

Learn more about how Tessaera can help you accurately assess your students' Social and Emotional Learning skills—and deliver the sound data critical to promoting continued growth and Whole Child development.

Call toll free 855.730.0400

Visit www.act.org/act-tessaera



Tessaera, SEL and the Whole Child

Whether it's called the Whole Child approach, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), or Social and Emotional Learning skills, focusing on and supporting students' holistic growth is taking on new urgency in schools across the country.

Educators, parents and policymakers recognize that preparing students for success in the 21st century demands going well beyond teaching academic skills. Legislation, such as ESSA, increasingly incorporates non-academic measures into accountability metrics.

Until now, however, reliable measurement of Social and Emotional Learning skills has been challenging. The Tessaera[™] next generation assessment system uses advanced methodology to deliver highly valid results and user-friendly reports. Equipped with this data, schools and students can support holistic self-knowledge, goal-setting and continuous improvement.

Do you have a clear picture of
YOUR STUDENTS'
SOCIAL and **EMOTIONAL**
LEARNING SKILLS?



ACT[®] Tessaera[™] makes it easy by providing an individual report for every student and comprehensive reports for your school as a whole.





Tessera™ SNAPSHOT

- Comprehensive next-generation assessment system for Social and Emotional Learning skills
- Two assessments: One for middle school students (grades 6–8), and one for high school students (grades 9–12)
- Advanced assessment methodology that goes beyond traditional self-reporting to yield more reliable, valid results
- Easy to administer online
- Reports that are user-friendly for students and schools
- Strengthens and supports student self-knowledge, goal-setting and growth mindset

Contact us for a Tessera walkthrough
www.act.org/contact-acttessera

The research is unequivocal: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills strongly predict academic achievement, career success and lifelong well-being. Many studies find that these attributes contribute as much or more than academic skills in helping students succeed.

In addition, there’s evidence that some Social and Emotional Learning skills are easier to strengthen than cognitive ones, and these strengthened skills may last longer.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Educators, policymakers, and parents are understandably eager to invest in Social and Emotional Learning skill development, especially as SEL factors are increasingly incorporated into accountability metrics. For example, ESSA mandates that states include a “non-academic measure” in their school accountability systems.

Clear, accurate understanding of existing student skills and strengths is essential in order to target interventions and support Whole Child initiatives. Highly effective Social and Emotional Learning skill-building efforts depend on reliable assessment. Until now, however, growth in SEL curricular programs has far outpaced reliable assessment options.

RESULTS DATA REPORTED IN A CLEAR, EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND FORMAT.

The screenshots show two types of reports from ACT Tessera:

- Individual Student Report (Excerpt):** Focuses on 'Curiosity / Ingenuity: Where are you now?'. It includes a star-based rating (3 stars) labeled 'DEMONSTRATING', a description of the skill, and a table of response options with effectiveness ratings.
- School Administrator Report (Excerpt):** Focuses on 'Curiosity / Ingenuity: What is it?'. It includes a bar chart titled 'YOUR SCHOOL PROFILE' showing scores for various skills: Drive/Grit (Approaching), Organization/Responsibility (Approaching), Teamwork/Cooperation (Demonstrating), Composure/Resilience (Approaching), Curiosity/Ingenuity (Demonstrating), and Leadership/Communication Style (Approaching).

This is an example of what part of the individual student and school administrator reports might look like.

A SOLUTION YOU CAN TRUST

Tessera is an all-in-one, multifaceted solution that gives students, parents, teachers, and schools a comprehensive view of Social and Emotional Learning skills.

- Our robust, next-generation online assessment tool is easy for schools to administer and requires no special or time-consuming preparation.
- The assessment tool integrates three different methodologies to reliably and validly measure a student’s Social and Emotional Learning skills.
- Our detailed reports deliver the data required to support student and school self-knowledge, growth, Whole Child development, and continuous improvement.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL, COMPREHENSIVE, AND RESEARCH-DRIVEN

Tessera is based on the research-validated and widely adopted Big Five personality factors. The broad, multidimensional Big Five framework encompasses attributes related to successful performance across different ages, contexts, and cultures.

Tessera measures six areas of Social and Emotional Learning Skills:

- Tenacity/Grit
- Organization/Responsibility
- Teamwork/Cooperation
- Composure/Resilience
- Curiosity/Ingenuity
- Leadership/Communication Style

TESSERA INTEGRATES THREE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES TO ENSURE VALID RESULTS.

The screenshots illustrate three assessment methods:

- Self-Report Item:** A statement like 'I finish my homework assignments before they are due' with a Likert scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- Situational Judgment Test Item:** A scenario about studying for a math test followed by a scale from 'Very Likely' to 'Very Unlikely' for different responses.
- Forced Choice Item:** A set of statements where students must choose the one they 'most like' and 'least like' themselves.

Each skill area is assessed using three different techniques:

- 1 Self-report test items. Students rate the extent to which they agree with several statements.
- 2 Situational judgment test items. Students are presented with several scenarios and possible responses to each. They then rate the likelihood that they would engage in each response.
- 3 Forced-choice test items. Students are presented with several statements and asked to select the statements that are “most like me” and “least like me.”

This multimodal approach makes it extremely difficult for students to fake their responses and minimizes reference bias. These are problems typically associated with assessments relying solely or primarily on self-report test items.

Tessera™ HELPS YOU HELP YOUR students

- School leaders receive reports of aggregate and individual student performance
- Each student receives a personal profile report
- Students and schools receive recommended resources and strategies to address areas identified as requiring increased focus

