Aperture System account, click on the Academy tab in the top menu and select EdSERT.

Step 3: Once you’ve accessed the EdSERT course material, work through the modules as assigned by your EdSERT Facilitator.

Badges and Continuing Education Units *(Optional)*

As you complete each EdSERT module, you will increase your social-emotional knowledge and skills. Completion of each module will be celebrated by the awarding of a Digital Completion Badge. Completion badges can easily be downloaded from the learning management system platform and were designed to be shared with your professional network as evidence of your accomplishment.

Additionally, all participants who complete four modules of EdSERT are eligible to receive 0.5 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for their professional portfolio. Aperture Education is an Accredited Provider of Continuing Education Units through the [International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training](#). Participants who choose to receive Continuing Education Unit credits will also receive a Certificate of Completion that can be added to your professional development records. Individuals who wish to obtain CEU credits should complete the [CEU Application Form](#) at least seven days prior to the start of the EdSERT program. Completed forms can be submitted to CTEdSERT@ApertureEd.com.



APERTURE EDUCATION

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™-informed 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.