



Aperture Education

Quick-Start Guide: DESSA SSR

A guide to the basics of getting started with the DESSA System and the DESSA Student Self-Report for grades 6-12

LEARN HOW TO:



ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT

Log in to the DESSA System,
Activate Your Account



SUPPORT SELF-REPORT & POST-SSR OPTIONS

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



ACCESS DATA, STRATEGIES & SUPPORT

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

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OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE DESSA STUDENT SELF-REPORT (SSR)?

The DESSA Student Self-Report (SSR) is a self-assessment for 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 Challenges, and the ability to set their own SMART goals to monitor their progress and grow their 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 DESSA System.

FULL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

This quick-start guide is designed to take you through the basics of a full implementation of the DESSA SSR in a brief, accessible format. For more detailed information, frequently asked questions, and additional resources for your work, please view the full implementation guides (linked below) and the [Training tab](#) in your DESSA System, where you'll find many training and support options.

- [The Aperture Education Guide to Data-Driven SEL: High School Edition](#)
- [The Aperture Education Guide to Data-Driven SEL: Middle School Edition](#)

NOTES FOR SITE LEADERS, DISTRICT LEADERS, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

This guide contains information targeted toward the educators who will be facilitating the DESSA 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 data will be used, or the process you will use to collaboratively determine how it will be used.
- Share with staff how the DESSA Student Self-Report connects to your site or district's priorities and goals.
- Provide staff with appropriate training opportunities for implementation, which may include a self-paced course from Aperture Education.

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

Research suggests that empowering students with agency in their learning improves engagement, initiative, and leadership, leading to better academic outcomes. Student voice/choice, linked to social and emotional learning enhances engagement and achievement. This process teaches authentic engagement, leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills. The DESSA SSR and Student Portal empower students in reviewing and acting on their social and emotional data, fostering their growth. For more details, see "[Seen and Heard: Benefits of Incorporating Student Voice, Choice, and SEL Into the Academic Framework](#)" (CASEL, 2018).

ACTIVATING YOUR EDUCATOR DESSA 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 DESSA SYSTEM ACCOUNT

- Use [this DESSA 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

We recommend you obtain a full roster of the students you'll be supporting with the DESSA SSR; generally this is provided by your school leader. You may also need Student ID numbers on-hand when students register.

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT SELF-REPORT (SSR)



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



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 Student Self-Report.



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.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN REGISTERING THEIR STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNTS

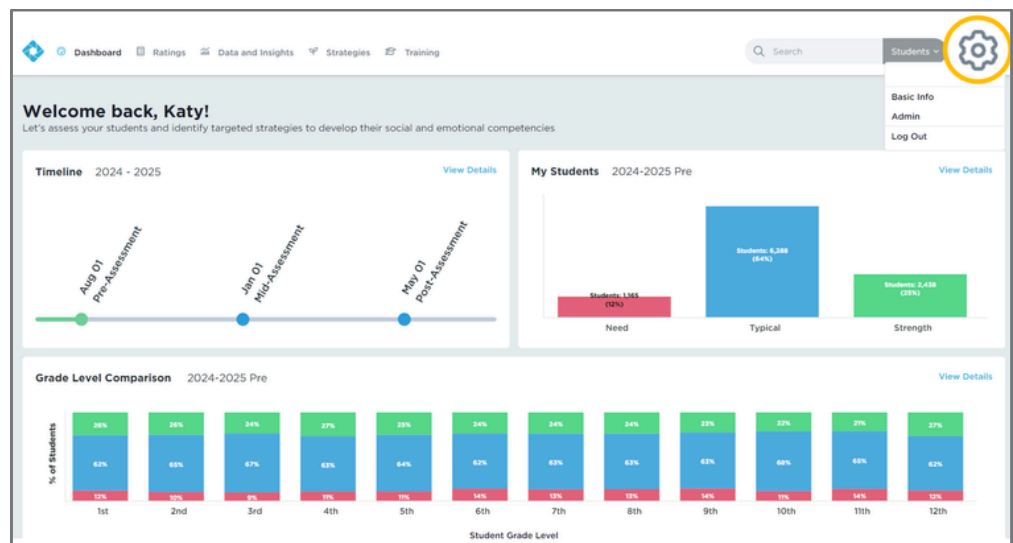
Before taking the DESSA SSR, students will need to create a Student Portal account. Students access the Student Portal in one of three ways: through a username and password, Clever SSO, or ClassLink SSO.

Note: There is no longer a need to use a Program Access Code. That step has been replaced with a username. Students cannot change their username because it is automatically generated. All students (new and returning) need to register for the 24-25 school year using the instructions below.

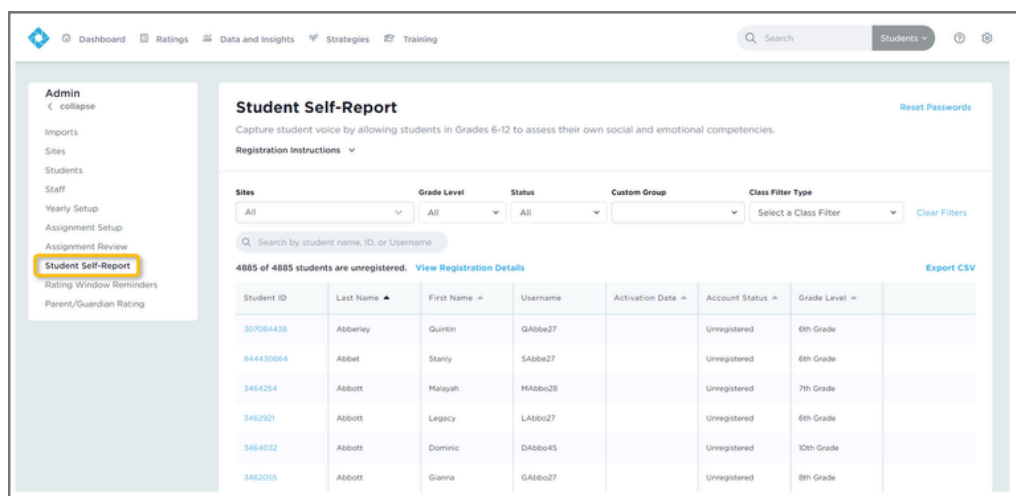
Viewing Student Registration Details and Login Information

To view student registration status, details, and login information:

1. From the DESSA Educator Portal dashboard, click Manage Students, or go to the gear icon >> Admin >> Student Self-Report.



2. Select View Registration Details. If needed, use the available filters to narrow down the list of students. For example, educators may want to use the Classroom filters to show one class period at a time. The Status filter will show the list of all registered or all unregistered students.

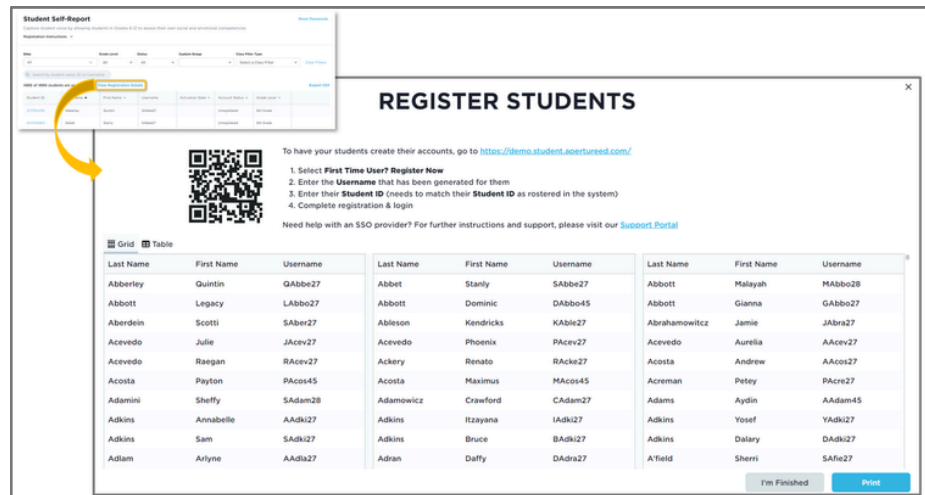


The 'Student Self-Report' page shows 4885 unregistered students. The table below lists the first six students.

Student ID	Last Name	First Name	Username	Activation Date	Account Status	Grade Level
307084438	Abberley	Quinn	QAbbw27		Unregistered	6th Grade
844430864	Abbet	Stony	SAbbw27		Unregistered	6th Grade
3464254	Abbott	Malayah	MAbbw28		Unregistered	7th Grade
3462901	Abbott	Legacy	LAbbw27		Unregistered	6th Grade
3464032	Abbott	Dominic	DAbbw45		Unregistered	10th Grade
3462055	Abbott	Gianna	GAbbw27		Unregistered	8th Grade

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN REGISTERING THEIR STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNTS

3. The registration details page shows instructions for students to register their account. This includes the Username generated for them but does not include their Student ID to protect student privacy. Educators can share this information with students by printing these details, or they can display this information for students. There is a QR code if students have device access, which will pull up the Register Account page for DESSA Student. If you click print, you'll have the option to print QR codes unique to each student, which will take them to the registration page with their username and student ID already filled in.



REGISTER STUDENTS

To have your students create their accounts, go to <https://demo.student.apertured.com/>

1. Select **First Time User? Register Now**
2. Enter the **Username** that has been generated for them
3. Enter their **Student ID** (needs to match their **Student ID** as rostered in the system)
4. Complete registration & login

Need help with an SSO provider? For further instructions and support, please visit our [Support Portal](#)

Last Name	First Name	Username	Last Name	First Name	Username	Last Name	First Name	Username
Abberley	Quintin	QABbe27	Abbet	Stanly	SABbe27	Abbott	Malayah	MABbo28
Abbott	Legacy	LABbo27	Abbott	Dominic	DABbo45	Abbott	Gianna	GABbo27
Aberdein	Scotti	SABer27	Ableson	Kendricks	KABle27	Abrahamowitz	Jamie	JABra27
Acevedo	Julie	JAceV27	Acevedo	Phoenix	PAceV27	Acevedo	Aurelia	AAceV27
Acevedo	Raegan	RAceV27	Ackery	Renato	RAcke27	Acosta	Andrew	AAcos27
Acosta	Payton	PAcos45	Acosta	Maximus	MAcos45	Acreman	Petey	PAcre27
Adamini	Shelby	SAdam28	Adamowicz	Crawford	CADam27	Adams	Aydin	AAdam45
Adkins	Annabelle	AAdki27	Adkins	Itzayana	IAdki27	Adkins	Yosef	YAdki27
Adkins	Sam	SAdki27	Adkins	Bruce	BAdki27	Adkins	Dalry	DAdki27
Adlam	Arlayne	AADla27	Adran	Daffy	DADra27	Afield	Sherri	SAFie27

I'm Finished **Print**

4. Students can follow the steps on the Register Students window to register their account.

Note: All students (new and returning) need to register for the 24-25 school year. To check student registration status, review the Account Status column on the Student Self-Report page. This column will show “Unregistered” if the student hasn't registered for the Student Portal. Once the student registers, it will show “Registered”.

Student Self-Report Registration with Clever or ClassLink SSO

All students (new and returning) need to register for the 24-25 school year using the instructions above. They will need to enter their system-generated username and student ID, and then accept the terms and conditions. The next time the students need to access the DESSA Student Portal, they will click on the Aperture Ed app in their Clever or ClassLink portal and go immediately to their Student Self-Report.

Password Resets:

A unique reset code is needed for students to reset their password. This reset code can be provided to registered students who are unable to login or have forgotten their passwords.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN REGISTERING THEIR STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNTS**To Reset Passwords:**

1. From the DESSA Educator Portal dashboard, click Manage Students, or go to the gear icon >> Admin >> Student Self-Report.
2. Select Reset Passwords in the upper right-hand corner. A unique reset password code will appear along with a QR code.
3. Students can scan the QR code or go to <https://student.apertureed.com/reset-password> and enter the reset code along with their Username to reset their password. **Note:** This reset code will expire in 30 minutes. If students are unable to reset their password within that time frame, a new reset code will need to be generated.

Troubleshooting Tips for Username and Password Login:

Here are the most common errors we have found during login and registration:

- New students try to log into the Student Portal before registering their account.
- Returning students: try to log into the Student Portal before re-registering their account.
- Solution: Students who have not yet registered/re-registered their account with the username and password will need to first register their account.

Check out more information using these Support Portal Articles:

- [Getting Started with the DESSA Student Self-Report \(SSR\)](#)
- [Viewing Student Registrations for the DESSA Student Portal](#)
- [SSO Instruction One-Pagers](#)
- [Signing in with Microsoft or Google SSO](#) (*staff SSO login only*)

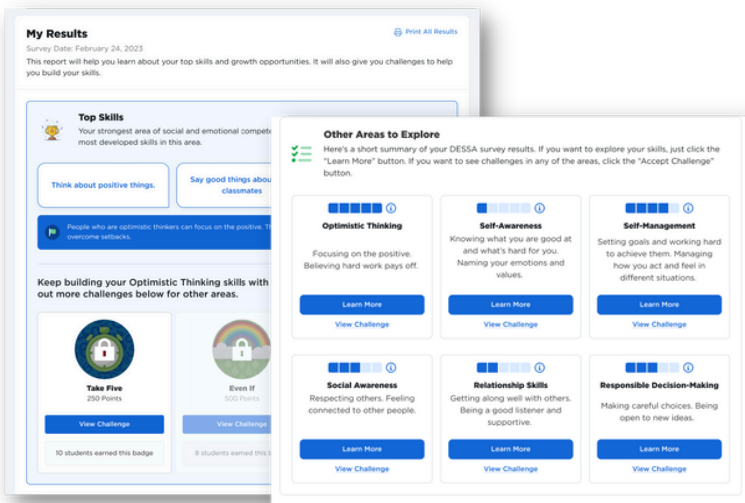
COMPLETING THE STUDENT SELF-REPORT

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 SSR is available in a variety of languages. If students need to switch their language, this option is available on the bottom right of their Student Portal.

The DESSA SSR takes about 5 minutes to complete, and must be done in one sitting so students won't lose their progress. To return to a previous question, students can click Go Back at the bottom of the screen.

AFTER THE SSR: STUDENT NEXT STEPS

Students' DESSA SSR results are available immediately after they finish the self-report. Allow time for students to analyze these results by clicking through the **Learn More** buttons under each social and emotional competency. They can also 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. You can refer to this [demo](#) for an illustration of how students can add a goal.



1

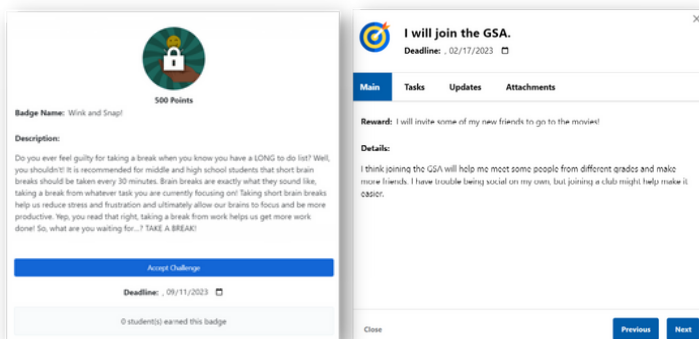
DESSA SSR results in the Student Portal are displayed as "battery bars" showing each competency as skills that are their strengths, skills they're good at, and skills that are growth opportunities.

2

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

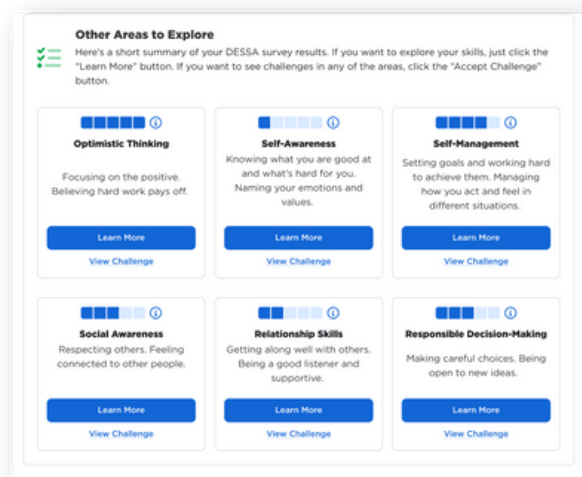
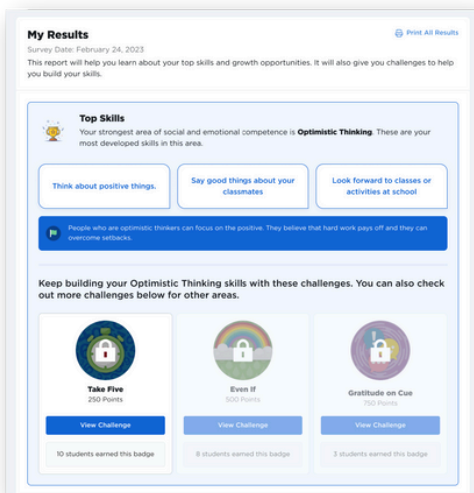
3

Students may also accept Challenges or create SMART goals in categories that appeal to them. They earn points in the Student Portal for completing assessments, completing each Challenge, accomplishing SMART goals, and other tasks.

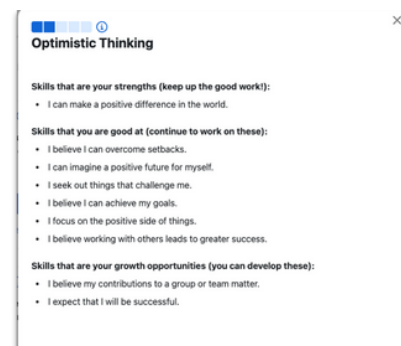
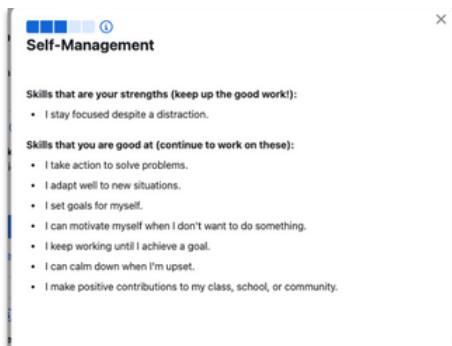


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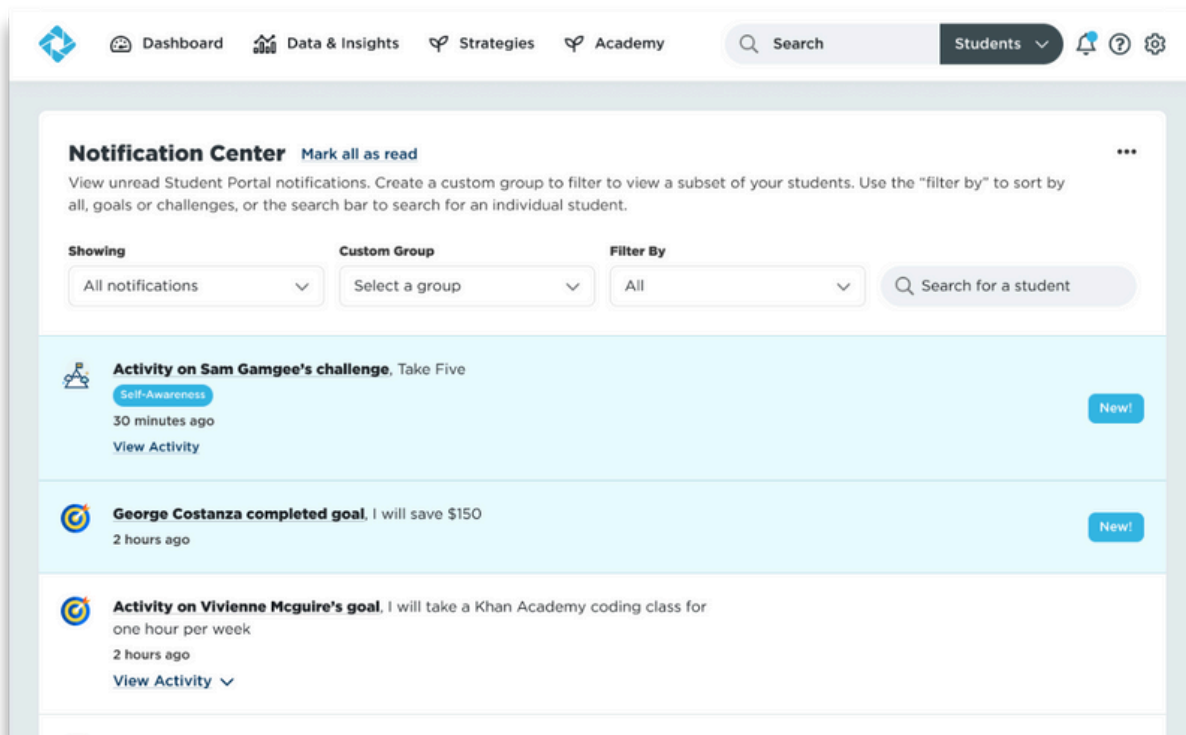
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AFTER THE SSR: EDUCATOR NEXT STEPS

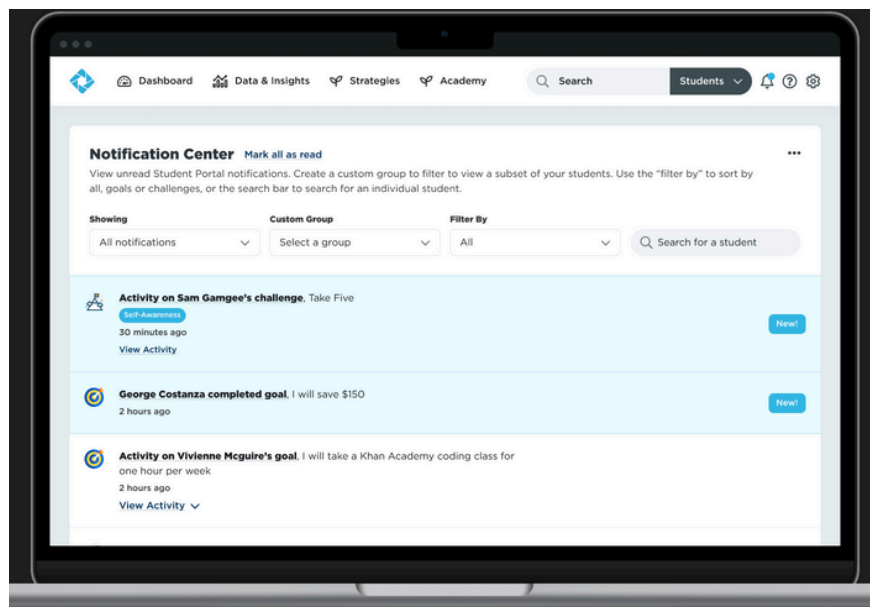
After each rating period, educators should engage in a data-review process that includes: accessing the data, reviewing the data, acting on the data, and continued progress monitoring.

- 1** Access and Review the Data: Log in to your DESSA System educator portal 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 support student growth and skill development. Explore the resources available under the **Strategies** tab of the DESSA System.
- 3** Monitor Progress: The SSR may be administered up to four times a year; many sites choose to administer it in the fall, winter, and spring. Review SSR results in the **Impact Report** (see more below) to make students' progress over time visible.
- 4** Notification Center: Educators may monitor students' progress and activity in the Student Portal in real-time! Click the bell icon to the right, located in the navigation bar of the DESSA System. For more information, view this Support Portal article: [Notification Center for SSR Educators](#)

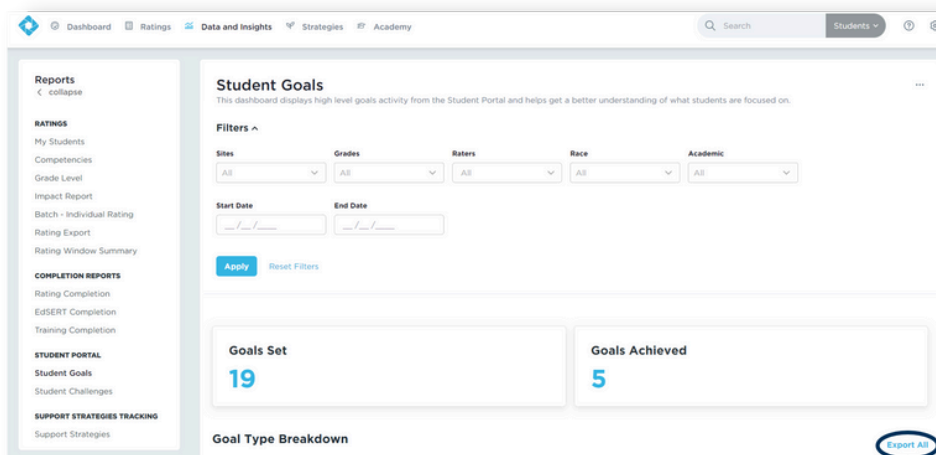


SUPPORTING STUDENT GOALS AND CHALLENGES

Educators assigned to a given student can view that student's Challenge and SMART Goal activity on the **Individual Student Profile** in their educator view of the DESSA 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.

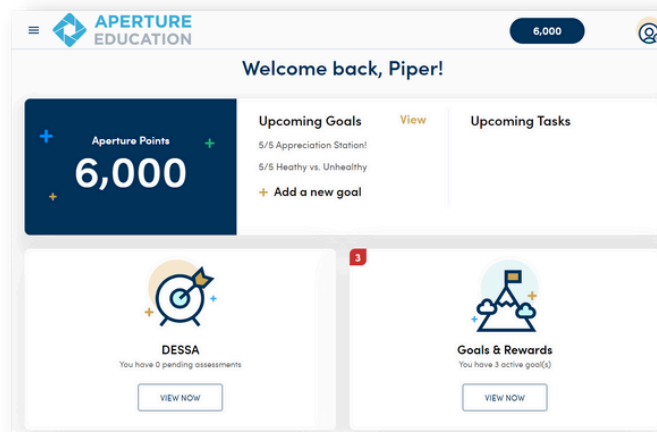


Another feature that may be useful to support students is **Export All**, which will allow you to view a list of all SMART goals or Challenges instead of having to access the Notification Center or Individual Student Profile. On your educator view of the DESSA System, click the **Data and Insights** 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.



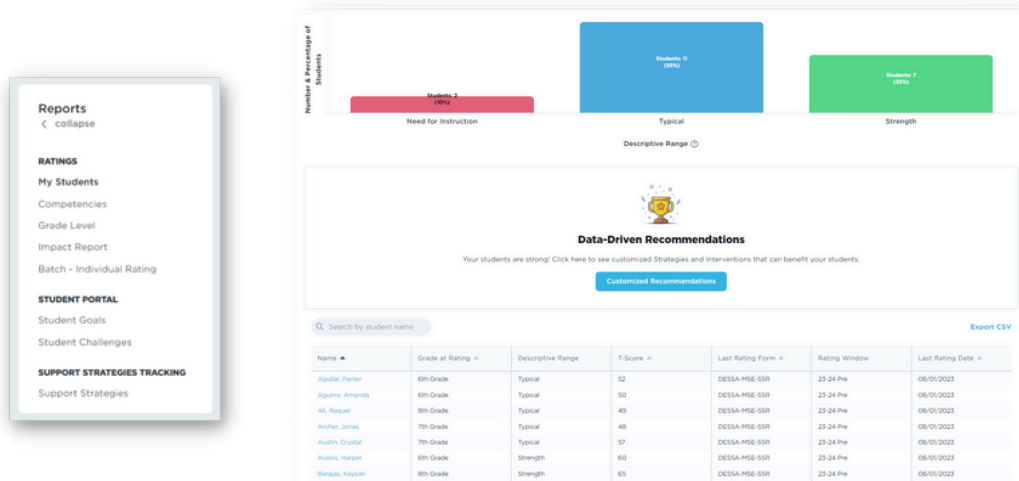
SUPPORTING STUDENT GOALS AND CHALLENGES

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 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.



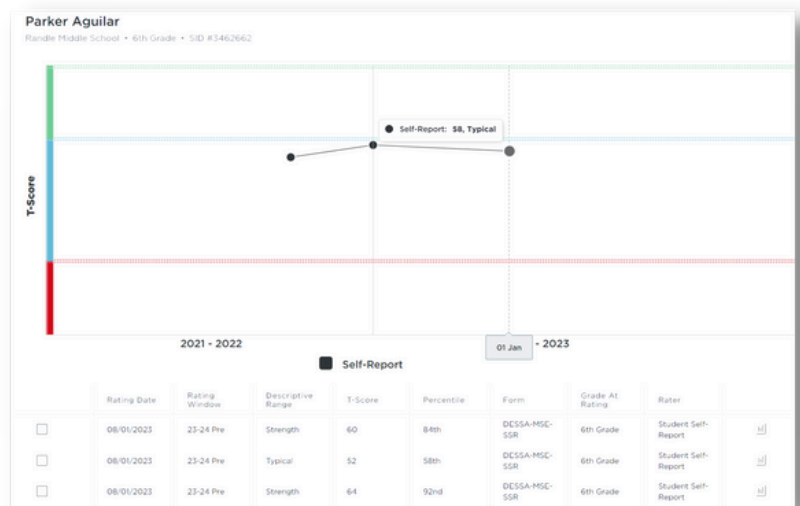
ACCESSING REPORTS ON THE DATA AND INSIGHTS TAB

To access reports, log into the DESSA 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 Student Self-Report.





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.

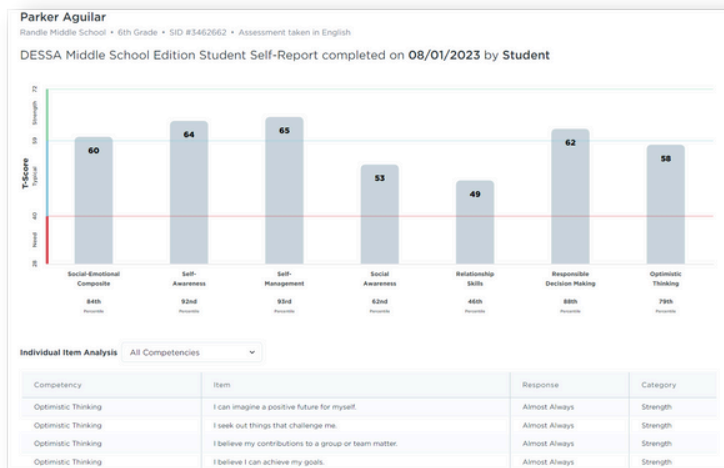


INDIVIDUAL RATING REPORT AND ITEM ANALYSES

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

	Rating Date	Rating Window	Descriptive Range	T-Score	Percentile	Form	Grade At Rating	Rater	
<input type="checkbox"/>	08/10/2023	23-24 Pre	Need	40	16th	DESSA-SSR	7th Grade	Student Self-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

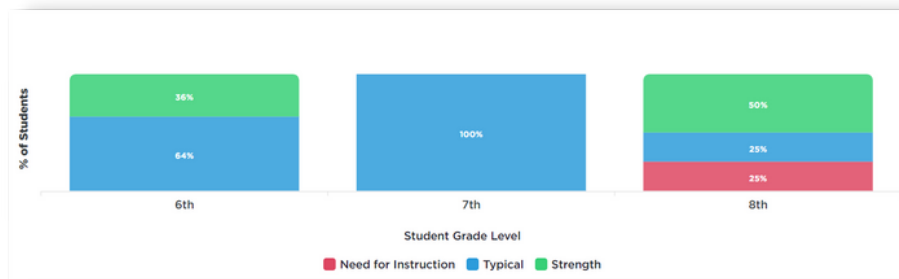
The **Competencies Report** shows the breakdown of students across the descriptive ranges for a given competency. This chart can initially skew heavily toward **Need for Instruction** because its default view includes only students who have been rated by an educator using the full DESSA diagnostic assessment.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

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.



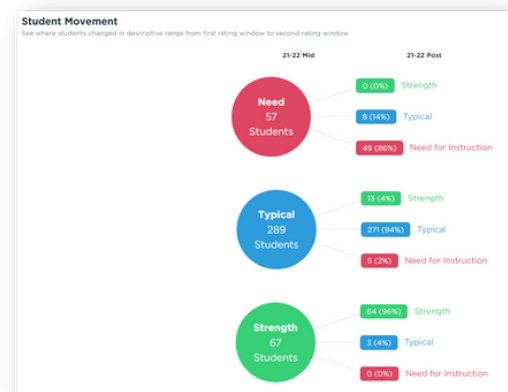
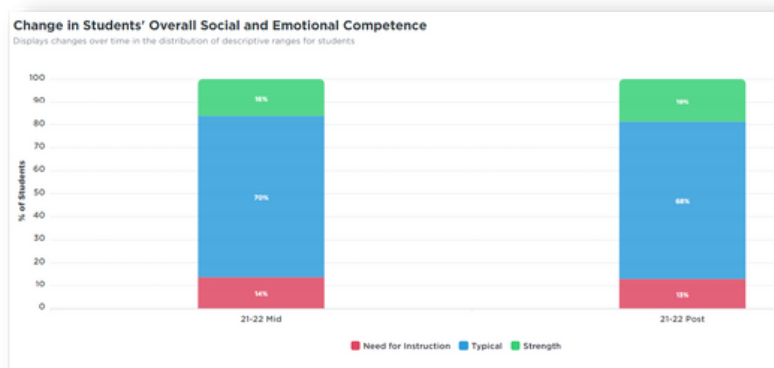
GRADE LEVEL REPORT

The **Grade Level Report** shows the breakdown of students across descriptive ranges in selected grades. User role dictates access to data in the DESSA 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.



IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Under the Strategies tab, educators have access to different resources to support student growth and skill development. Access to these resources may vary depending on your district or program's implementation plan.

- The **Foundational Practices** are resources that are easy to implement consistently at the universal level. These strategies and best practices create a supportive and positive learning environment throughout a school and within a classroom.
- The **Strategies** are research-based, DESSA-aligned materials that provide direct instruction of social and emotional skills through lessons, activities, and reflections.
- The **Tier 2 Intervention Programs** consist of five multi-week programs designed for targeted, small group instruction for students who need intensive skill building. Lessons within the Tier 2 Intervention Programs are designed to be delivered in a scope and sequence that builds skills through repeated practice and active engagement. The programs are grouped by grade bands: Early Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, and High School.
- If the **Data-Driven Recommendations** feature is enabled for your district, educators will be provided with universal Strategies and targeted Tier 2 Interventions based on their collected DESSA data.

Interested in purchasing these materials for your district? Learn more [here](#) or connect with your Aperture Success Manager to learn more!



Foundational Practices | Positive Climate

Celebrate Small Successes

Purpose: Celebrating small successes can help students take time to reflect on their accomplishments. It can also help promote academic thinking and has been shown to improve mental health. By celebrating small achievements, students receive ongoing recognition for their efforts that can help them persevere through setbacks and encourage them to take on larger challenges. Research supports the idea that celebrating student success in the classroom significantly impacts their memory, learning, motivation, and other cognitive functions. When students receive positive feedback for something they have done, the brain is signaled to repeat this action! Celebrations do not have to be a big deal - they can be as simple as sending shout-outs to students for their hard work or helping a classmate. Celebrating as a class can also build a stronger community and create a more positive learning environment.

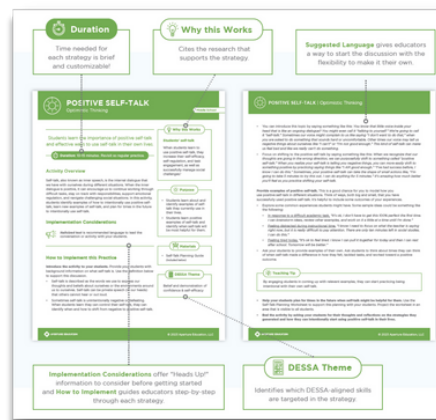
Key Principles:

- Celebrations should not only be for achievements but also for taking risks and for effort.
- Check with students on their preferences for recognition - some may prefer more public acknowledgment while others prefer a written note or 1:1 acknowledgment.

Ideas and Examples:

- Shout-outs are an opportunity to call out someone's positive contributions. You can set aside a few minutes of class time for students to share their shout-out. You can have a bulletin board where students can post their shout-out with a sticky note. Include parents by sending an email home.
- Play students' "walk out" song. At the beginning of the year, ask students to tell you their favorite song you may want to update this survey periodically - when you want to celebrate a student's success, play their song, and have a one-minute dance party. For students who don't want to be publicly recognized, you can just play the student's song without announcing anything.
- Give students a thank you note. Use sticky notes to send students a thank you for something specific - helping a classmate or helping to lead a class discussion. Place the note on their desk.

Example of a Foundational Practice



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

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

Suggested Language: gives educators a way to start the discussion with the flexibility to make it their own.

POSITIVE SELF-TALK

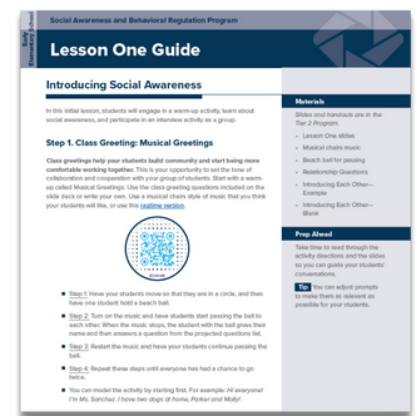
Students use: An expression of positive self-talk and affirmations to set goals for their work.

Activity Overview: Students use positive self-talk to set goals for their work. They use the provided affirmations to set goals for their work. They use the provided affirmations to set goals for their work.

Implementation Considerations: Offer "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 Strategy resource



Social Awareness and Behavioral Regulation Program

Lesson One Guide

Introducing Social Awareness

In this lesson, students will engage in a warm-up activity, learn about social awareness, and participate in an interactive activity as a group.

Step 1: Class Greeting: Musical Greetings

Class greetings help your students build community and start being more comfortable working together. This is your opportunity to set the tone of collaboration and cooperation with your group of students. Start with a warm-up called Musical Greetings. Use the class greeting questions included on the slide deck or write your own. Use a musical chair style of music that you think your students will like, or use this [VIDEO](#).

Materials:

- Slides and handouts are in the Tier 2 Program
- Lesson One Slides
- Musical chairs music
- Beach ball for passing
- Background: Questions
- Introducing Each Other... Example
- Introducing Each Other... Blank

Prep Ahead: Take time to read through the activity questions and the slides so you can guide your students' conversations.

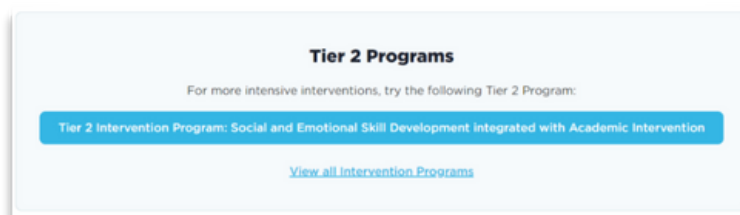
Tip: You can adjust prompts to meet them as relevant as possible for your students.

Steps:

- Step 1: Have your students move so that they are in a circle, and then take one student's beach ball.
- Step 2: Turn on the music and have students start passing the ball to each other. When the music stops, the student with the ball gives their name and then answers a question from the prepared questions list.
- Step 3: Restart the music and have your students continue passing the ball.
- Step 4: Repeat these steps until everyone has had a chance to go twice.

Note: You can modify the activity by starting first. For example, "Hi everyone! I'm Ms. Sanchez. I love my dog at home. How about you?"

Example of a Tier 2 Intervention Program lesson



Tier 2 Programs

For more intensive interventions, try the following Tier 2 Program:

Tier 2 Intervention Program: Social and Emotional Skill Development integrated with Academic Intervention

[View all Intervention Programs](#)

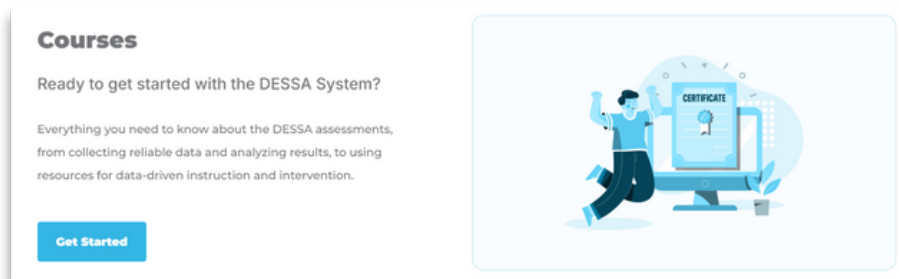
Example of Data-Driven Recommendations

SUPPORT STRATEGIES TRACKING

Educators can add support strategies for individual students, small groups, and/or universal instruction from the bottom of their DESSA 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.

DESSA SYSTEM TRAINING

[DESSA System Training](#) resources are located under the Training tab in the DESSA System, including self-paced courses, short training videos, Office Hours and live virtual sessions. Explore the different options to dive deeper into analyzing the collected data, implementation best practices, and downloadable resources get started with your professional learning!



Click on the image to access the [On-Demand Video Library](#) (located under the Training tab in the DESSA System)

GETTING SUPPORT

Additional resources for all users in the DESSA System include video tutorials, 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.