



**FAIRFIELD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Robert Mancusi, Executive Director of Special Education & Special Programs  
501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
Phone (203)255-8379 Fax (203) 255-8247

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

October 10, 2023

I hope that you are doing well. Fairfield Public Schools will be completing its K-8 social and emotional universal screener utilizing the DESSA-Mini. The universal screening assessment (Grades K-8) window for completion of the DESSA-Mini will be on the following dates: October 17 -31, February 13 – 27, May 7 – 21.

The social and emotional skill competencies measured by the DESSA include self-awareness, self-management, goal directed behavior, relationship skills, personal responsibility, decision making, and optimistic thinking. Screener data will determine if the full DESSA is warranted in order to pinpoint specific areas that students may need additional social and emotional learning support and/or instruction.

**Parents may opt out of the DESSA by sending a request in writing to their child's school.**

The DESSA-Mini (and DESSA full version) will be completed electronically by teachers for students in grades K-8. All student data will be confidentially maintained electronically. For additional information about the DESSA and family resources please visit: <https://info.apertureed.com/parent-portal>

Supporting students' social and emotional learning needs and providing each student with the necessary instruction to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions, are skills that will support their lifelong success.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding information contained within this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert Mancusi  
Executive Director of Special Education & Special Programs

*501 Kings Highway East • Suite 210 • Fairfield CT 06825*