Holistic Student Assessment

What is the Holistic Student Assessment (HSA)?

The HSA is a data-driven tool to promote social-emotional development in young people in school and afterschool settings. The self-report tool provides teachers, program staff and administrators with a social-emotional “portrait” of the unique strengths and challenges of each young person. Data can be reported at individual, classroom, school and district levels. The HSA can be administered to students at different times in the year.

Why Use the HSA?

- Enhances systems for supporting social-emotional and developmental well-being in students
- Detects social-emotional barriers to learning earlier
- Helps to differentiate teaching approaches and targeted intervention strategies
- Provides individual- and aggregate-level data for schools and programs

How Does it Work?

At each school or program site:

1. Students respond to 61* questions.
2. Teachers, program staff, and administrators receive an individual portrait showing each student’s unique presentation of social-emotional strengths and challenges.
3. Teachers and program staff work to differentiate teaching and intervention based on information from students’ portraits.
4. Support staff coordinate with teachers when more challenging issues become evident in a student’s portrait.
5. Administrators review aggregate results to facilitate planning for professional development, community partnerships and other services.

Design Attributes

- **Student voice** – the HSA is based on answers that young people provide about themselves.
- **Fast turnaround** – schools and programs receive results within two weeks of HSA administration.
- **Strength-based** – individual portraits present strengths as well as challenges in different social-emotional domains.
- **Differentiated learning** – information from the tool encourages differentiated teaching and support strategies.

* 86 questions if Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) questionnaire is included.

Languages Available

- Cape Verdean Creole
- Chinese (Simplified and Traditional)
- English
- Haitian Creole
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- French
# Holistic Student Assessment

## Definitions and Sample Items by Scale

The HSA is a data-driven tool to promote social-emotional development in young people in school and afterschool settings. The HSA has 14 scales that are grouped into three domains: resiliencies, relationships, and learning and school engagement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sample Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resiliencies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Action Orientation</td>
<td>Engagement in physical and hands-on activities</td>
<td>I like to move my body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotion Control</td>
<td>Self-regulation of distress and management of anger.</td>
<td>I react to things so quickly I get in trouble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assertiveness</td>
<td>Confidence in putting oneself forward, advancing personal beliefs, wishes or thoughts and in standing up for what one believes.</td>
<td>I stick up for myself against unfair rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perseverance</td>
<td>Persistence in work and problem solving despite obstacles.</td>
<td>When I try to accomplish something, I achieve it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Perception of other people as helpful and trustworthy. I think most people are fair.</td>
<td>I think most people are fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empathy</td>
<td>Recognition of other’s feelings and experiences.</td>
<td>I like to help people with their problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection</td>
<td>Inner thought processes and self-awareness, and internal responsiveness toward broader societal issues.</td>
<td>I try to understand the world I live in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimism</td>
<td>Enthusiasm for and hopefulness about one's life.</td>
<td>More good things than bad things will happen to me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationships</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships with Peers</td>
<td>Positive and supportive social connections with friends and classmates.</td>
<td>I have friends who care about me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships with Adults</td>
<td>Positive connections and attitudes toward interactions with adults.</td>
<td>There are adults I look up to and admire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning and School Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Interest</td>
<td>Desire to learn and acquire new knowledge.</td>
<td>I try to learn new things outside of school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Examination of information, exploration of ideas, and independent thought.</td>
<td>I think carefully before believing things people tell me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Motivation</td>
<td>Incentive to succeed in school, without necessarily including general interest in learning.</td>
<td>I will get good grades on school exams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bonding</td>
<td>Positive personal connections and the sense of belonging in one’s school.</td>
<td>I care about my school community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample HSA Aggregate Data

**HSA Support Tier**

- Tier 1: 30%
- Tier 2: 40%
- Tier 3: 31%

**HSA: Average Strengths & Challenges per Student**

- Strength: 2.1
- Challenge: 3.6

**Percentage of Students with Strengths**

- Learning Interest: 24%
- Empathy: 20%
- Relationship with Peers: 18%
- Perseverance: 18%
- Trust: 17%
- Emotion Control: 17%
- Relationship with Adults: 16%
- School Bonding: 16%
- Academic Motivation: 13%
- Critical Thinking: 12%
- Action Orientation: 12%
- Optimism: 11%
- Reflection: 11%
- Assertiveness: 9%

**Percentage of Students with Challenges**

- Perseverance: 34%
- Academic Motivation: 33%
- Critical Thinking: 30%
- Action Orientation: 30%
- Assertiveness: 29%
- Optimism: 29%
- Reflection: 28%
- Empathy: 27%
- Relationship with Adults: 25%
- Relationship with Peers: 22%
- School Bonding: 21%
- Learning Interest: 18%
- Emotion Control: 17%
- Trust: 14%