

# Washington Profile of a Graduate and DESSA Items Crosswalk

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The Washington State [Profile a Graduate](#), published in 2021, is a guiding vision for the K-12 education system. Developed with local input, it identifies the skills, knowledge, attributes, and competencies necessary for a successful transition to life after high school.

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 Washington Profile of a Graduate Skills and Abilities and the DESSA assessment items. This tool demonstrates how districts and schools can use DESSA assessments in conjunction with the Profile of a Graduate to ensure that Washington students develop not only the knowledge they need, but also the abilities to adapt, collaborate, and excel in a rapidly changing world.

## Alignment Between the Washington Profile of a Graduate Competencies and DESSA Items

Cultivates Personal Growth & Knowledge	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Shows confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize their strengths</li><li>• Believe they can achieve their goals</li><li>• Expect that they will be successful</li><li>• Express high expectations for themselves</li><li>• Can imagine a positive future for themselves</li><li>• Speak positively about their future potential</li></ul>
Applies learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li><li>• Show a willingness to examine their beliefs and opinions</li></ul>
Sets personally meaning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set goals for themselves</li><li>• Persist to achieve a goal</li><li>• Contribute to group or team goals</li></ul>

<b>Solves Problems</b>	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Thinks critically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information before making an important decision</li> <li>• Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> </ul>
Demonstrates resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe they can overcome setbacks</li> <li>• Focus on the positive side of things</li> </ul>
Embraces creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate openness to new situations, experiences, and people</li> </ul>

<b>Communicates Effectively</b>	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Works on a team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe working with others leads to greater success</li> <li>• Show appreciation for others</li> <li>• Contribute to group or team goals</li> </ul>
Collaborates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperate with others to solve a problem</li> <li>• Compromise for the good of the group</li> </ul>
Navigates conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is able to resolve conflicts positively</li> <li>• Respect a person's right to have a different opinion</li> </ul>

<b>Sustains Wellness</b>	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Cultivates physical & emotional well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help make their class a place where everyone can learn</li> <li>• Focus on the positive aspects of a situation</li> </ul>
Fosters empathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to others' feelings in kind and safe ways</li> </ul>
Builds relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage others</li> <li>• Compliment or congratulate others</li> </ul>

<b>Embraces Differences/Diversity</b>	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Participates in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community</li> <li>• Make others feel welcome or included</li> <li>• Do nice things for people</li> </ul>
Promotes global responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can make a positive difference in the world</li> </ul>
Shows cultural competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get along well with different types of people</li> <li>• Respect a person's right to have a different opinion</li> <li>• Make others feels welcome or included</li> </ul>

<b>Masters Life Skills/Self-Agency</b>	
<i>Skills and Abilities</i>	<i>DESSA Items</i>
Takes initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take action to solve problems</li> <li>• Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events</li> <li>• Seek out things that challenge them</li> <li>• Can motivate themselves when they don't want to do something</li> <li>• Work to develop their personal strengths</li> </ul>
Understands financial & digital literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think before they acted</li> <li>• Work carefully on projects or schoolwork</li> </ul>
Accesses resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions when they did not understand something</li> <li>• Ask for advice when needed</li> </ul>



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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).