[Suggested Letter from School District to Parents re DESSA-Please edit for your school or organization)

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s), (Personalize with name here)

As you may remember from our note at the beginning of the year, our school has an exciting new initiative this year. Our teachers have started using a tool called the *Devereux Student Strengths Assessment*, or DESSA. The purpose of the DESSA is to identify which social and emotional skills your child has already learned and what skills he or she might still need to develop. We will use the DESSA results to support social and emotional skill development of all of our students.

To begin the process, teachers have completed a DESSA-mini screener on all students in their classroom. Below is a description of the DESSA-mini scores and what next steps there will be for your child based on his/her results.

**DESSA-mini Scores**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Descriptor** | **Approach to supporting child’s SEL skills** |
| 60 and above | Strength | Classroom SEL strategies used to support and sustain SEL skills. |
| 41-59 | Typical | Classroom SEL strategies used to promote SEL skills.  |
| 40 and below | Need for Instruction | Sample - Full DESSA will be completed. A plan will be developed to support child’s specific areas of need for instruction with parent input. (Insert your details for creating DESSA plan for student here) |

Important ideas to understand reviewing your child’s DESSA-mini score:

* The Social-Emotional Total score is a snapshot of a child’s overall social and emotional skillset.
* The term ***strength*** indicates that your child has a well-developed set of social emotional skills.
* The term ***typical*** indicates that your child is showing expected social emotional skills. About 2/3 of children receive a typical rating.
* The term ***need for instruction*** was thoughtfully chosen to convey that a child needs support and instruction in this area. That is, it reflects that the student has not YET acquired some SEL skills.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child’s Name** | **Gender** | **Rating Period** | **Social-Emotional Total** | **Descriptor** |
| John Smith | M | Universal Screening 2018-19 | 39 | Need |

If you have any questions, please feel free to call \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

School official