



Kimberly Pearce | Director of Special Services  
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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Social-emotional skills play an important role in each student's success inside and outside of school and in life. Skills such as demonstrating self-control, persisting at challenging tasks, making good decisions, and working well in groups are all necessary to being successful students and adults. The process by which students learn these and other similar skills is called **social-emotional learning (SEL)**. To support our students in developing these essential skills to become successful and responsible adults, we will be implementing an SEL screening and assessment tool called the DESSA this year.

The purpose of this universal social-emotional screening is to identify each student's overall social-emotional competence. While the DESSA screening and assessment is just one component of our social-emotional learning process, we want to make sure that you are informed of our use of this instructional tool. We believe that the information gathered from the social-emotional screening will be beneficial to your student's overall success both inside and outside of school.

The DESSA will be completed by K-8 teachers to identify each student's social-emotional competence that will help teachers better support their student in feeling connected to school, confident, successful, and engaged in learning. Students in grades 9-12 will complete a self-assessment.

Please review the enclosed document for further information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 860-664-6505.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Pearce  
Director of Special Services