Hello <SCHOOL/PROGRAM NAME> Parent/Guardian,

One of our most important goals at (name of school) is making sure that our students have the social and emotional skills to succeed in the classroom, community, and after they graduate. These skills are things like getting along with others, being responsible, making good decisions, and persisting at hard tasks. We are writing to inform you of (name of school)’s social and emotional learning program to help our students learn these skills.

The DESSA is created by Aperture Education ([www.ApertureEd.com](http://www.ApertureEd.com)). It is one of the most highly regarded and widely used social and emotional screening and assessment tools. The DESSA is strength-based. This means that it will give our educators and staff an understanding of your child’s social and emotional strengths and their growth opportunities. These are the areas where we can support them with greater instruction.

Sample DESSA questions include:

* How often did the child keep trying when unsuccessful?
* How often did the child offer to help somebody?
* How often did the child get things done in a timely fashion?
* How often did the child work well in groups?

Teachers will use both the DESSA-mini screener and the full DESSA assessment. The goal of the DESSA-mini is to identify each student's overall social and emotional competence. Students shown as needing more instruction will then be assessed with the in-depth DESSA. The DESSA will tell us which social and emotional skills your child has already learned and which skills they might still need to learn. Teachers will then teach those skills using lesson plans in the classroom. Our goal is to make sure that your child learns the social and emotional skills that they need for lifelong success. Parents and guardians can also complete the DESSA on their child. We are happy to make this available to you.

Our district chose the DESSA in part because of Aperture Education’s strong commitment to respecting and protecting your student’s privacy. Thousands of schools nationwide use the DESSA and trust Aperture Education with protecting their students’ data. Aperture Education will never share your child’s data with a third party. To view more information about the DESSA or the privacy policy, visit: <https://apertureed.com/privacy-policy/>.

We are excited about this program and believe it will help your child succeed both inside and outside of school.

Sincerely,

<PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE>

Do you consent to your child participating in this program?

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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If you DO NOT CONSENT to your child participating in this program, please fill out the form below.

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_