



## DESSA Parent Opt Out Form



Madison Elementary School District is committed to inspiring 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 part of your child's classroom this school year that is part of Madison's mission of serving the needs of the whole child - academic, social, emotional. Over two decades of research emphasize 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 use 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. The DESSA is an educational screening tool and is not a psychological evaluation, mental health diagnoses, or special education evaluation.

### **Sample questions include:**

- How often did the child prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events?
- How often does the child contribute towards group efforts?
- How often does the child show care when doing a project or school work?

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.

While this is just one component of our support 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.

Information collected through the DESSA will be maintained as part of the student's educational record and protected in accordance with FERPA and applicable state law. Participation does not constitute consent for counseling services, psychological services, special education evaluations, or other individualized interventions that require separate parental consent under



## DESSA Parent Opt Out Form



applicable law. Madison School District uses the DESSA tools solely for educational purposes to support instruction, student development, and student success.

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 9/9/26-9/23/26. A request to opt out will become effective on the day it is received and will remain in effect for the entirety of the 2026-2027 school year unless the opt-out request is rescinded by the child's parent/guardian in writing.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Student Name</b> |  |
| <b>Grade</b>        |  |
| <b>School</b>       |  |

My child, \_\_\_\_\_,  
in grade \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ school,  
**WILL NOT PARTICIPATE** in the DESSA Universal Screener for the 2026-2027 school year.

Signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_