



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON  
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

January 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Each year District 25 administers several academic assessments to our students. This winter, District 25 will be administering our first social emotional screener tool.

In order to determine our students' social emotional needs, our teachers will be using a tool called the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA). This tool asks teachers to assess how often a student has demonstrated specific behaviors in the past month.

Sample DESSA questions include:

- How often did the child keep trying when unsuccessful?
- How often did the child offer to help somebody?
- How often did the child get things done in a timely fashion?
- How often did the child work well in groups?

The purpose of this strength based assessment is to identify which social emotional skills your child has already learned and what skills they might still need to develop. In conjunction with the district's implementation of the RULER program the information gathered from the DESSA will be beneficial to your child's overall success both inside and outside of the classroom.

DESSA also offers a "parent portal" on their website that provides resources, tips, and strategies to parents on supporting their child's development. To learn more about the DESSA, the privacy policy, or the parent portal, visit <https://info.apertureed.com/parent-portal>.

If you would like your child to OPT-OUT of this assessment, please fill out the following **FORM** by January 7th, 2022.

Sincerely,

Peg Lasiewicki, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

[Para esta carta en español, haga clic aquí.](#)  
[Aby otrzymać ten list w języku polskim, kliknij tutaj.](#)