**Instructions for use**

Customize this template to share with your school teams, starting with the content highlighted in yellow.

**Subject Line:** Introducing DESSA: Measuring Social & Emotional Skills for Student Success

**Content:**

Hi team,

Over two decades of research has helped us understand the important role social and emotional skills play in each child’s success in school, in the community, and, eventually, in higher education and the workplace. Skills such as demonstrating self-control, persisting at challenging tasks, making good decisions, and working well in groups are all necessary to being successful students and adults.

This year, our district/organization will start using the [DESSA System](https://info.apertureed.com/hubfs/The-DESSA-System-Overview-Brochure.pdf) to support our students in developing these skills that will help them become successful and responsible adults.

The DESSA System uses research-based screeners and assessments to proactively identify students’ social-emotional strengths and risky behaviors to inform tiered instruction. Once we identify the skills students still need to learn, we will teach those skills using <strategies from DESSA and/or your SEL curriculum name>.

I am excited about using the DESSA System because <insert why you personally are excited about this initiative, and what it will mean for your students, teachers, and district as a whole>

We will share more information about what this initiative means for you <insert the next time they will hear about DESSA, such as in a meeting or future email>. In the meantime, please contact <insert point of contact> with any initial questions you might have.

Want to start learning more now? Check out the resources below.

* To learn more about DESSA assessments, check out [this 4-minute video](https://screenpal.com/watch/c0floCVaKA4).
* To learn more about how DESSA relates to our state’s standards, check out this crosswalk, <See state crosswalks [here](https://selcompass.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/13454078658445-DESSA-Competency-Alignment-to-States-Standards). Link to the specific resource for your state>