

PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF THE DESSA-HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

Thank you for your interest in helping Aperture Education with the national standardization of the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment – High School Edition (DESSA-HSE). Below you will find the answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is the DESSA-High School Edition?

Social and emotional skills are critical for success in school, in college, and in the workplace. The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment, or DESSA, is a strength-based behavior rating scale measuring social and emotional skills of children in grades K-8. We are currently working to expand the DESSA for use with high school students (9-12th grades) and would like to invite your school or out-of-school time (OST) program to participate! With your help, we will be able to ensure the assessment consistently and accurately assesses social and emotional skills of high school youth.

What is national standardization?

The goal of national standardization is to have a large, representative sample of ratings reflecting the diversity of high school aged youth today. We will be collecting ratings from over 1,300 teachers and OST staff, over 1,000 parents, and over 1,000 students across the United States. These ratings will be used to create the DESSA-HSE scoring norms, and will enable schools and programs to compare their students' social-emotional skills to the skills typically demonstrated by students in the United States.

How does it work?

SELECT A SITE COORDINATOR: Select a person from your school or OST program who will serve as the main contact. This person will receive step-by-step instructions and the materials needed to participate. They will invite parents **and/or** students to provide ratings, and will distribute and collect rating materials.

- **INVITE UP TO 75 PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE:** Each parent can rate up to 2 of their high school aged children.

AND/OR

- **INVITE UP TO 50 STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE:** Each student can provide 1 rating on their own social and emotional skills.

LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR ORGANIZATION COMPLETES THE

RATINGS: If your school/program is completing the forms on paper, you will send the completed forms back to Aperture Education in a pre-paid envelope. If you are completing the forms online, you simply need to email your contact at Aperture Education to let them know you are finished.

How will my school or OST program be compensated?

Participating schools and programs can choose to either 1) provide parents directly with \$5 per rating, or 2) be issued an honorarium at a rate of \$5 per parent rating. This honorarium can be used as a fundraising opportunity. Student raters will receive a \$5 gift card. Site Coordinators will receive a stipend of \$100 for their assistance in distributing and collecting materials.

All participating schools/programs will also receive a one-year subscription to the DESSA-HSE online system for up to 100 high school youth licenses and will be recognized in the published DESSA-HSE manual. If your school/program submits all the ratings you indicate in your initial estimate, you will be entered to win a \$500 award drawn at the completion of our standardization efforts.

IRB Approval

This study has been approved by the Devereux Foundation's Institutional Review Board (IRB). No personally identifying information will be collected.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

If you are interested in having your school or OST program participate, or have any questions, please contact Alyssa Ciarlante at Aperture Education. To sign up, we will just ask for your site coordinator information, a mailing address for materials, whether you are collecting parent and/or student ratings, whether your school/program would like to complete ratings on paper or online, and an estimate of how many ratings your organization would like to contribute.

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THANK YOU!