

Virginia Profile of a Graduate and DESSA Crosswalk

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The [Profile of a Virginia Graduate](#) articulates the knowledge, skills, experiences and attributes that students must attain to be successful in college and/or the work force and to be “life ready”. These competencies can help districts, schools, and educators guide instruction and select assessments to help every Virginia graduate with attributes necessary to succeed both in and out of the classroom. The “5 C’s” of critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship extend across the profile and are embedded into the indicators.

The DESSA suite of assessments measures key social and emotional competencies essential for student success now and into the future. The DESSA assessments span K-12 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 Virginia Profile of a Graduate Competencies and the DESSA assessment items. This tool demonstrates how districts and schools can use DESSA assessments to ensure every Virginia student is well equipped to be “life ready”.

Alignment Between the Virginia Profile of a Graduate Competencies and DESSA Items

Content Knowledge Achieve and apply appropriate academic and technical knowledge	
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Attains and is able to use the knowledge and skills described in the Standards of Learning for core instructional areas (English, math, science, and history/social studies), the arts, personal wellness, languages, and Career and Technical education programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork• Express high expectations for themselves• Ask questions when they did not understand something
Attains and demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to transition to and achieve in a global society and be prepared for life beyond high school graduation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to feedback so they can improve• Seek out challenging tasks• Focus on the positive aspects of a situation• Work to develop their personal strengths• Accept responsibility for their actions

Explores multiple subject areas that reflect personal interests and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List the personal traits that are most important to them • Work to develop their personal strengths • Seek out challenging tasks • Express high expectations for themselves • Ask questions when learning new things
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Workplace Skills Attain and demonstrate productive workplace skills, qualities, & behaviors	
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Attains and demonstrates productive work ethic, Professionalism, and personal responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to and follow expectations for their behavior • Adjust their behavior to match different settings • Accept responsibility for their actions • Work carefully on projects or schoolwork • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events • Do the right thing in a difficult situation
Communicates effectively in a variety of ways, and to a variety of audiences, to interact with individuals and within groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to others • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective • Get along well with different types of people
Demonstrates workplace skills including collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible citizenship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Compromise for the good of the group • Resolve conflicts positively • Respect a person's right to have a different opinion • Make others feel welcome or included • Believe their contributions to a group or team matter • Believe working with others leads to greater success
Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility	

Build connections and value for interactions with diverse communities	
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Makes connections and is involved in the community through civic opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community • Make others feel welcome or included • Believe they can make a positive difference in the world • Do nice things for people
Demonstrates integrity, maintains personal health and wellness, and shows respect for others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set goals for themselves • Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways • Do the right thing in a difficult situation
Shows respect for diversity of individuals, groups, and cultures in words and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get along well with different types of people • Respect a person's right to have a different perspective • Interact positively with classmates
Understands and demonstrates citizenship by participating in community and government decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to solve a problem • Contribute to group or team goals • Cooperate with others to solve a problem • Believe working with others leads to greater success

Career Exploration	
Align knowledge, skills, & personal interests with career opportunities	
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Understands knowledge, skills, & abilities sought by employers for career opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events
Aligns knowledge, skills, & abilities with personal interests to identify career opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe they can achieve their goals • Show awareness of their personal strengths • List the personal traits most important to them • Demonstrate a sense of who they are and what is important to them
Sets goals for career, school, & life and has knowledge of a variety of pathways, course work, and/or requirements to achieve goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information before making an important decision • Set goals for themselves • Persist to achieve a goal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak positively about their future potential • Express high expectations for themselves
Develops skills to align to current workplace needs and that adapt to revolving job opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize their strengths • Work to develop their personal strengths
Applies skills & knowledge by participating in workplace experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for advice when needed • Listen to feedback so they can improve • Adapt well to new situations • Seek out things that challenge them



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.