

# New Mexico Career and Technical Education Standards for Excellence and DESSA Crosswalk

February 2025

In New Mexico, [Career Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) plays a vital role in preparing students for life beyond high school. Supported by the College and Career Readiness Bureau at the New Mexico Public Education Department, CTE equips students of all ages with the academic and technical skills necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. All CTE courses adhere to the rigorous New Mexico Career and Technical Education Standards for Excellence, ensuring students are prepared for the world of work.

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Mexico Career and Technical Education Standards for Excellence and DESSA assessment items. It demonstrates how the DESSA assessments can be used by districts and schools to prepare students for the rigorous demands of college and careers.

## Alignment between New Mexico Career and Technical Education Standards for Excellence

Strand 1: Academic foundations	
Content Standard	DESSA Items
1. Students will achieve the academic knowledge and skills required to pursue the full range of career and postsecondary education opportunities common to all career clusters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events</li><li>• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork</li><li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li></ul>
2. Students will develop specific language arts, math and science skills required to pursue pathway opportunities within a career cluster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li><li>• Think before they acted</li><li>• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork</li></ul>

Strand 2: Communications	
Content Standard	DESSA Items
1. Students will use oral and written communication skills in creating, expressing and interpreting information and ideas, including technical terminology and information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen to others</li><li>• Help make their class a place where everyone can learn</li><li>• Adjust their behavior to match difference settings</li><li>• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persist to achieve a goal</li> <li>• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork</li> </ul>
2. Students will locate, organize and reference written information from various sources to compose and prepare oral and written communications to convey technical concepts and company information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think before they acted</li> <li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 3: Problem solving and critical thinking</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will solve problems using critical thinking skills (analyze, synthesize and evaluate) independently and in teams, using creativity and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take action to solve problems</li> <li>• Cooperate with others to solve a problem</li> <li>• Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people</li> <li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> <li>• Show a willingness to examine their beliefs and opinions</li> </ul>
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and verify the appropriateness of a solution to a problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork</li> <li>• Keep trying when unsuccessful</li> <li>• Do the right thing in a difficult situation</li> <li>• Expect that they will be successful</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 4: Information technology applications</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will use information technology tools specific to the career cluster to access, manage, integrate and create information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li> <li>• Think before they acted</li> </ul>
2. Students will recognize and use information technology tools to access, manage, integrate, create and share information within a designated career pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust their behavior to match different settings</li> <li>• Adapt well to new situations</li> <li>• Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community</li> <li>• Expect that they will be successful</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 5: Systems</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will demonstrate understanding of roles within teams, work units, departments, organizations, inter-organizational systems and the larger environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe working with others leads to greater success</li> <li>• Cooperate with others to solve a problem</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe their contributions to a group or team matter</li> <li>• Contribute to group or team goals</li> </ul>
2. Students will identify how key organizational systems and government affect organizational performance and the quality of products and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> <li>• Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community</li> <li>• Can make a positive difference in the world</li> <li>• Take action to solve problems</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 6: Safety, health, and environmental management</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of health, safety and environmental management systems in organizations and their importance to organizational performance and regulatory compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior</li> <li>• Accept responsibility for their actions</li> <li>• Think before they act</li> </ul>
2. Students will follow organizational policies and procedures and contribute to continuous improvement in performance and compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior</li> <li>• Listen to feedback so they can improve</li> <li>• Seek out challenging tasks</li> <li>• Work to develop their personal strengths</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 7: Leadership and teamwork</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will use leadership and teamwork skills in collaborating with others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to group or team goals</li> <li>• Cooperate with others to solve a problem</li> <li>• Take action to solve problems</li> <li>• Encourage others</li> <li>• Show appreciation for others</li> <li>• Believe working with others leads to greater success</li> <li>• Believe their contributions to a group or team matter</li> </ul>
2. Students will employ conflict identification and resolution to achieve organizational goals and objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve conflicts positively</li> <li>• Listen to others</li> <li>• Respect a person's right to have a different opinion</li> <li>• Can compromise for the good of the group</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 8: Ethics and legal responsibilities</b>
--

<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will know and understand the importance of professional ethics and legal responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept responsibility for their actions</li> <li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li> </ul>
2. Students will apply business laws and regulations to business situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior</li> <li>• Think before they acted</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 9: Employability and career development</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will know and understand the importance of employability skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show an awareness of their personal strengths</li> <li>• Work to develop their personal strengths</li> </ul>
2. Students will apply and demonstrate technical skills required for career specialties within a selected career pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak positively about their future potential</li> <li>• Express high expectations for themselves</li> </ul>

<b>Strand 10: Technical Skills</b>	
<i>Content Standard</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
1. Students will demonstrate the use of technical knowledge and skills required to pursue careers in all career clusters, including knowledge of design, operation and maintenance of technological systems critical to the career cluster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set goals for themselves</li> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> </ul>
2. Students will apply and demonstrate technical skills required for career specialties within a selected career pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set goals for themselves</li> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> <li>• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events</li> </ul>



---

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](http://www.ApertureEd.com).