

## **Facilitator Guide**

## **Getting Started with the DESSA System**

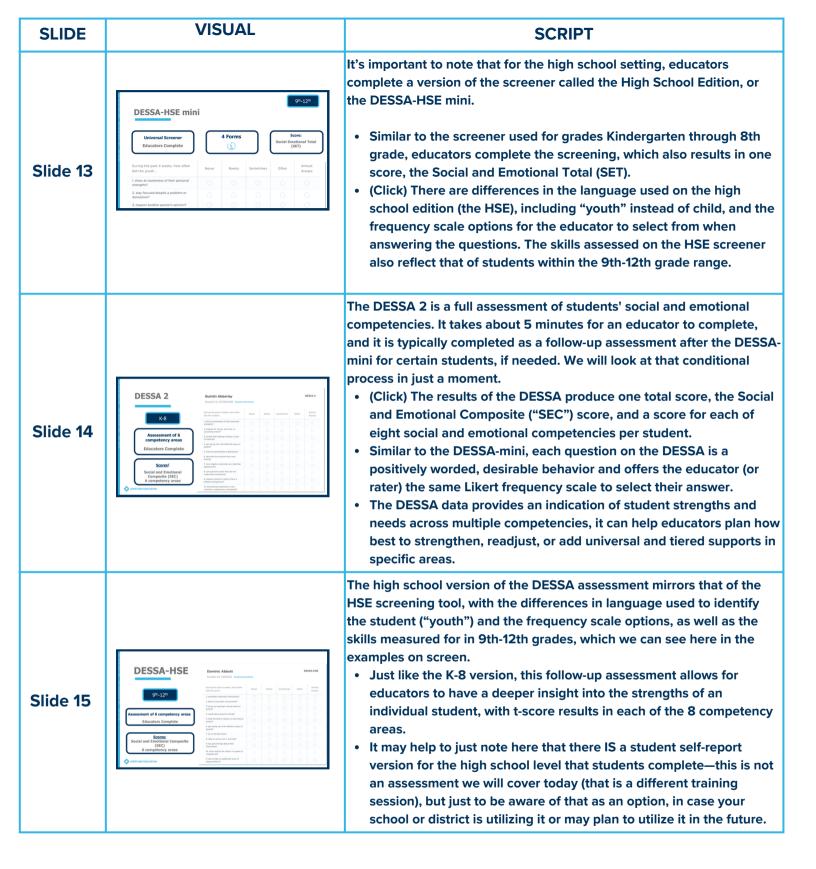
This guide provides scripted talking points for the individual designated to facilitate the Getting Started with the DESSA training. Please read the scripted text to assist attendees in their comprehensive understanding of the content.

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 1	APERTURE EDUCATION  Getting Started with the  DESSA	Hello and welcome to Getting Started with the DESSA! In this session we'll give a high-level overview of the DESSA System.
Slide 2	Session Objectives  Identify key components of the DESSA assessments in order to support educators with implementation.  Learn best practices for completing ratings and interpreting the scoring result categories.  Explore features of the Educator Portal.	<ul> <li>In our time together, we will:</li> <li>Identify key components of the DESSA assessments in order to support educators with implementation.</li> <li>Learn best practices for completing ratings and interpreting the scoring result categories.</li> <li>Explore features of the Educator Portal.</li> </ul>
Slide 3	Opening Activity  In the chat  What hopes do you have for your school community this year?	As an opening activity, before diving right into content, let's hear from you!  When we open a training with hope, it centers us on our "why" and helps us frame our work accordingly.  So, I'll take some volunteers to share. What are your hopes for your school community this year?

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 4	WHAT IS THE DESSAP HOW TO COMPLETE MATINGS THE DEDUCATION PORTAL IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE  AGENDA	<ul> <li>Thank you so much for sharing! Let's talk through how we'll spend the rest of our time together:</li> <li>We'll discuss what the DESSA is and what it is not,</li> <li>We'll practice completing a rating,</li> <li>We'll walk through an overview of the Educator Portal and the roles within it,</li> <li>And finally, we'll close out with an optimistic closure and opportunity for feedback.</li> </ul>
Slide 5	What is the DESSA?  An evidence-based social and emotional competency assessment to support student growth.	In this session, we will dive into what the DESSA assessments are and how they can be used to support educators, students, and their families.  • (Click) In short, the DESSA is an evidence-based social and emotional competency assessment to support student growth, including a screening tool and a full diagnostic assessment that educators complete for their assigned students.
Slide 6	DESSA: The Basics  CASEL aligned  CASEL-aligned  DESSA	<ul> <li>In a moment, we will dive into details further. As an overview:</li> <li>(Click) The DESSA is directly aligned with the CASEL framework for social and emotional learning (SEL)</li> <li>(Click) It is a nationally standardized, strength-based behavior rating scale that assesses students' social and emotional competence with editions that support students K-12.</li> <li>(Click) It has been used by districts and out-of-school time programs across the country, and site or district-based implementation schedules are outlined for this data collection</li> <li>(Click) Finally, DESSA assessments and real-time data reports are located in the online Aperture System, along with additional resources, and support options.</li> </ul>
Slide 7	Why Measure Social and Emotional Growth?  To Drive Meaningful Change and Evaluate Outcomes  Systems  Climate  Practice	The second question we ask upfront here is "why measure student social and emotional growth?" and for that, there are many answers that we will address throughout this session as we look at the components of "how" to collect this data.  • A quality social and emotional assessment is an important part of any SEL program implementation and can help to drive meaningful change and evaluate outcomes in a school, district, or program. (language pulled from Aperture website)  • We ALSO refer to CASEL again, as they outline the importance of practicing continuous improvement by establishing an ongoing process to collect, reflect on, and use implementation and outcome data to inform decisions and drive improvements to SEL programming.  • Use the DESSA to inform data-driven next steps for [CLICK] systems [CLICK] climate, and [CLICK] practice.  • This means that the DESSA will help drive change through systems like MTSS and PBIS, give data to help improve climate in areas like student belonging and attendance, and help educators improve practice by informing instruction.

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 8	Measuring Student Growth: The Basics  Identify Be Proactive DESSA  Inform Connect	<ul> <li>The DESSA was designed to:</li> <li>Provide a psychometrically sound measure of social-emotional competence in children and youth by identifying the unique strengths and needs of students</li> <li>The DESSA screening tool proactively identifies students who may be considered "at-risk" in different areas</li> <li>The data collected from the DESSA can be used to inform tiered instruction and intervention, and measure the results of SEL programming</li> <li>Finally, using the DESSA to measure student growth provides a common lens and language for crafting an SEL program that connects educators, families, and students.</li> </ul>
Slide 9	Group Share  How can measuring students' social and emotional competence be of value to your role?	Before we move forward into more detail about the DESSA assessments, let's pause here together and do a quick group check-in in the form of reflection. (Facilitation option: think-pair-share/group share out)  To check-in with ourselves and the information that has been shared so far, I invite you to reflect on:  • (Click) How can measuring student social and emotional competence be of value to your role as a school leader?  • Perhaps you will utilize the data collected within your specific role or you will be supporting educators in their process of collecting and using the data to inform their decisions, or maybe you are not sure what your role in the process will be quite yet (that's okay!)  • For now, what benefits to collecting this data about students' strengths in social and emotional strengths do you foresee, based on your experience and expertise?
Slide 10	CASEL & DESSA Alignment  DESSA  Language  Lang	As we've mentioned, CASEL, or the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, provides the foundational framework for social and emotional learning (SEL), including 5 core competency areas that we see here in the center of the circle (Facilitator option: trainer can read off these skill areas, if desired/if the group is newer to SEL)  • Within the outer rings, the environments in which these skills can be taught, practiced, and cultivated are labeled.  • Within the first two inner rings, starting within the classroom, the focus is on SEL instruction and climate, and across the school campus, the focus is on the culture, practices, and policies.  • In the outer two rings, students' families and caregivers, as well as community partners, are encouraged to be involved in this learning process through authentic partnerships and identifying aligned learning opportunities.  • (Click)The DESSA assessments measure behaviors in each of these CASEL aligned areas, as well Optimistic Thinking.

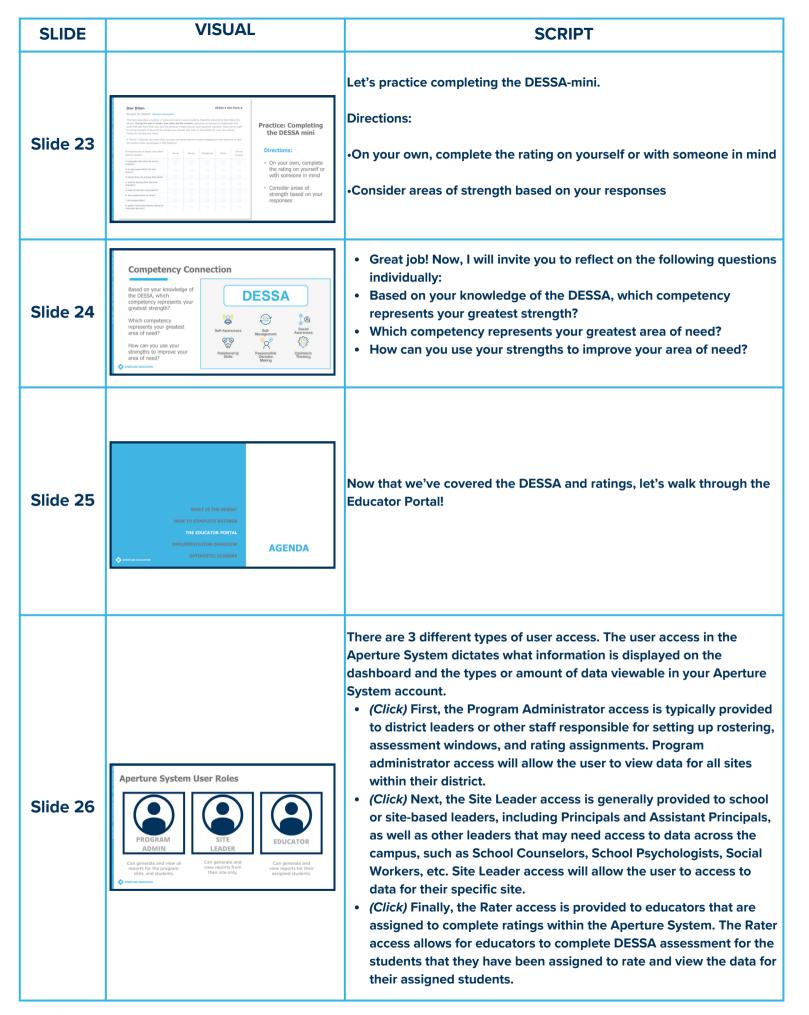
SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 11	DESSA Assessments    Standardzed   Norm-Referenced   Strength-Based   K-12th     Education   Education     DESSA Holl   Universal Screener   DESSA Assessment     DESSA DESSA Assessment   Line   Line	On the bottom portion of this slide, the different DESSA assessments are noted, which we will expand on in just a moment.  First, let's take a look at the development and standardization properties of the DESSA assessments.  • (Click) All the DESSA assessments are standardized; there are established procedures for administering, scoring, and interpreting the results. The standardization sample was representative of the population across the United States and a bias analysis was completed for each question item.  • (Click) They are norm-referenced scores and are based on a national sample of students. Students' social and emotional competence can be compared or benchmarked to other students. The assessments are classified as Behavior Rating Scales which are one of the most common forms of assessment used in the educational field.  • (Click) Most uniquely, the DESSA assessments are strength-based. Every question on the DESSA is a positively worded, desirable behavior, such as "get along with others", rather than maladaptive ones, like "annoys others". There are many advantages to this approach of promoting social and emotional competencies, a main benefit is that these social-emotional competencies contribute to a student's resilience in the face of adversity. By highlighting students' strengths, educators can help students leverage their strengths in areas of growth.
Slide 12	DESSA 2 mini  Universal Screener Educators Complete  During the part of weeks, how office and the student  1 coopered with officers solve a pushwer 2. Account responsibility for their attack 1. Indiend they call address their goals?	<ul> <li>The DESSA-mini is a universal screener of social and emotional competence designed for all students. It has 8 questions and takes about 1 minute per student for an educator (or rater) to complete.</li> <li>The primary purpose of the "mini" screener is to quickly and accurately identify which students may be at risk of academic and behavioral difficulties based on their social and emotional development.</li> <li>The screener is completed online after at least 4 weeks, or a cumulative of 24 hours over a 4-week period of interaction and observation of the student. There are 4 different forms that can be utilized for progress monitoring throughout the school year.</li> <li>(Click) The results from the DESSA-mini produce a Social-Emotional Total (SET) score that provides an indication of a student's overall social and emotional competence at the time of assessment.</li> <li>This data can help educators plan how best to strengthen, readjust, or add universal supports. This screener can also help to identify students that may benefit from additional assessment.</li> <li>(Click) A few examples of questions that are on the DESSA-mini are listed here, with the answer options that can be selected based on the frequency in which the educator has observed the student to utilize a specific skill.</li> </ul>



SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 16	DESSA Results  T-scores are categorized into 3 descriptive ranges  Need for Instruction Typical Strength T-scores: T-scores: T-scores: 40 and below 41 - 59 60 and above  Reflects a lack of skill acquisition	Both the DESSA-mini and the DESSA report results using T-scores:  T-scores are categorized into three descriptive ranges, and as strength-based measures, higher T-scores mean a higher level of social and emotional competence. Scores of 60 and above are considered a strength; scores between 41-59 inclusive are considered typical (demonstrating typical patterns of development); and scores of 40 and below indicate a need for instruction. A common implementation practice includes completing a DESSA-mini screener for all students. For the students that demonstrate a need for instruction on the DESSA-mini, then a full DESSA assessment is then completed. (Click) The term need for instruction was thoughtfully chosen to convey that the student needs support and instruction in this area. That is, it reflects that the student has not YET acquired these skills. It is NOT a personality trait or deficit. Rather, it is simply a lack of skill acquisition. So, the goal is not to label or stigmatize students within the "Need" range, but instead, it's used to increase our awareness as educators that a student needs our instruction, assistance, and support in acquiring and practicing these important skills. Once we've identified a need for instruction, it's OUR responsibility to have a system or plan in place to support skill development and provide that instruction. We the information from the follow-up DESSA assessment to gather really specific information on a student so that we can support them moving forward.
Slide 17	DESSA: Continuum of Scores	<ul> <li>The DESSA standardization sample closely approximated the student population of the United States with respect to age, gender, geographic region of residence, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.</li> <li>From the standardization sample, we can anticipate that the majority of students (68%) will demonstrate typical patterns of development when it comes to their social and emotional skills, and that 16% of students will demonstrate strengths in these areas, as well as 16% of students indicating a need for instruction.</li> <li>The DESSA manual details the development and standardization of the assessments, including the psychometric properties (validity and reliability), and specific directions for administering, scoring, and interpreting the results of the assessments. The DESSA manuals can be downloaded from the Aperture website (under the "DESSA" tab), for more information about those details.</li> </ul>

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 18	DESSA Uses  Universal Screening Progress Monitoring Outcomes Measurement  School Leaders Support funding requests	<ul> <li>Earlier in the session, we identified data collection as an important part of any SEL program, as it can help to drive meaningful change and evaluate outcomes.</li> <li>The DESSA assessment is utilized for universal screening, progress monitoring, and outcome measurement, including program evaluation.</li> <li>The implementation of this data collection process may depend on your school's approach to SEL, and we will cover the general implementation timeline later.</li> <li>(Click) Additionally, this information will be beneficial for your roles as school leaders, as it can help to inform school-wide improvement plans and support funding requests. You may choose to utilize this data to create school-wide goals or to demonstrate the value of services, supports, and resources for students and educators on grant or other funding applications.</li> </ul>
Slide 19	DESSA Reflections  After learning about the DESSA, what questions, curiosities, or epiphanies do you have?  Questions  Curiosities  Aha!	To recap, the DESSA-mini screener results in one score that provides an overall picture of the student's social and emotional skills. Using the t-score and descriptive category that is yielded, we can consider how best to support the student's growth in social, emotional, and academic areas.  •We understand it was a lot of information, so let's debrief in a reflection. As you reflect on what you learned about the DESSA, what questions, curiosities, or epiphanies do you have?
Slide 20	Think-Pair-Share  How might a strength-based approach improve:  Conversations about student support?  Culture and climate?  Engagement with families?	We've talked a lot about a strength-based approach and how that DESSA can support that mindset. In a few moments I will invite you to pair up and talk about how a strength-based approach can improve elements of school culture and climate.  Take a moment to jot down some thoughts and then we'll pair up and share.
Slide 21	WHAT IS THE DESSA? HOW TO COMPLETE RATINGS THE EDUCATOR PORTAL DIMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE  AGENDA	Now that we know what the DESSA is, let's practice how to use it. It's time to complete a rating.

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
SLIDE	Tips for Completing Ratings  1. Be intentional in observation 2. Get familiar with DESSA items 3. Be strategic 4. Think broadly 5. Stick to YOUR facts 6. Plan your rating time	In just a moment, we'll take some time to complete a DESSA-mini as our next engagement activity. First, we'll include some tips or best practices for completing ratings, whether you are the rater or you are supporting this implementation by sharing this information with staff.  • (Click) Be intentional with observations. Doing this helps you to get to know your students better, puts on a positive lens to look for strength-based behaviors, and also helps you to understand more about social and emotional competence. It also allows for you to be less biased when observing your students.  • (Click) Familiarize yourself with the DESSA assessment questions. The more you know about the assessment, the easier your intentional observation will be and the more accurately you will be able to complete your rating. You can download the DESSA-mini/DESSA you will use from the support portal. I will show you where to find it later when we look at the online system. Read it over, think about the behaviors it asks about, and when and how you might observe them. Do a sample rating on someone you know for practice.  • (Click) Be strategic and think about activities that provide you a chance to see specific skills, and ways to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate specific skills. Remember, to observe intentionally and from a strengths-based lens, do not complete observations during a time when you know the student is struggling or exhibiting maladaptive behaviors. (Click) Think broadly and try not to overthink or over analyze especially when completing the rating for the DESSA-mini. Ask yourselves simple questions like this: What can students do on their own? How often do they do it?  • (Click) Stick to the facts. Raters will base their rating on the last 4 weeks with the student, not an interpretation or what they have "heard" about the student. Remember an intentional observation and accurate rating will be unbiased and based only on what the rater views during the observation period.  • (Click) Finally, it's impor
		(Optional Facilitation: Read each question aloud to educators as they complete the rating).



SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 27	Site Leader Dashboard   The state of the sta	When you log in to your account, the dashboard will provide a quick snapshot of the rating progress and data that has been collected based on the current or most recent rating window.  The user access in the Aperture System dictates what information is displayed on the dashboard and the types or amount of data viewable in your Aperture System account.
Slide 28	Educator Dashboard   The state of the state	When a user first logs into the Aperture System, the dashboard will likely appear blank since there won't be any ratings completed yet and therefore, there won't be any data in the system.  Once ratings begin to occur that data will populate in the system and be able to be viewed here as well in the data and insights tab, which we will go over in more detail in a few moments.
Slide 29	Complete Ratings  Ratings tab shows assigned some the same that the same	<ul> <li>Under the "Ratings" tab, educators will be able to view their assigned roster of students.</li> <li>As a reminder, an educator will have to answer all 8 questions on a DESSA-mini. You can skip a question and come back to it; however, you cannot skip a question and complete the rating.</li> <li>The circles on the left side of the student names indicate whether or not they've been rated, and the descriptive range in which they scored.</li> <li>Gray signifies that they have not been rated, red means they have a need for instruction, blue means they scored in the typical range, and green means they scored in the strength range.</li> <li>Students with a check mark have had a DESSA 2 completed.</li> <li>Clicking on a student with a red circle and no check mark will automatically initiate a full assessment.</li> <li>Click on a student with a blue or green circle and no check mark, will show you their T-Score and give you the option to progress monitor.</li> </ul>
Slide 30	Data & Insights  Real-time results Interactive, filterable charts Downloadable reports  Pownloadable reports  The results reports reports  The results reports reports reports  The results reports reports reports  The results reports	Data and Insights will give you just that: data from the DESSA assessments and insights into how you can support your students.  You'll get Real-time results, Interactive, filterable charts, and Downloadable reports

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCDIDT
Slide 31	DESSA-aligned Strategies    International Strategies   International Strate	SCRIPT  Under the Strategies tab, there are resources for social and emotional behavioral instruction categorized by competency and grade level.
Slide 32	Training  Aperture System Academy  Const for Learning Frances  Learning Training  Aperture System Academy  Const for Learning Frances  Learning Training  Approximate System Academy  Approximate Sys	<ul> <li>Choose your preferred learning modality in the Academy!</li> <li>There are self-paced courses for individuals who are new to the DESSA or those who just need a refresher.</li> <li>The on-demand video library provides short self-service videos that help users with DESSA implementation, and we offer live monthly office hours on pre-selected topics as well.</li> <li>The Support Portal is open 24/7, offering resources to help guide users through the DESSA system.</li> </ul>
Slide 33	WHAT IS THE DESSA?  HOW TO COMPLETE RATINGS  THE EDUCATOR PORTAL  IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW  OPTIMISTEC CLOSURE  AGENDA	So, we know what the DESSA is, we know how to rate students using the DESSA, and we've ventured into the Educator Portal. Let's now take a step back to talk through how all of this information fits within the full scope of implementation.

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 34		It helps to calibrate on the what the DESSA assessment process typically includes, keeping in mind that every district or school site may have some different processes in places based on their implementation plan (Click) Generally speaking:
	Implementation Overview  Pre-Assessment Post-Assessment  Start of School Year School Year  Mid-Assessment  Ongoing, universal, and data-driven SEL Instruction Targeted intervention and individualized instruction, as needed	<ul> <li>After the beginning of the school year, once the educator has had a minimum of 4 weeks to observe their class, all students are screened using the DESSA-mini. A follow up DESSA assessment is typically completed if a student demonstrates a need for instruction based on the DESSA-mini results.</li> <li>A mid-assessment rating window is opened for educators to gather more data and a post-assessment is completed prior to the end of</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>the school year</li> <li>(Click) Throughout the school year, ongoing, universal, and datadriven instruction of social and emotional skills is provided to all students, and targeted intervention and/or individualized instruction is provided to students who demonstrate a need for further support in specific skills areas, typically in the small group or individual setting</li> <li>Additionally, throughout the school year, staff are having discussions about the data they collect or best practices for supporting students in this development, and are working together</li> </ul>
		to create a supportive school culture and climate, the foundation for students to grow  (Click) A key point to keep in mind, regardless of what this process may look like at your site, is that the teaching and learning of social and emotional competencies are continuous.  Educators are constantly teaching these skills, whether it's through explicit instruction, modeling, or relationship building with students.  Students are constantly learning from each other, about themselves, and by interacting with adults within their school environment.  It's not just during the rating windows of collecting data that we are actively involved in this process; it's all year round.
Slide 35		<ul> <li>With that said, important to keep in mind that: IMPLEMENTATION is a PROCESS that requires intentional PLANNING.</li> <li>There is naturally a continuum or life cycle of any kind of programmatic implementation</li> <li>Processes that contribute to successful and sustainable implementation take time and not every district, site, or educator is going to be in the same part of that process at the same time.</li> <li>And that is okay, we can trust the process. As long as we have created time to be intentional with our planning, to consider the different key components and what that looks like at our individual sites and within our individual roles, as well as the roles of others at our site and how we are collectively working together</li> <li>It's crucial for this planning to be not only realistic or feasible, but also valued by those key stakeholders involved.</li> </ul>

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Slide 35	Keep in Mind  Process  Intentional Planning	<ul> <li>With that said, important to keep in mind that: IMPLEMENTATION is a PROCESS that requires intentional PLANNING.</li> <li>There is naturally a continuum or life cycle of any kind of programmatic implementation</li> <li>Processes that contribute to successful and sustainable implementation take time and not every district, site, or educator is going to be in the same part of that process at the same time.</li> <li>And that is okay, we can trust the process. As long as we have created time to be intentional with our planning, to consider the different key components and what that looks like at our individual sites and within our individual roles, as well as the roles of others at our site and how we are collectively working together</li> <li>It's crucial for this planning to be not only realistic or feasible, but also valued by those key stakeholders involved.</li> </ul>

SLIDE	VISUAL	SCRIPT
Slide 36	Implementation Planning Resource  School Loader Implementation Chocklet  □ In the first the above here is two per in 2000. It supports the confecting the DESA-were and the DESA, as well as here to review and or during that results. □ In the transport of the Confection of the Confe	This School Leader Implementation Checklist outlines the steps of implementation, starting with preparing raters and school-based teams with training, designating pre-mid-and post-rating windows throughout the year, and analyzing and utilizing the data.  The full implementation guide with this checklist and other resources can be found in the Support Portal.
Slide 37	Implementation Planning Resource  Teacher Planning for DESA Implementation Checkiti    International Activities of the Activity Activities They are a considerable and the Activities and the Activities They are a considerable and the Activities and t	This Educator Implementation Checklist outlines the steps of implementation, starting with training and ending with an intentional review of student data.  The full implementation guide with this checklist and other resources can be found in the Support Portal.
Slide 38	Next Steps: Analyzing Data in the Educator Portal  System Sortup Getting Started vish the DESSA Period Analyzing Data in the Educator Desta in the Educator distort, school, such distort, school,	We've come to the end of today's training, but here's what you can expect next.  Our first rating period will open, we'll rate our students and then come back together for a training on how to access, review, and analyze that data in the Educator Portal.  Then we'll use that data to support and empower our kiddos!
Slide 39	WHAT IS THE DESSA? HOW TO COMPLETE RATINGS THE EDUCATOR PORTAL IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE  AGENDA	Well friends, we've reached the end of the road. Let's end our time together with an Optimistic Closure.
Slide 40	Optimistic Closure  Based on your takeaways, what is one way the DESSA System will help improve your practice?	We've now come to our final reflection. For our optimistic closure today, I want you to think about your gleanings from today's session.  Based on your takeaways, what is one way the DESSA System will help improve your practice?  (Facilitator option: Think-Pair-Share/Group share)  Thank you for your time and attention! Let's have a great year!  (Facilitator option: Close by rallying participants around mission/vision of DESSA in the school/district)