

New Hampshire Work-Study Practices and DESSA Crosswalk

September 2024

The [New Hampshire Work-Study Practices](#), passed by the New Hampshire State Legislature in 2014, are behaviors that enhance learning achievement and promote a positive work ethic. They were developed as a set of habits of mind that all New Hampshire students need to demonstrate proficiency in order to be college and career ready. The Work-Study practices are one of three components of the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards, along with academic background knowledge and skills.

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.

This crosswalk highlights the alignment between the New Hampshire Work-Study Practices and DESSA assessment items. It demonstrates how the DESSA assessments can be used by districts and schools to promote all students' progress toward college and career readiness with clearly defined learning outcomes, as recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Alignment Between the New Hampshire Work-Study Practices and DESSA Items

Communication I can use various media to interpret, question, and express knowledge, information, ideas, feelings, and reasoning to create mutual understanding.	
<i>Practices</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Communicate effectively using multiple modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask questions when learning new things• Get along well with different types of people
Interpret information using multiple senses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather information before making an important decision• Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Demonstrate ownership of the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events• Take action to solve problems• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork

Creativity I can use original and flexible thinking to communicate my ideas or construct a unique product or solution.	
<i>Practices</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Think originally and independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think before they acted • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Set goals for themselves
Take risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out things that challenge them • Accept that making mistakes is a part of learning • Stay calm when faced with a challenge
Consider alternate perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective
Incorporate diverse resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show a willingness to update their thinking

Collaboration I can work in diverse groups to achieve a common goal.	
<i>Practices</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Contribute respectfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to group or team goals • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Believe working with others leads to greater success
Listen and share resources and ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to others • Make others feel welcome and included • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways
Accept and fulfill roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Accept responsibility for their actions • Contribute to a positive learning environment • Believe their contributions to a group or team matter • Adjust behavior to match different settings
Exercise flexibility and willingness to compromise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compromise for the good of the group • Update their thinking when they learn something new • Adapt well to new situations • Able to resolve conflicts positively

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get along well with different types of people
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Self-Direction I can initiate and manage my learning, and demonstrate a “growth” mindset, through self-awareness, self-motivation, self-control, self-advocacy and adaptability as a reflective learner.	
<i>Practices</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Persevere in completing complex, challenging tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out challenging tasks • Believe they can overcome setbacks • Keep working until they achieve a goal • View negative outcomes as a learning opportunity
Use self-reflection to influence work and goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize their strengths • Work to develop their personal strengths • Show a willingness to examine their beliefs and opinions
Engage stakeholders to gain support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to feedback to improve • Ask for help when they don't understand something • Believe working with others leads to greater success



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.