

Mental Health Screening

The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) System provides a quick screening instrument and supplemental assessments to monitor students' Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). They are strengths-based instruments and grounded in resilience theory. The screener, called the DESSA-mini, which has elementary and secondary versions, is used three times per year to monitor every students' progress related to SEL. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is contracting with Aperture Education to provide the assessment to districts at no cost. Recruitment for upcoming cohorts of districts will begin in the spring of 2021.

The Implementation will be based on cohorts of district using a train the trainer model so that districts develop the capacity to provide training at the school level and provide training to new teachers. New cohorts will be formed for each semester beginning in the late summer/fall of 2021, with the second cohort beginning in January 2022. Each cohort will consist of approximately 30 districts and cohorts will continue to be formed over the next 3 years until all districts that want to use the DESSA system have gone through the training. (3 years is the length of the contract and of course it can be extended.) Aperture will provide a help desk and other virtual supports.

This screener and assessment system will be paid for by the CSDE at no cost to districts.