

# Back-to-School with the **DESSA 2**

## Transition Checklist

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With the release of the **newly updated DESSA 2** for grades K-8 at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, please consider these steps to ensure your DESSA program continues running as smoothly as possible. While utilizing the newest version of the DESSA should be relatively seamless in terms of collecting and analyzing data, the following steps will be important for proactively organizing your plans and communication with your team.

**Your account will automatically transfer to the DESSA 2 for grades K-8 on August 1st, 2024.**

Here are some things to consider with your DESSA implementation team prior to the transition date:

## Share the Good News with Your Stakeholders

- ▶ Emphasize that the DESSA 2 will be only 40 items (compared to 72) while the DESSA 2 mini will continue to be only 8 items. Consider calculating how much time your team will save (approximately 2 minutes per student per assessment) with this update.
- ▶ Share with your team that they'll be collecting and analyzing data using the most recent normative sample available for a social, emotional, and behavioral assessment to ensure that scores and support plans are reliable and effective.
- ▶ We've removed items that teachers reported to us were difficult to answer and added new items that address key social and emotional skills not previously assessed such as collaborative problem-solving, positive identity development, and collective goal-setting.

## Opportunities for Scaling Your Data Collection Efforts

- ▶ With the shorter full DESSA 2 form, would you like to consider expanding the number of students you're assessing beyond the screener?

## DESSA 2

### Updated Competencies



Self-Awareness



Self-Management



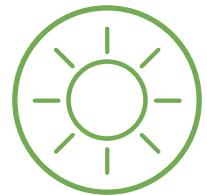
Social Awareness



Relationship Skills



Responsible  
Decision Making



Optimistic Thinking

## District/School Communications and Training Materials

- ▶ If you have the original 8 DESSA competencies, items, or sample forms/items listed in any print or digital communications, training materials, alignment guides/crosswalks, or parent documents, please consider updating them to align with the new set of 6 competencies (Optimistic Thinking, Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making)

## Rater Training

- ▶ Educators that have already participated in the Aperture Essentials training do not need to be re-trained. However, as you plan for the upcoming school year, please ensure that all raters have completed Sections 1 and 2 of the Aperture Essentials training, which will feature updated information related to the DESSA 2.
- ▶ Consider sharing copies of DESSA 2 and DESSA 2 mini forms with your raters so they know how the DESSA has changed and become familiar with the skills they will be looking for in students.

## Data Analysis

- ▶ As you begin collecting data with the DESSA 2, it's important to note that you will only be able to compare SEC (Social Emotional Composite) scores between the original DESSA and the DESSA 2. Due to the changes with the specific competencies included on the DESSA 2, you will not be able to directly compare competency-specific scores. This should only be a short-term inconvenience; once you've collected data from multiple rating windows with the DESSA 2 you will be able to compare competency scores as usual.

## Parent Ratings

- ▶ Parent/guardian assessment is not currently available as part of the DESSA 2 update. Please plan accordingly with your Success Manager if you've utilized parent ratings in the past.

## Parent Consent

- ▶ If you have shared copies of the DESSA with parents, determine whether you need to share the DESSA 2 forms with parents for consent purposes.

## Automated Data Exports

- ▶ If you currently have automated data exports set up, please contact the Aperture Data Team (DataTeam@ApertureEd.com) to ensure your export files are formatted correctly to accommodate the DESSA 2 and DESSA 2 mini forms.

**Questions? Please contact your Aperture Success Manager.**