

Profile of a South Carolina Graduate and DESSA Crosswalk

March 2025

[The Profile of a South Carolina Graduate Competencies](#), developed in 2018, define the critical components of world class knowledge, world class skills, and life and career characteristics to ensure all students graduate ready for college, career, and citizenship. Each skill contains six readiness levels that can be used to explore and analyze growth in a particular skill.

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 Profile of the South Carolina Graduate Competency Statements and DESSA assessment items. It demonstrates how the DESSA assessments can be used by districts and schools to ensure every South Carolina student develops the skills to be fully and authentically engaged in their own social and emotional learning and life and career characteristics that are essential for college and career readiness.

Profile of a South Carolina Graduate	
Competency Statements	DESSA Items
Read Critically I can make meaning from diverse media to better understand the world around me.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork• Ask questions when learning new things• Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Express Ideas I can communicate through diverse formats for a range of purposes and audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to others• Ask questions when they did not understand something• Respect a person's right to have a different opinion• Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways• Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Investigate through Inquiry I can explore questions and build knowledge through inquiry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to feedback to so they can improve• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events• Gather information before making an important decision• Update their thinking as they learn more about something

<i>Competency Statements</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Reason Quantitatively I can work with numerical data, solve problems, and construct mathematical solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Take action to solve problems • Feel comfortable asking for help when they don't understand something • Gather information before making an important decision • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Use Sources I can assess the credibility of sources and synthesize my new learning to build knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions when learning new things • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Ask questions when they did not understand something • Gather information before making an important decision • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Design Solutions I can engage in a systematic design process to develop data-informed solutions to authentic design challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Think before they acted • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Ask for advice when needed
Learn Independently I can develop a plan, monitor my progress, and persevere through challenges to achieve my goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set goals for themselves • Keep working until they achieve a goal • Keep trying when unsuccessful • Believe they can achieve their goals • Express high expectations for themselves • Believe they can overcome setbacks • Adapt well to new situations
Navigate Conflict I can develop skills, strategies, and emotional awareness while navigating conflicts with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve conflicts positively • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Stand up for a friend or classmate • Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Compromise for the good of the group • Accept responsibility for their actions

<i>Competency Statements</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Lead Teams I can effectively lead teams with clarity, purpose, and care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage others • Show appreciation for others • Compliment or congratulate others • Contribute to group or team goals • Help make their class a place where everyone can learn • Contribute to creating a positive learning environment • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways • Believe their contributions to a group or team matter
Build Networks I can initiate relationships with diverse individuals and networks for a purpose, and sustain relationships with authenticity and care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good at making and keeping friends • Get along well with different types of people • Interact positively with classmates • Listen to others • Make others feel welcome or included • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people
Sustain Wellness I can support my own physical, emotional, and social health in order to live a healthy and productive life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a sense of who they are and what is important to them • Set goals for themselves • Keep working until they achieve a goal • Imagine a positive future for themselves • Express high expectations for themselves • Can motivate themselves when they don't want to do something
Engage As a Citizen I can participate in my community, build my civic knowledge, and take action to improve my community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to solve problems • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Make a positive difference in the world • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Do nice things for people



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.