Utah's Portrait of a Graduate and DESSA Crosswalk

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Utah's [Portrait of a Graduate](#) identifies the ideal characteristics of a Utah graduate after going through the K-12 system. These characteristics begin at home and are cultivated in educational settings. The competencies are grouped into the acronym MAP: Mastery competencies, Autonomy competencies, and Purpose competencies.

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 Utah's Portrait of a Graduate and the DESSA assessment items. It shows how the DESSA assessments can help ensure that all Utah students achieve the skills and mindsets needed to be successful graduates and community members.

Alignment between the Utah Portrait of a Graduate and DESSA Items

Mastery Mastery is the ability to demonstrate depth of knowledge and skill proficiency.	
Competencies	*DESSA Items*
Academic Mastery: Demonstrate a depth of knowledge in multiple subject areas to make informed decisions.	• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Gather information before making an important decision
Wellness: Develop self-awareness, self-advocacy skills and the knowledge to maintain healthy lifestyles that provide balance in life and improve physical, mental and social-emotional well-being	• Recognize their strengths • Recognize their emotions • Know how their emotions influence their behavior • Describe the emotion they were feeling • Ask questions when they did not understand something • Ask questions when learning new things • Ask for advice when needed • Explain what caused their emotions • Set goals for themselves • Persist to achieve a goal • Imagine a positive future for themselves

Civic, Financial, and Economic Literacy: Understand various governmental and economic systems and develop practical financial skills.	• Imagine a positive future for themselves • Believe they can achieve their goals • Expect that they will be successful • Gather information before making an important decision • Set goals for themselves • Update their thinking as they learn more about something
Digital Literacy: Adapt, create, consume and connect in productive, responsible ways to utilize technology in social, academic and professional settings.	• Adapt well to new situations • Adjust their behavior to match different settings • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Accept responsibility for their actions • Gather information before making an important decision • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior

Autonomy Autonomy is having the self-confidence and motivation to think and act independently.	
Competencies	*DESSA Items*
Communication: Communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking and listening to understand information in a variety of contexts, media and languages.	• Listen to others • Adjust their behavior to match different settings • Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Help make their class a place where everyone can learn • Ask questions when learning new things
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Access, evaluate and analyze information to make informed decisions, recognize bias and find solutions.	• Gather information before making an important decision • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Ask questions when learning new things • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Show a willingness to examine their beliefs and opinions • Take action to solve problems • Believe they can overcome setbacks • Do the right thing in a difficult situation • Cooperate with others to solve a problem
Creativity and Innovation: Imagine, visualize and demonstrate creative practices, innovative solutions and artistic expression.	• Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people • Show a willingness to update their thinking • Gather information before making an important decision • Adapt well to new situations • Take action to solve problems • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Speak positively about their future potential
Collaboration and Teamwork: Contribute ideas, perspectives and experiences to cultivate a community of shared accountability and leadership.	• Contribute to group or team goals • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Compromise for the good of the group • Encourage their friends and classmates • Listen to others • Listen to feedback so they can improve

	• Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Get along well with different types of people • Show appreciation for others • Help make their class a place where everyone can learn • Make others feel welcome or included • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Accept responsibility for their actions • Believe working with others leads to greater success

Purpose
Purpose guides life decisions, influences behavior, shapes goals, offers a sense of direction, and creates meaning.

Competencies	DESSA Items
Honesty, Integrity, and Responsibility: Are trustworthy, ethical, reliable and are accountable for the results they produce.	• Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Do the right thing in a difficult situation • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Can motivate themselves when they don't want to do something • Keep working until they achieve a goal • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Accept responsibility for their actions • Express high expectations for themselves
Hard Work and Resilience: Set personal goals, apply best efforts to achieve them and persevere when faced with challenges and setbacks. Have a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism and self-efficacy.	• Set goals for themselves • Keep working until they achieve a goal • Keep trying when unsuccessful • Can motivate themselves when they don't want to do something • Believe they can achieve their goals • Believe they can overcome setbacks • View negative outcomes as a learning opportunity • Accept that making mistakes is part of learning • Focus on the positive side of things
Lifelong Learning and Personal Growth: Continue to seek knowledge and develop skills in all settings.	• Work to develop their personal strengths • Seek out challenging tasks • Express high expectations for themselves • Speak positively about their future potential • View negative outcomes as a learning opportunity • Ask for advice when needed • Feel comfortable asking for help when they don't understand something • Ask questions when learning new things • Update their thinking as they learn more about something • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people

Service: Seek opportunities to help when assistance is needed and act without expecting compensation or recognition.	• Recognize others' emotions • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways • Do nice things for people • Stand up for a friend or classmate • Contribute to creating a positive learning environment • Can make a positive difference in the world
Respect: Acknowledge differences by looking for the good in everyone, including oneself, and show due regard for feelings, rights, cultures and traditions.	• Can list the personal traits that are most important to them • Show an awareness of their personal strengths • Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people • Show appreciation of others • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways • Make others feel welcome or included • Help make their class a place where everyone can learn • Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Get along well with different types of people • Stand up for a friend or classmate

DESSA

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.