

Devereux Student Strengths Assessment High School Edition (DESSA-HSE) Teacher Form Scales and Associated Items

Self-Awareness: A youth's realistic understanding of her/his strengths and limitations and consistent desire for self-improvement.

- 24. make accurate statements about himself/herself?
- 29. teach someone how to do something?
- 34. ask questions when he/she did not understand something?
- 36. ask somebody for feedback?
- 42. show an awareness of her/his personal strengths?

Self-Management: A youth's success in controlling his or her emotions and behaviors, to complete a task or succeed in a new or challenging situation.

- 27. stay focused despite a problem or distraction?
- 28. adjust well to a new situation?
- 30. do the steps of a task in order?
- 31. think before he/she acted?
- 33. accept another choice when his/her first choice was not available?
- 39. cope well with changes in plans?

Social-Awareness: A youth's capacity to interact with others in a way that shows respect for their ideas and behaviors, recognizes her/his impact on them, and uses cooperation and tolerance in social situations.

- 6. get along well with different types of people?
- 10. show respect for others in a game or competition?
- 12. respect another person's opinion?
- 15. contribute to group efforts?
- 17. share with others?



Relationship Skills: A youth's consistent performance of socially acceptable actions that promote and maintain positive connections with others.

- 23. compliment or congratulate somebody?
- 26. show appreciation of others?
- 32. show concern for someone?
- 35. respond to another person's feelings?
- 41. offer to help somebody?
- 43. share credit when appropriate?

Goal-Directed Behavior: A youth's initiation of, and persistence in completing, tasks of varying difficulty.

- 2. keep trying when unsuccessful?
- 7. try to do her/his best?
- 8. take an active role in learning?
- 11. ask to take on additional work or responsibilities?
- 16. seek out more information when wanted or needed?
- 19. work hard on projects or schoolwork?

Personal Responsibility: A youth's tendency to be careful and reliable in her/his actions and in contributing to group efforts.

- 1. remember important information?
- 3. serve an important role at home or school?
- 13. encourage positive behaviors in others?
- 14. prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events?
- 18. get things done in a timely fashion?
- 21. work carefully on projects or schoolwork?



Decision Making: A youth's approach to problem solving that involves learning from others and from her/his own previous experiences, using her/his values to guide her/his action, and accepting responsibility for her/his decisions.

- 22. follow the example of a positive role model?
- 25. show good judgment?
- 37. learn from experience?
- 38. follow the advice of a trusted adult?
- 40. do the right thing in a difficult situation?

Optimistic Thinking: A youth's attitude of confidence, hopefulness, and positive thinking regarding herself/himself and her/his life situations in the past, present, and future.

- 4. speak about positive things?
- 5. look forward to classes or activities at school?
- 9. say good things about his/her classmates?
- 20. express high expectations for himself/herself?

