

# **EdSERT** Participation

An Educator's How-To Guide



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### Introduction

Welcome! Ensuring educators have the support and resources they need is critical for building positive school climates and better student academic outcomes. Educators with strong social and emotional competence are necessary for building the social and emotional competencies of their students. When you feel more confident in supporting students with these skills, you create more positive learning environments and help your students achieve better outcomes.

The Educator Social-Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) program will help you learn more about key social and emotional skills and how those skills are reflected in your teaching practices. It will give ideas on how to promote social and emotional skills in your students. As you participate in EdSERT, it can also support your overall well-being by promoting close relationships and connections with colleagues and by increasing your coping skills and resilience.

This guide outlines the necessary steps for accessing the EdSERT learning modules in the Aperture System and reviewing the material for each competency. You will be participating in EdSERT alongside your colleagues. Although much of the content is designed to be self-reflective and self-directed to be personally meaningful to you, we recommend finding opportunities to share your learning and experiences with your colleagues.

### **Welcome to EdSERT**

The Educator Social-Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) program is a comprehensive set of research-based resources developed specifically for educators. EdSERT provides you with strategies to enhance your use of social and emotional practices in your classroom, which benefits your students and your well-being!

EdSERT uses a self-reflective and self-directed approach to implement strategies that support your social and emotional teaching practices. Additionally, large- and small-group meetings help you build connections with your colleagues and support your overall well-being as an educator. The main components of participating in EdSERT include:

Professional Developme	nt
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Learn why social and emotional skills are important for all members of school communities.

#### **Personal Development Plan**

Choose a focus area and set your intentions to enhance your teaching practices.

#### Strategy Check-Ins

Complete brief check-in surveys on your use of strategies for each competency.

#### **Self-Reflective Assessments**

Reflect on your existing teaching practices and identify strengths and growth opportunities.

#### Strategies

Implement self-directed practices to enhance your social and emotional teaching practices.

#### Pre- & Post-Evaluation Surveys

Complete two evaluation surveys to provide feedback on your participation in EdSERT.

The EdSERT program is organized into nine modules and is accessed in the Aperture System. The first module is an Introduction to EdSERT. The remaining modules focus on eight key social and emotional competencies.

#### **EdSERT Social and Emotional Competencies Promoted**



Each module includes:

- an introduction to the competency.
- a self-assessment to reflect on your current use of key social and emotional teaching practices related to that competency.
- a personal development plan to help you select focus areas and set your intentions to implement new practices.
- a set of strategies aligned to the practices in the self-assessment.
- an end-of-module survey to share your experiences.

## **Accessing the EdSERT Program**

**Step 1:** If you have an Aperture System account, skip this step. If you need to activate your Aperture System account, use these steps:

- Look for an email from platform@apertureed.com with the subject line "Welcome to Aperture!"
- Select the Create Account button in the email to open the activation window.
- Enter a password for your account.
- Select the checkbox to agree with the Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions.
- Select Activate.
- Email invitations are active for only 7 days. If you receive a message that the link has expired, please request a new invitation by contacting your EdSERT Facilitator.
- If you do not have an Aperture System account, contact your EdSERT Facilitator.

**Step 2:** After logging into your Aperture System account, click on the Academy tab in the top menu and select EdSERT.

**Step 3:** Once you've accessed the EdSERT course material, work through the modules as assigned by your EdSERT Facilitator.

# Badges and Continuing Education Units (Optional)

As you complete each EdSERT module, you will increase your social-emotional knowledge and skills. Completion of each module will be celebrated by the awarding of a Digital Completion Badge. Completion badges can easily be downloaded from the learning management system platform and were designed to be shared with your professional network as evidence of your accomplishment.

Additionally, participants who complete all EdSERT modules are eligible to receive 1.0 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for their professional portfolio. Aperture Education is an Accredited Provider of Continuing Education Units through the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training. Participants who choose to receive Continuing Education Unit credits will also receive a Certificate of Completion that can be added to your professional development records. Individuals who wish to obtain CEU credits should complete the CEU Application Form at least seven days prior to the start of the EdSERT program. Completed forms can be submitted to Academy@ApertureEd.com.



Aperture Education empowers over 3,000 schools and out-ofschool-time programs across North America to measure, strengthen, and support social and emotional competence in K–12 youth and educators. This system enables education leaders to make strategic, data-based decisions about SEL within their organizations. The Aperture System includes the DESSA suite of strength-based assessments, CASEL<sup>™</sup>-informed intervention strategies, and robust reporting, all in one easy-to-use digital platform. Aperture has supported over one million students in their social and emotional growth and continues to develop innovative solutions to bring the whole child into focus. To learn more, visit www.ApertureEd.com.