



Learn more about how Tessaera can help you accurately assess your students' Social and Emotional Learning skills—and deliver the sound data critical to promoting continued growth and Whole Child development.

Call toll free 855.730.0400

Visit act.org/act-tessera



Tessaera, SEL and the Whole Child

Whether it's called the Whole Child approach, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), or Social and Emotional Learning skills, focusing on and supporting students' holistic growth is taking on new urgency in schools across the country.

Educators, parents and policymakers recognize that preparing students for success in the 21st century demands going well beyond teaching academic skills. Legislation, such as ESSA, increasingly incorporates non-academic measures into accountability metrics.

Until now, however, reliable measurement of Social and Emotional Learning skills has been challenging. The Tessaera next generation assessment system uses advanced methodology to deliver highly valid results and user-friendly reports. Equipped with this data, schools and students can support holistic self-knowledge, goal-setting and continuous improvement.



Next Generation Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System

Do you have a clear picture of
YOUR STUDENTS'
SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL
LEARNING SKILLS?



ACT® Tessaera® makes it easy by providing an individual report for every student and comprehensive reports for your school as a whole.

act.org/act-tessera

Contact us: act.org/contact-acttessera

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Tessera SNAPSHOT

- Comprehensive next-generation assessment system for Social and Emotional Learning skills
- Two assessments: One for middle school students (grades 6–8), and one for high school students (grades 9–12)
- Advanced assessment methodology that goes beyond traditional self-reporting to yield more reliable, valid results
- Easy to administer online
- Reports that are user-friendly for students and schools
- Strengthens and supports student self-knowledge, goal-setting and growth mindset

Contact us for a Tessera walkthrough
act.org/contact-acttessera

The research is unequivocal: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills strongly predict academic achievement, career success and lifelong well-being. Many studies find that these attributes contribute as much or more than academic skills in helping students succeed.

In addition, there's evidence that some Social and Emotional Learning skills are easier to strengthen than cognitive ones, and these strengthened skills may last longer.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Educators, policymakers, and parents are understandably eager to invest in Social and Emotional Learning skill development, especially as SEL factors are increasingly incorporated into accountability metrics. For example, ESSA mandates that states include a “non-academic measure” in their school accountability systems.

Clear, accurate understanding of existing student skills and strengths is essential in order to target interventions and support Whole Child initiatives. Highly effective Social and Emotional Learning skill-building efforts depend on reliable assessment. Until now, however, growth in SEL curricular programs has far outpaced reliable assessment options.

RESULTS DATA REPORTED IN A CLEAR, EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND FORMAT.

ACT Tessera
Next Generation Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System

Scores for Student Name – April 2018

ACT Tessera measures five important social and emotional skills, described below. Stars indicate your current level on each skill. Don't worry too much if you get one star on any of the skills. You can always improve with practice.

For detailed information on improving the five Tessera skills, and for explanation of how star scores are related to percentiles, go to www.linkhere.com.

- Grit** (4 stars): Grit reflects the extent to which a student's actions demonstrate persistence, goal striving, reliability, dependability, and attention to detail at school.
- Teamwork** (3 stars): Teamwork reflects the extent to which a student's actions demonstrate collaboration, empathy, helpfulness, trust, and trustworthiness.
- Curiosity** (5 stars): Curiosity reflects the extent to which a student's actions demonstrate creativity, inquisitiveness, flexibility, open mindedness, and embracing diversity.
- Resilience** (4 stars): Resilience reflects the extent to which actions demonstrate stress management, regulation, a positive response to setbacks, and optimism.
- Leadership** (4 stars): Leadership reflects the extent to which actions demonstrate assertiveness, influence, optimism, and enthusiasm.

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT (EXCERPT)

The graph below provides a high-level view of what the assessment data show regarding your students' demonstration of each of the six skills assessed in Tessera.

YOUR SCHOOL PROFILE

Skill Area	Level
Drive/Crit	Developing
Organization/Responsibility	Approaching
Teamwork/Cooperation	Demonstrating
Composure/Resilience	Developing
Curiosity/Ingenuity	Demonstrating
Leadership/Communication Style	Approaching

This is an example of what part of the individual student and school administrator reports might look like.

A SOLUTION YOU CAN TRUST

Tessera is an all-in-one, multifaceted solution that gives students, parents, teachers, and schools a comprehensive view of Social and Emotional Learning skills.

- Our robust, next-generation online assessment tool is easy for schools to administer and requires no special or time-consuming preparation.
- The assessment tool integrates three different methodologies to reliably and validly measure a student's Social and Emotional Learning skills.
- Our detailed reports deliver the data required to support student and school self-knowledge, growth, Whole Child development, and continuous improvement.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL, COMPREHENSIVE, AND RESEARCH-DRIVEN

Tessera is based on the research-validated and widely adopted Big Five personality factors. The broad, multidimensional Big Five framework encompasses attributes related to successful performance across different ages, contexts, and cultures.

Tessera measures six areas of Social and Emotional Learning Skills:

- Grit
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Leadership
- School Climate

TESSERA INTEGRATES THREE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES TO ENSURE VALID RESULTS.

ACT Tessera
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SELF-REPORT ITEM

Select how much you agree with each of the following statements.

I enjoy group-based projects.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Disagree

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SITUATIONAL JUDGMENT TEST ITEM

After studying very hard for a math test, the test results are disappointing and you have yet to do as well as expected. While you are currently proficient, you would like to move up to the next level.

How likely are you to do each of the following?

Look over the test to see what questions you got wrong and work on those.

Look over the test to see what questions you got wrong and work on those.

Study so hard if you don't get the results you want.

May or May Not Likely Unlikely Very Unlikely

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FORCED CHOICE ITEM

Below you will be provided with several groups of three statements. For each one, choose both the statement that is MOST like you, and the statement that is LEAST like you. Do nothing with the third statement. Some of these decisions might be difficult, please just do your best. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers.

I do more than what my teachers expect. Most Like Me Least Like Me

I am concerned about other students.

I cope well with stressful assignments.

Each skill area is assessed using three different techniques:

- 1 Self-report test items. Students rate the extent to which they agree with several statements.
- 2 Situational judgment test items. Students are presented with several scenarios and possible responses to each. They then rate the likelihood that they would engage in each response.
- 3 Forced-choice test items. Students are presented with several statements and asked to select the statements that are “most like me” and “least like me.”

This multimodal approach makes it extremely difficult for students to fake their responses and minimizes reference bias. These are problems typically associated with assessments relying solely or primarily on self-report test items.

Tessera HELPS YOU HELP YOUR students

- School leaders receive reports of aggregate and individual student performance
- Each student receives a personal profile report
- Students and schools receive recommended resources and strategies to address areas identified as requiring increased focus

