

Idaho College and Career Readiness Standards and DESSA Crosswalk

February 2025

Approved in 2017 by the Idaho State Board of Education, the [Idaho College and Career Readiness Competencies](#) represent a set of knowledge, skills, and attributes that broadly prepare high school graduates for a successful transition into some form of postsecondary education and/or the workplace.

The DESSA suite of assessments measures key social and emotional competencies essential for student success now and into the future. The DESSA assessments span kindergarten through 12th grade and can be completed by educators, students, and parents or guardians. The assessments are nationally standardized, norm-referenced, strength-based behavior rating scales, measuring the positive skills, behaviors, and mindsets necessary for students to thrive now and in the future.

This crosswalk highlights the alignment between the Idaho College and Career Readiness Competencies and their Subskills and DESSA assessment items. It demonstrates how the DESSA assessments can be used by districts and schools to prepare high school graduates to lead a successful and meaningful life.

Alignment between the Idaho College and Career Readiness Competencies and DESSA Items

1.0 Knowledge of Core Subjects	
Possess proficiency in the core subjects (language arts/communication, math, science, social studies, humanities and health/wellness), and ability to apply this knowledge and understanding to be successful in college or the workplace.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1.1 Choose and apply learning strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update their thinking as they learn more about something• Think before they acted• Take action to solve problems• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork
1.2 Conduct inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask questions when learning new things• Ask for advice when needed• Feel comfortable asking for help when they don't understand something• Show a willingness to examine their beliefs and opinions
1.3 Evaluate central ideas and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather information before making an important decision• Update their thinking as they learn more about something• Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people

1.4 Apply knowledge and skills to relevant and authentic tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Think before they acted • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork
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2.0 Critical Thinking/Creative Problem Solving	
Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, identify problems and use good judgment to implement solutions and overcome problems. The individual is able to obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and may demonstrate originality and inventiveness.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
2.1 Analyze issues in various contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people • Gather information before making an important decision
2.2 Solve mathematical problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to solve problems • Keep working until they achieve a goal
2.3 Design test solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
2.4 Construct evidence-based arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork

3.0 Oral/Written Communications	
Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms. The individual has public speaking skills; is able to express ideas to others; and can write/edit correspondence and reports clearly and effectively.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
3.1 Formulate and develop ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people
3.2 Engage in academic discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective • Listen to others
3.3 Prepare and finalize ideas in written formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Gather information before making an important decision • Persist to achieve a goal
3.4 Create and deliver presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Think before they acted

4.0 Teamwork/Collaboration	
Build collaborative relationships, work effectively within a team structure, and negotiate and manage conflict.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
4.1 Build collaborative relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to group or team goals • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Show appreciation for others • Encourage others • Believe working with others leads to greater success
4.2 Contribute to roles and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Accept responsibility for their actions • Believe their contributions to a group or team matter
4.3 Navigate interpersonal conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve conflicts positively • Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Stand up for a friend or classmate • Can compromise for the good of the group

5.0 Digital Literacy	
Confidently and effectively perform tasks in a digital environment through the use of information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, interpret, create and communicate ideas and information requiring both cognitive and technical skills.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
5.1 Choose and evaluate online sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Think before they acted
5.2 Develop and apply knowledge of safety, privacy and fair use practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Do the right thing in a difficult situation • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
5.3 Create and communicate in a digital environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust their behavior to match different settings • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Feel comfortable being themselves in different situations

6.0 Leadership	
Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common outcomes or goals, and use interpersonal skills to encourage others. The individual is able to assess their emotions; use empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and organize, prioritize, and delegate work.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
6.1 Organize a team to work effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Believe working with others leads to greater success • Resolve conflicts positively
6.2 Encourage, guide, and motivate others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage others • Show appreciation for others • Listen to others • Compliment or congratulate others • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective
6.3 Organize, prioritize, and delegate work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think before they acted • Contribute to group or team goals • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork
6.4 Reflect on learning and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop their personal strengths • Listen to feedback so they can improve • Express high expectations for themselves • Update their thinking as they learn more about something

7.0 Professionalism/Work Ethic	
Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits (e.g., punctuality, working productively with others, and time workload management), and understand the impact of non-verbal communication. The individual demonstrates integrity and ethical behavior, acts responsibly, and is able to learn from their mistakes.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
7.1 Build effective work habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay focused despite a distraction • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Stay calm when faced with a challenge • Contribute to group or team goals • Motivate themselves when they don't want to do something • Think before they acted
7.2 Communicate verbally and nonverbally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to others • Recognize others' emotions • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways

7.3 Demonstrate integrity and personal accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept responsibility for their actions • Do the right thing in a difficult situation • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Demonstrate a sense of who they are and what is important to them • Express high expectations for themselves
7.4 Practice self-reflection and personal growth strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to feedback so they can improve • Work to develop their personal strengths • Seek out challenging tasks

8.0 Career Exploration and Development	
Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify training, education and competencies necessary for professional growth. The individual is able to navigate and explore career options, and understands and can pursue opportunities.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
8.1 Identify, develop, and communicate strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show an awareness of their personal strengths • Work to develop their personal strengths • Listen to feedback so they can improve • Seek out challenging tasks • Speak positively about their future potential • Express high expectations for themselves
8.2 Build support networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe working with others leads to greater success • Ask for advice when needed • Feel comfortable asking for help when they don't understand something • Good at making and keeping friends
8.3 Develop an educational and career pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Gather information before making an important decision • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Demonstrate a sense of who they are and what is important to them • Set goals for themselves

9.0 Citizenship/Civic Responsibility	
Think critically about complex issues and evaluate information about issues of public consequence. Demonstrate knowledge of institutions and processes of government and political systems. Possess behaviors, attitudes, and understanding needed to be a knowledgeable, active and engaged member of a community.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
9.1 Participate in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nice things for people • Make others feel welcome or included • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Agree to and follow expectations for behavior • Contribute to creating a positive learning environment • Help make class a place everyone can learn • Get along with different types of people
9.2 Evaluate complex and relevant issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective
9.3 Build civic knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions when learning new things • Gather information before making an important decision • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
9.4 Improve my community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Can make a positive difference in the world • Help make their class a place where everyone can learn • Take action to solve problems

10.0 Financial Literacy	
Possess knowledge and understanding in the following areas: earning income, buying goods and services, using credit, saving and protecting assets and insuring.	
<i>Subskills</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
10.1 Practice short-term and long-term personal budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set goals for themselves • Persist to achieve a goal • Believe they can achieve their goals • Can imagine a positive future for themselves
10.2 Navigate financial tools, opportunities, and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Ask for advice when needed • Feel comfortable asking for help when they don't understand something
10.3 Demonstrate effective decision-making involving risk and reward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the right thing in a difficult situation • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Think before they acted



The DESSA System from Aperture Education: A Riverside Insights Company is a student resilience system that helps educators measure and strengthen social, emotional, and behavioral skills to reduce challenges that interfere with learning. The DESSA universal screening and supplemental assessments are widely used, practical, evidence-based measures of social and emotional competence of students in grades K-12. These powerful data analytic tools enable educators to identify trends, validate curriculum effectiveness, and drive positive academic and well-being outcomes for students. Robust reporting in the DESSA System provides insights for educators and staff to proactively differentiate instruction using DESSA-provided instructional strategies and tiered intervention resources. The DESSA System's strength-based approach is grounded in resilience theory and designed to bring the whole child into focus. To learn more, visit www.ApertureEd.com.