



Customer Spotlight

ADDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Location: Chicago, IL

Schools: 8

Students: 4,100



Our student hospitalizations tripled in three years. I needed to be able to identify who our internalizers were. Our traditional screening tool was only identifying WHO had needs, not WHAT their needs are."

Keri Karpman
Director of Special
Education

Evo Social/Emotional Customer Spotlight

ADDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

Addison is a Pre-K-8th school district in suburban Chicago, IL serving 4,100 students across 8 schools. Addison serves a diverse population, with 35% of its students having limited English proficiency and 67% of the students designated as low-income. They started their social and emotional learning journey by spending an entire year focusing on the resilience and social and emotional competence of the adults serving the students.

In 2015 Addison began piloting the use of Aperture's Evo Social & Emotional Assessment and Intervention system to universally screen students for social emotional competence across 2 elementary schools as well as their 6th grade class using the DESSA-mini. During the pilot, student support personnel worked closely with teachers to help them conduct the assessments and interpret their class reports. Pilot participants reported being able to more quickly identify students who "fly under the radar." Schools asked for parents' permission to include their students in intervention groups lead by school social workers and were happy to report that 94% of parents agreed.

Now in year 3 of their implementation, schools report that teachers are independently completing the DESSA and interpreting results. Teachers are reporting that students are demonstrating positive changes in behavior and skills (e.g. increased responsibility) after just 3 to 4 intervention sessions.

Addison staff continue to look for creative ways to use their data to support students. Most recently, they have begun using 5th grade results to provide supports for 6th graders from day one in middle school as well as using the DESSA-mini screener to proactively identify students to include in a check-in/check-out style buddy program. Teachers have also begun to use the research-based lessons available in Evo SEL system to provide universal skill-building opportunities.

WHY ADDISON CHOSE EVO SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

EVO SEL IS AN ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION SYSTEM THAT IS WELL-SUITED TO LARGE-SCALE, UNIVERSAL SCREENING OF STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCIES.

With the increase in hospitalizations Addison was particularly worried about how to identify introverted students. The district had been using an older social/developmental screening tool but felt that it didn't allow them to identify specific social and emotional competencies in a way that they could be addressed. They didn't need to simply know that the student had needs, they needed to know WHAT the needs were. It was also important to Addison that Evo complimented their MTSS framework and that the price was very reasonable.



DIY: Universal SEL Screening + Targeted Interventions

3 EASY DO-IT-YOURSELF STEPS TO SEL SCREENING & TARGETING INTERVENTIONS

STEP UNIVERSALLY SCREEN

1

- Use the 8-item DESSA-mini form to screen the population in less than 1 minute per child.
- The screening will result in a Social and Emotional Total (SET) score. The DESSA-mini also produces a RTI-aligned descriptor of the SET designating whether the child has Need for Instruction, Strengths, or is exhibiting Normal SEL competence.
- Review aggregate scores across classes and between grade levels. What patterns do you see?

STEP ASSESS FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

2

- Review SET scores for individual students. How many students has the DESSA-mini identified as having a Need? Use this data to determine which students you want to assess more fully.
- Using the 72-item full DESSA, assess the children you have decided you need to know more about. It will take about 5 to 8 minutes per child.
- The DESSA will yield scores and descriptors that show relative strengths and needs across 8 specific SEL competencies. Now you know not only WHO has the need, but WHAT the needs are.

STEP USE INTERVENTIONS

3

- Now that you know who has a need for instruction and precisely where the need is you can create a plan for delivering targeted instruction.
- Evo SEL contains over 100 strategies and lessons you can use for both universal instruction and targeted intervention.
- Consider using the DESSA data to group students with like needs and using support staff to deliver group instruction.
- For students requiring additional instruction, consider using the individual strategies and supplement with Evo's take-home lessons.

Ready To Take SEL Further?

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

- Use the DESSA-mini every 4-6 weeks to monitor progress.
- Ask parents to complete the DESSA on their children and compare results in a parent teacher conference.
- Consider including DESSA competencies on office referral forms to see trends between behavioral infractions and SEL needs.