



Aperture  
Education

# QUICK-START GUIDE: MSE SSR

A guide to the basics of getting started with the Aperture System and the DESSA-MSE SSR

## LEARN HOW TO:



### ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT

Log in to the Aperture System, Activate Your Account, Obtain Student Access Code



### SUPPORT SELF-REPORT & POST-SSR OPTIONS

Introduce and Facilitate the SSR; Support Post-SSR Data Exploration, Goal Setting, and SEL Challenges



### ACCESS DATA, STRATEGIES & SUPPORT

Analyze Student Data, Access SEL Strategies and Foundational Practices, Access Support

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### DEMO VIDEO ICON



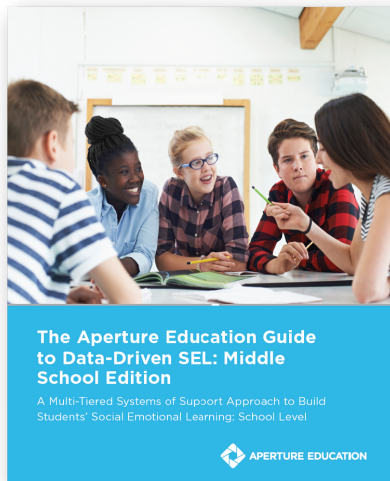
Look for this icon throughout this Quick-Start Guide to access short demo videos to support your work in the Aperture System.

### OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE DESSA-MSE SSR?

The DESSA-MSE SSR is a self-assessment for middle school students to rate their own social and emotional competencies. In their Student Portal, students have real-time access to explore their results, autonomy to select from pre-made SEL challenges, and the ability to set their own SMART goals to monitor their progress and grow their SEL skills throughout the year. Lastly, assigned educators can view self-report data and any progress that students are making in the educator view of the Aperture System.

### FULL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

This quick-start guide is designed to take you through the basics of a full implementation of the DESSA-MSE SSR in a brief, accessible format. For more detailed information, frequently asked questions, and additional resources for your work, please view the full implementation guide, [The Aperture Education Guide to Data-Driven SEL: Middle School Edition](#), and the Academy tab in your Aperture System, where you'll find many training and support options.



### NOTES FOR SITE LEADERS, DISTRICT LEADERS, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

This guide contains information targeted toward the educators who will be facilitating the DESSA-MSE SSR with students, but is important for educational leaders to be aware of as well. There are also a few additional considerations for site leaders, district leaders, and program administrators, including the following.


- Share with staff how the DESSA-MSE SSR data will be used, or the process you will use to collaboratively determine how it will be used.
- Share with staff how the DESSA-MSE SSR connects to your site or district's priorities and goals.
- Provide staff with appropriate training opportunities for DESSA-MSE SSR implementation, which may include a self-paced course from Aperture Education.



#### WHY A SELF-REPORT? WHY IS STUDENT VOICE IMPORTANT TO SEL?

Research shows that giving students agency and influence in their learning makes them more engaged and invested in their education as well as empowers them to take control, show initiative, and adopt leadership roles. This in turn can lead to improved academic outcomes (Bridgeland et al., 2006; Toshalis & Nakkula, 2012; Mitra, 2003; Benner et al., 2019). Student voice/choice is also closely connected with social and emotional learning (SEL). Much research demonstrates the benefits of SEL on student engagement and achievement (Durlak et al., 2011). SEL helps students develop agency because it teaches students to engage authentically as leaders, problem-solvers, and decision-makers. Students also improve their communication skills and their ability to advocate for themselves. In these ways, SEL and student voice/choice help students develop a sense of ownership over their learning (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning [CASEL], 2018). The DESSA-MSE SSR and options in the Student Portal for students to review and act on their own data gives students agency over their own social and emotional growth. For more information and guidance, please see, [Seen and Heard: Benefits of Incorporating Student Voice, Choice, and SEL Into the Academic Framework](#).

#### ACTIVATING YOUR EDUCATOR APERTURE SYSTEM ACCOUNT

- You will receive an email from Aperture Education with the subject line **Welcome to Aperture!**\*
- Click the **Create Account** link in the email to open the activation window. Email invitations are only active for 7 days. If you receive a message that the link has expired, your Program Administrator will need to send a new invitation out to you.
- Choose a password for your account, select the checkbox agreeing to the privacy policy and terms and conditions, and click **Activate**.
- \*Note: If your program has Single Sign-On enabled, you will not need to register as outlined above. You can access your Aperture account by going to your district SSO login page and clicking the  icon.

#### LOGGING INTO YOUR EDUCATOR APERTURE SYSTEM ACCOUNT

Use [this Aperture System link](#) to log into your account using the email and the password you just created. Consider bookmarking this link for future use.

#### OBTAINING YOUR ROSTER AND STUDENT ACCESS CODE



Students will need an access code to register their Student Portal account. To obtain this code, log in to your Aperture System account and click the **Settings** cog at the top right. Click **Student Self-Report** on the left menu, and you will find the access code. You may also need Student ID numbers on-hand when students register. We recommend you obtain a full roster of the students you'll be supporting with the DESSA-MSE SSR with this information included.

#### SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN REGISTERING THEIR STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNTS

Before taking the DESSA-MSE SSR, students will need to create a Student Portal account. Instructions for doing so differ based on your site's access method. Click on the appropriate access method below to see instructions for how students should register their account:

- [Getting Students Started: Email & Password Sign On](#)
- [Getting Students Started: Clever SSO](#)
- [Getting Students Started: Classlink SSO](#)



## INTRODUCING THE STUDENT SELF-REPORT (SSR)

Before students complete the self-report, give them context about social and emotional learning (SEL), the importance of SEL to social and academic success, and how the DESSA-MSE SSR and tools in the Student Portal can support them in their social and emotional growth. Here are some resources you could use to do this:



Our [Educator Slide Deck and Student Portal Quick Guide](#) are student-facing resources for use in classrooms to give background on SEL and the DESSA Student Self-Report, instructions for registering their Student Portal, and guidance for completing the student self-report.



The article, [What is Social and Emotional Learning?](#), from Aperture Education shares the definition of SEL as well as relevant research about its importance.



Students will be prompted to watch this [Student Portal Welcome Video](#) individually when they first log in to their Student Portal account, but you can also view it as a whole group to give an overview of the DESSA-MSE SSR and how it supports them.



You may also want to share [examples of DESSA-MSE SSR questions](#) so students have an idea of the type and format of items they will encounter.

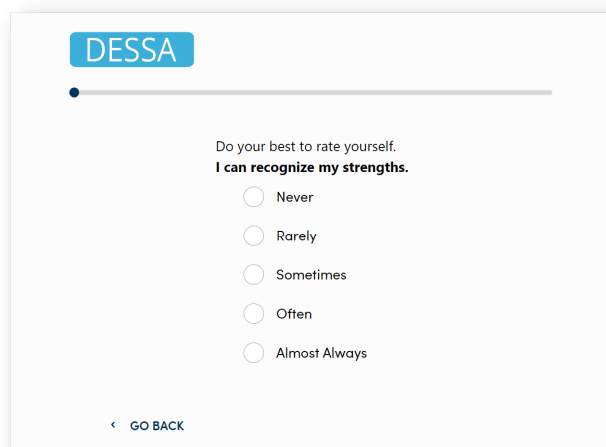
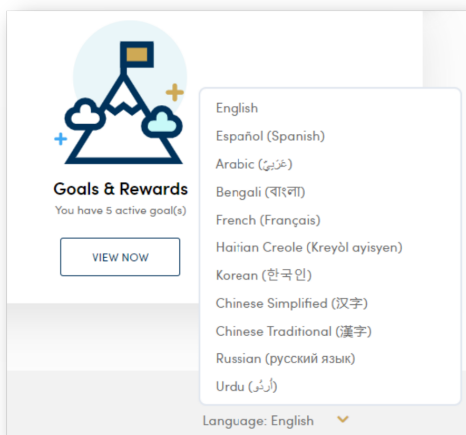


The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) shares the [Fundamentals of SEL](#) including an SEL framework, the impact of SEL, and how SEL connects to mental health, workforce preparation, and more.

## COMPLETING THE STUDENT SELF-REPORT (SSR)

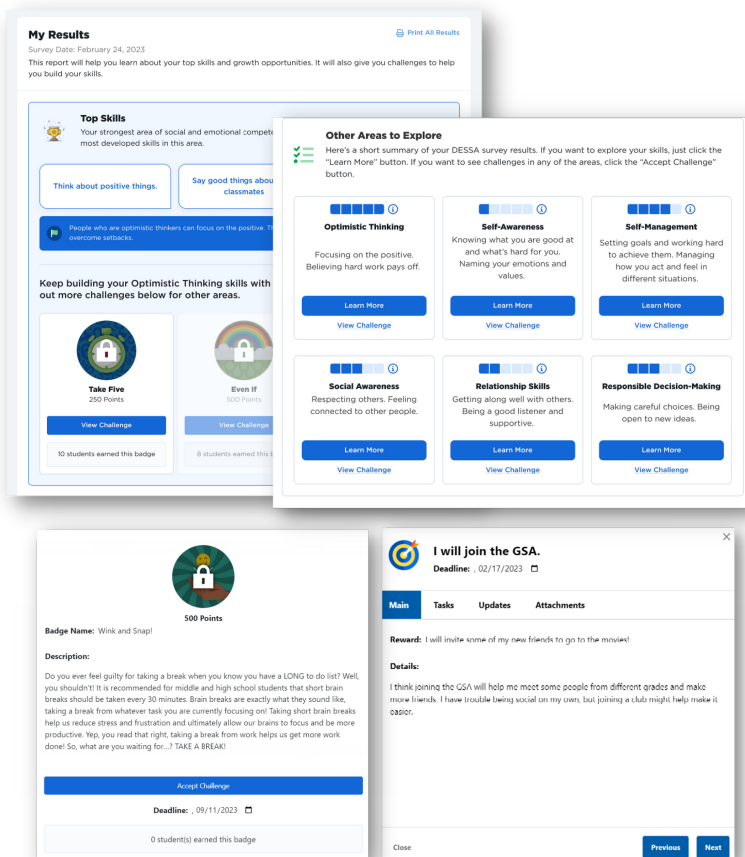
Once students have registered their Student Portal accounts and logged in, they will be prompted to read a Welcome Letter and watch the [Student Portal Welcome Video](#). The DESSA-MSE SSR is available in 11 languages. If students need to switch their language, this option is available on the bottom right of their Student Portal.

Students will complete the DESSA-MSE SSR (this should take around 5-7 minutes to complete, and must be done in one sitting so students won't lose their progress.)



## AFTER THE SSR: STUDENT NEXT STEPS

Students' DESSA-MSE SSR results are available immediately after they finish the self-report. Provide time for students to analyze these results (for instance, by clicking through the **Learn More** buttons under each social and emotional competency), click **View Challenge** to select pre-made challenges targeting competencies they want to grow in, and add their own goals. The goal-setting interface will prompt them to create SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound) goals ([see this demo](#) of how students can add a goal.)



1

DESSA-MSE SSR results in the Student Portal are displayed as "battery bars" showing each competency as a strength, emerging strength, typical, emerging typical, or growth opportunity.

2

Students can select competencies in which they need growth and accept pre-made challenges to build those skills.

3

Students can also set SMART goals in categories that appeal to them. They earn points in the system for completing assessments, completing each challenge, accomplishing goals, and other tasks in the Student Portal.

## AFTER THE SSR: EDUCATOR NEXT STEPS

After each rating period, educators should engage in a data-review process that includes: accessing the data, reviewing the data, acting on the data, and continued progress monitoring.

1

**Access and Review the Data:** Log in to your Aperture System account and view student self-report data under the **Data and Insights** tab. See the information about each report available below to decide which reports will best support your work.

2

**Act on the Data:** Plan universal, small group, and individual lessons or interventions that teach SEL skills. Use your own SEL curriculum and/or explore Aperture Education's Foundational Practices and SEL Strategies in the **Strategies** tab of the Aperture System. Learn more about these strategies below.

3

**Monitor Progress:** The SSR can be administered up to four times during the year (many sites administer it in the fall, winter, and spring.) SSR results can be reviewed on the **Impact Report** (see more below) to make students' progress over time visible. Monitor students' progress on goals and challenges.



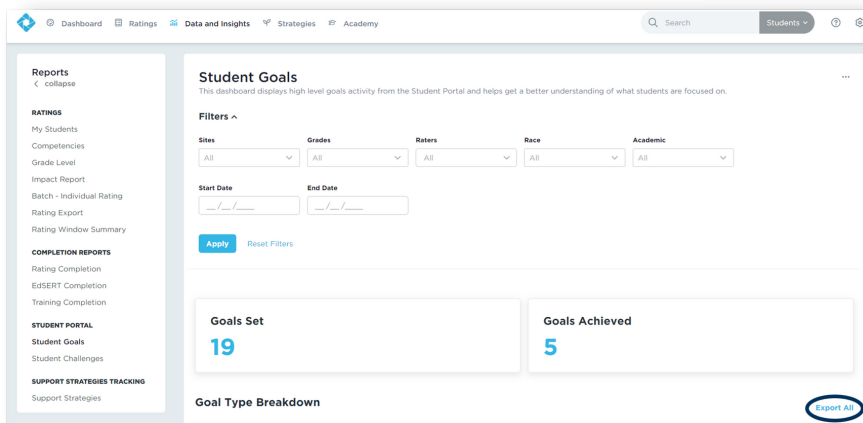
## SUPPORTING STUDENT GOALS AND CHALLENGES

Educators assigned to a given student can view that student's SEL Challenge and SMART Goal activity on the Individual Student Profile in their educator view of the Aperture System. Either search for a student by name or select the student from the available roster on the My Students report. Scroll past their self report data to find Student Goals and Student Challenges. Here you can see their progress and view any attachments students may have uploaded as they complete these activities.

Student Goals						
Status	Deadline	Goal Type	Goal Name	Tasks		
Active	02/17/2023	Extracurricular	I will join the GSA.	0/3		
Complete	03/25/2023	College Prep	I will complete and submit the FAFSA	0/0		

Student Challenges						
Status	Deadline	Challenge Type	Goal Name	Tasks	Growth Plan	
Active	05/05/2023	Relationship Skills	Appreciation Station!	0/4	🟢	
Complete	05/05/2023	Self-Management	My Calming Space	6/7	🟢	
Active	05/05/2023	Relationship Skills	Healthy vs. Unhealthy	0/6	🟢	



**Student Goals**  
This dashboard displays high level goals activity from the Student Portal and helps get a better understanding of what students are focused on.

**Filters**

Sites: All | Grades: All | Raters: All | Race: All | Academic: All

Start Date: | End Date: |

Apply | Reset Filters

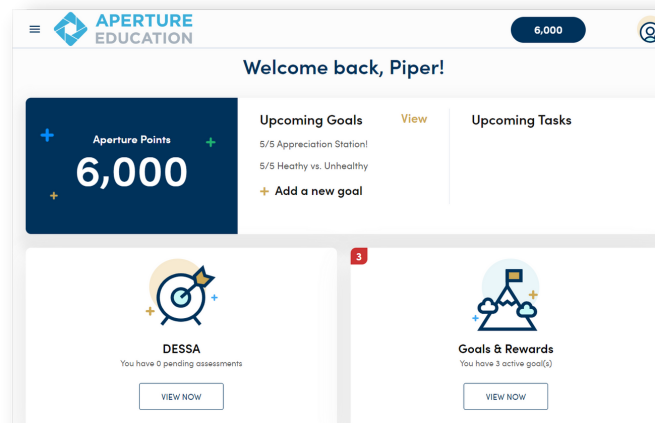
**Goals Set: 19** | **Goals Achieved: 5**

Goal Type Breakdown

[Export All](#)

Another feature that may be useful to support students is **Export All**, which will allow you to view a list of all goals or challenges instead of having to access each Individual Student Profile. On your educator view of the Aperture System, click the **Data and Insights** tab and either **Student Goals** or **Student Challenges** on the left menu. Below the goal or challenge overview, you'll find the **Export All** option.

Students earn points for completing activities in their Student Portal; for instance, they earn points for completing the self-report and a different number of points for different pre-made SEL Challenges they might choose. Each activity is worth a different number of points that will be added to the student's dashboard landing page after completing the tasks. District and school sites have the flexibility to decide what the points system is used for (if anything), as this can naturally enhance students' self-advocacy and promotion of their own SEL skills and understanding.



Welcome back, Piper!

**Aperture Points: 6,000**

**Upcoming Goals** | View

- 5/5 Appreciation Station!
- 5/5 Healthy vs. Unhealthy
- + Add a new goal

**Upcoming Tasks**

**DESSA**  
You have 0 pending assessments | [VIEW NOW](#)

**Goals & Rewards**  
You have 3 active goal(s) | [VIEW NOW](#)



### ACCESSING REPORTS ON THE DATA AND INSIGHTS TAB



To access reports, log into the Aperture System and click on the **Data and Insights** tab at the top of your dashboard. Click on **My Students** on the left to see a chart and table visualization of students who fall into each descriptive range category. Use the filters to sort and break down this list further. Clicking on the student's name will bring you to their individual student report. The table can be exported as a comma-separated values (CSV) text file (to be imported into Excel or other spreadsheet software) by clicking on the **Export CSV** option. This list can be compared with your full roster to determine if any students have not yet completed the DESSA-MSE SSR.

**Reports**  
 < collapse  
**RATINGS**  
 My Students  
 Competencies  
 Grade Level  
 Impact Report  
 Batch - Individual Rating  
**STUDENT PORTAL**  
 Student Goals  
 Student Challenges  
**SUPPORT STRATEGIES TRACKING**  
 Support Strategies

Number of Percentage of Students

Students: 3 (0%)  
Need for Instruction

Students: 11 (35%)  
Typical

Students: 7 (20%)  
Strength

Descriptive Range

**Data-Driven Recommendations**  
 Your students are strong! Click here to see customized Strategies and interventions that can benefit your students.  
 Customized Recommendations

Search by student name

Export CSV

Name	Grade at Rating	Descriptive Range	T-Score	Last Rating Form	Rating Window	Last Rating Date
Aguilar, Parker	6th Grade	Typical	52	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Aguirre, Amanda	6th Grade	Typical	50	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Ali, Raquel	8th Grade	Typical	49	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Archer, Jonas	7th Grade	Typical	48	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Austin, Crystal	7th Grade	Typical	57	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Aviles, Harzer	6th Grade	Strength	60	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023
Banjala, Kayson	8th Grade	Strength	65	DESSA-MSE-SSR	23-24 Pre	08/01/2023

### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT

The **Individual Student Report** shows a line graph of a student's rating scores over time for each self-report conducted. Hover over a rating for details about that rating, or click on it to see more details. The table below the line graph provides more detail in addition to a **Report** icon where you can see **Individual Item Analysis**. Below the table, you can see **Student Goals** and **Student Challenges** and add **Support Strategies** for students who demonstrate a need for instruction (Note: Support Strategies are an add-on feature. [Learn more here.](#)) To print this report, click the three dots at the top right.

**Parker Aguilar**  
 Randle Middle School • 6th Grade • SID #3462662

T-Score

2021 - 2022

01 Jan - 2023

Self-Report

	Rating Date	Rating Window	Descriptive Range	T-Score	Percentile	Form	Grade At Rating	Rater	
<input type="checkbox"/>	08/01/2023	23-24 Pre	Strength	60	84th	DESSA-MSE-SSR	6th Grade	Student Self-Report	
<input type="checkbox"/>	08/01/2023	23-24 Pre	Typical	52	58th	DESSA-MSE-SSR	6th Grade	Student Self-Report	
<input type="checkbox"/>	08/01/2023	23-24 Pre	Strength	64	92nd	DESSA-MSE-SSR	6th Grade	Student Self-Report	

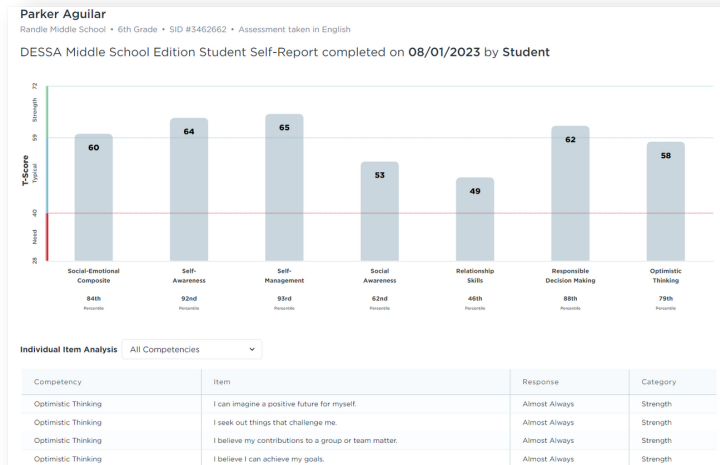
Self-Report: 58, Typical

### INDIVIDUAL RATING REPORT AND ITEM ANALYSES

Access the Individual Rating Report by clicking the Report icon in the table at the bottom of the Individual Student Report.



This report will show a bar graph with a T-score for each competency. Filter the table below by competency to help identify areas of strength and areas where the student needs instruction to gather ideas for targeted small group or individual interventions. To print this report, click the three dots at the top right.

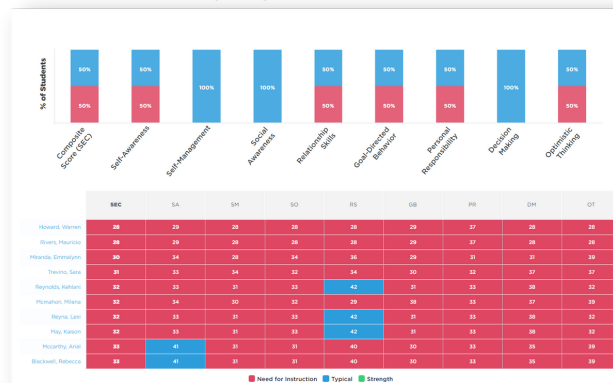


### COMPETENCIES REPORT



The Competencies Report shows the breakdown of students across the descriptive ranges for a given competency. This chart can initially skew heavily toward **Need for Instruction** because its default view includes only students who have been rated by an educator using the full DESSA diagnostic assessment. You can use the **Forms** filter to see the competency breakdown from all students who took the DESSA-MSE SSR instead if you wish.

The **Student Breakout** table displays a row per student with their respective scores. You can use the chart and table in tandem to determine which competencies to focus on for individual, small group, or universal instruction. To print this report, click the three dots at the top right.



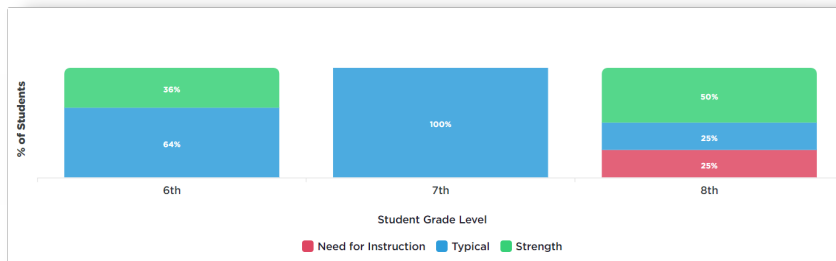




### GRADE LEVEL REPORT



The Grade Level Report shows the breakdown of students across descriptive ranges in selected grades. User role dictates access to data in the Aperture System, so depending on your access level, you may not see the Grade Level Report available or may only see a grade level comparison of the specific students on your roster. For more information about what data is collected within your school, connect with your Site Leader or Program Administrator. To print this report, click the three dots at the top right.

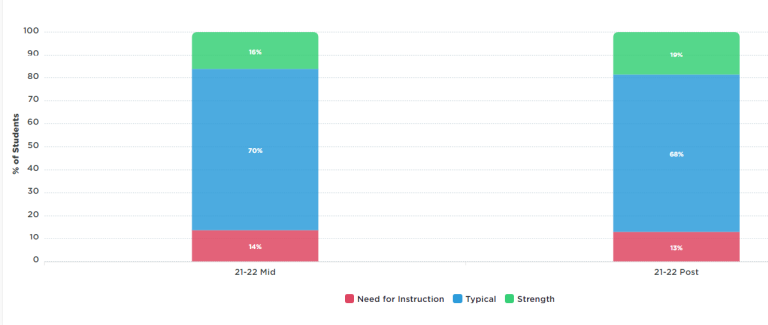


### IMPACT REPORT

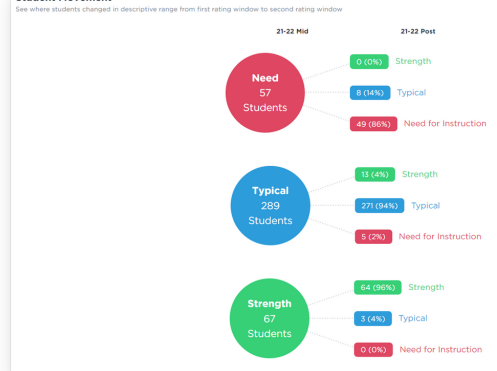


The Impact Report provides several different views of the compared data for the rating windows selected. It includes a graph of Change in Students' Overall Social and Emotional Competence, a Student Movement visualization, and a chart breaking down rating comparisons by specific competencies. To print this report or export it as a CSV text file, click the three dots at the top right.

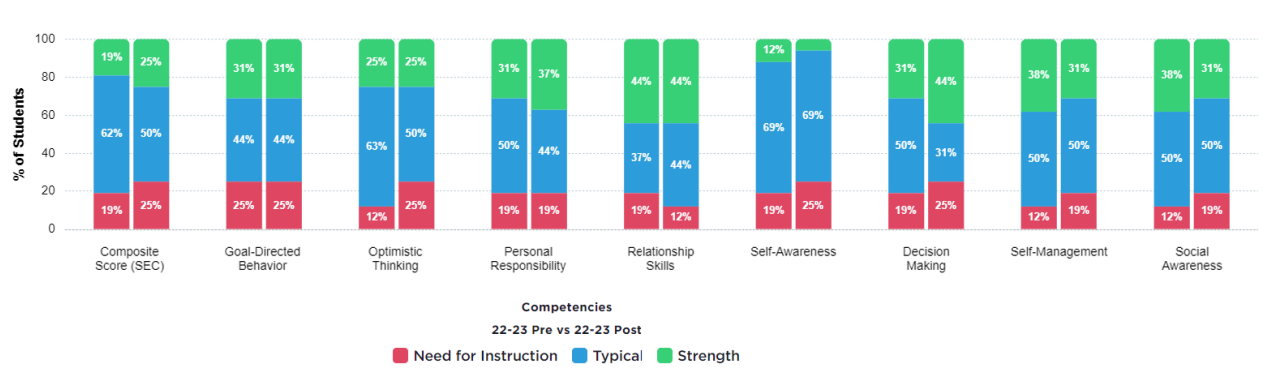
#### Change in Students' Overall Social and Emotional Competence



#### Student Movement



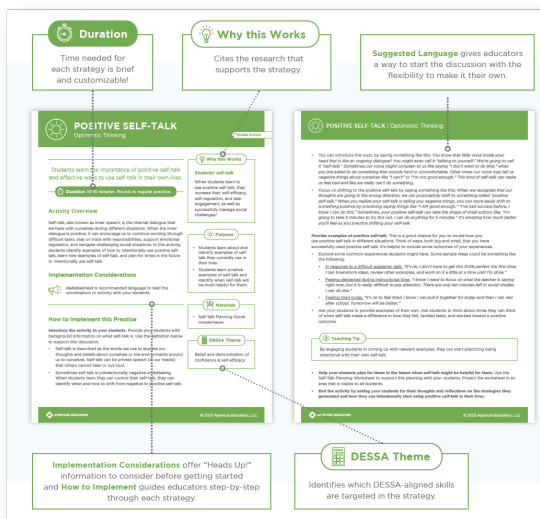
#### Change in DESSA Student Self Report Social and Emotional Competencies



## STRATEGIES



Upon completion of the DESSA, educators receive universal SEL strategies and targeted Tier 2 intervention recommendations to support their students. You can also find Foundational Practices for social and emotional learning and SEL Strategies on the **Strategies** tab on your Aperture System dashboard. The SEL strategies are research-based, DESSA-aligned and provide direct instruction of SEL skills in the six competency areas. The Tier 2 intervention programs consist of five multiweek programs designed for targeted small groups of students who need intensive competency building. SEL Strategies, Tier 2 Intervention Programs, Data-Driven Recommendations directly aligned to your students' results, and our Support Strategies Tracking (described below) are part of our SEL Strategies and Interventions Package add-on feature.



**Duration**  
Time needed for each strategy is brief and customizable!

**Why this Works**  
Cites the research that supports the strategy.

**Suggested Language** drives educators in ways to start the discussion with the flexibility to make it their own.

**POSITIVE SELF-TALK**  
*Optimistic Thinking*

Students learn the importance of positive self-talk and effective ways to use self-talk in their own lives.

**Activity Overview**

**Implementation Considerations**

**How to Implement This Practice**

**Implementation Considerations after "Heads Up!"**  
Information to consider before getting started and how to implement guides educators step-by-step through each strategy.

**DESSA Theme**  
Identifies which DESSA-aligned skills are targeted in the strategy.

Example of an SEL Strategy



- Self-Awareness and Emotional Regulation**  
• 8-week; 24-lesson intervention program
- Social-Awareness and Behavioral Regulation**  
• 8-week; 24-lesson intervention program
- Social and Emotional Skill and Academic Development**  
• 8-week; 24-lesson intervention program
- Responsible Decision-Making**  
• 4-week; 12-lesson intervention program
- Relationship Skills Development**  
• 4-week; 12-lesson intervention program

Overview of the Tier 2 Intervention Programs


## SUPPORT STRATEGIES TRACKING



Educators can add support strategies for individual students, small groups, and/or universal instruction from the bottom of their Aperture System dashboard or from an Individual Student Report. To track support strategies throughout the year, you can click on the **Data and Insights** tab and then click **Support Strategies Tracking** on the left menu. Support Strategy Tracking is only available if it's been purchased as part of your plan; if you would find this feature valuable but don't see it listed, please contact your program administrator.

## GETTING SUPPORT



Additional resources for all users in the Aperture System include video tutorials, webinars, educator guides, FAQs, and helpful documents. To access the support portal, log into your Aperture System account and select the  question mark icon in the upper right-hand corner of the dashboard. A new tab will open containing the **Support Portal** (please disable your browser's pop-up blocker).

In the Support Portal, type the name of the resource you are looking for into the search bar or scroll through the suggested resources. To contact our Support Team, click the **Submit A Request** button on the top right to submit a ticket.