

# Strengthen Students' **Portrait of a Graduate** Skills with the **DESSA System**

Keeping learners on track with developing durable skills requires reliable and efficient universal screening and targeted assessment aligned with state and local standards.

With DESSA data, your district-wide team has access to actionable insights to inform universal instructional planning within an MTSS framework.

The **Competencies Report** brings student skill needs into focus to ensure universal, Tier 1 decisions are based on reliable, up-to-date reporting.



Quickly view how many students are in each categorical score range, Strength, Typical, and Need for Instruction. Target skills with DESSA-aligned instructional strategies.

Build student skills individually or in small groups with Tier 2 Intervention Programs aligned to students' growth opportunities.

## Legacy Abbott

Joyluck Middle School • 6th Grade • SID #3462921 • Assessment taken in English

DESSA Middle School Edition Student Self-Report completed on 03/27/2025 by Student



This student has relative strengths in Social Awareness and Relationship Skills, but needs additional support in Self-Awareness and Responsible Decision Making.

The DESSA measures and supports skills prioritized by state  
Portrait of a Graduate frameworks.

Portrait of a Graduate Skill	Sample DESSA Items: <i>(Students Can...)</i>
Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask questions when learning new things</li> <li>▪ Take action to solve problems</li> <li>▪ Update their thinking as they learn more about something</li> </ul>
Social Awareness / Active Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect a person’s right to have a different perspective</li> <li>▪ Make others feel welcome or included</li> <li>▪ Contribute to creating a positive learning environment</li> </ul>
Communication Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Listen to others</li> <li>▪ Respond to others’ feelings in kind and safe ways</li> <li>▪ Encourage friends or classmates</li> </ul>
Self-Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay calm when faced with a challenge</li> <li>▪ Think before they act</li> <li>▪ Persist to achieve a goal</li> </ul>
Collaboration / Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cooperate with others to solve a problem</li> <li>▪ Resolve conflicts positively</li> <li>▪ Make positive contributions to their class, school, or community</li> </ul>
Self-Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Show an awareness of their personal strengths</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate a sense of who they are and what is important to them</li> <li>▪ Describe the emotion they were feeling</li> </ul>
Relationship / Interpersonal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stand up for a friend of classmate</li> <li>▪ Get along with different types of people</li> <li>▪ Interact positively with classmates</li> </ul>

Learn more about taking a data-driven approach to your Portrait of a Graduate efforts – connect with your local DESSA advisor today!

