



5601 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016 • (602) 664-7900 • madisonaz.org

DESSA Parent Opt-Out Form

Madison Elementary School District is committed to inspire passion for learning and leading in an ever-changing world. Our mission is to foster success for all through dynamic, engaging, and relevant learning experiences focusing on students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

We are thrilled to let you know about an exciting addition to your child's classroom this school year that is part of Madison's mission of serving the whole child - academic, social, emotional. Over two decades of research has helped us understand the important role social and emotional skills play in each child's success in school, in the community, and, eventually, in higher education and the workplace. 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. To support our students in developing these skills that will help them become successful and responsible adults, our teachers will be using a tool called the DESSA. This tool asks teachers to assess how often (never, rarely, occasionally, frequently, very frequently) a student has demonstrated specific life skills in the past month.

Sample 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 is to identify which life skills your child has already learned and what skills they might still need to develop. Once our teachers identify the skills their students still need to learn, they will be able to incorporate this information into planning for instruction. Our goal is to ensure that your child is continuously developing the skills they need for lifelong success.

While this is just one component of our program this year, we want to make sure that you are informed of our use of this instructional tool. We believe that the information gathered will be beneficial to our whole child approach and support overall success both inside and outside of the classroom.

If you do not consent for your child to participate, please complete the form below and turn it in to your child's school office. If you have multiple children, please complete a separate form for each child. The first of three rating periods will be from 8/23//23-9/29/23. A request to opt out will become effective on the day it is received and will remain in effect for the entirety of the 2023-2024 school year unless the opt-out request is rescinded by the child's parent/guardian in writing.

My child, _____, in grade _____, at _____ school, **WILL NOT PARTICIPATE** in the DESSA Universal Screener.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Date: _____

Student's name: _____ (please print)

Student's school: _____

Student's teacher: _____

