

## About ACT Tessera

ACT Tessera<sup>™</sup> is a comprehensive next-generation assessment system for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). It features an advanced assessment methodology that goes beyond traditional self-reporting to yield more reliable, valid results. Created for middle and high school students, the assessment system includes detailed reports—at the individual and aggregate level—as well as resources to address areas requiring increased focus.

## Social and Emotional Learning

- A growing number of researchers, educators and policy makers agree that behavioral skills, more commonly known as Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), are essential for academic and life success.
- Success in school and the workplace is multidimensional, and now, more and more people recognize that helping students succeed takes more than mastering core academic skills.
- ACT research shows all of these skills are important, can be measured, and can be developed and improved upon with early and appropriate instruction.
- Social and emotional learning is part of the ACT<sup>®</sup> Holistic Framework<sup>™</sup>. The framework—grounded in nearly 60 years of research—provides a more integrated picture of education and work readiness from elementary school to career.
- ACT believes SEL skills are important to student success, can be measured, and can be enhanced through learning strategies.
- As policymakers work to develop their Consolidated State Plans under ESSA, states can articulate a comprehensive vision of public education that includes all aspects of students' learning including social habits, disciplines, and learning skills.
- ACT Tessera provides information and insights that allow educators to help students improve their readiness. Combined with ACT assessments such as ACT<sup>®</sup> Aspire<sup>®</sup>, PreACT<sup>®</sup>, and the ACT<sup>®</sup> test, it provides a holistic approach to measuring college and career readiness with data and tools to strengthen student success.

## ACT Tessera Product Overview

- ACT Tessera includes two types of assessments: one for middle school students, and one for high school students.
- It is easy to administer online, producing reports that are user-friendly for students and schools.
- The comprehensive assessment system, which includes a teacher playbook to facilitate coaching and personalized support for students, provides a roadmap to help develop students' self-knowledge, goal-setting, and a growth mindset.

## What's Tested

- ACT Tessera is based on the research-validated and widely adopted<sup>1</sup> personality factors, which encompass attributes related to successful performance across ages, contexts, and cultures.
- ACT Tessera measures six areas of Social and Emotional Learning:
  - Tenacity/Grit
  - Composure/Resilience
  - Organization/Responsibility
  - Curiosity/Ingenuity
  - Teamwork/Cooperation
  - Leadership/Communication Style
- ACT Tessera integrates three assessment methodologies to ensure valid results:
  - **Self-report test items.** Students rate the extent to which they agree with several statements.
  - **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.
  - **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 mitigates problems associated with assessments relying solely on self-report test items by minimizing reference bias and making it difficult for students to fake their responses.

## Intended Users

- ACT Tessera was developed to assess middle and high school students' social and emotional skills, providing individual profile reports, along with aggregate performance reports for school leaders. Students and schools also receive recommended resources and strategies to address areas identified as requiring increased focus.

## Links

- [ACT Tessera](#)
- [Holistic Framework](#)
- [ACT<sup>®</sup> Engage<sup>®</sup>](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Roberts, R. D., Martin, J. E., & Olaru, G. (2015). *A Rosetta stone for noncognitive skills: Understanding, assessing, and enhancing noncognitive skills in primary and secondary education*. Retrieved from: [http://asiasociety.org/files/A\\_Rosetta\\_Stone\\_for\\_Noncognitive\\_Skills.pdf](http://asiasociety.org/files/A_Rosetta_Stone_for_Noncognitive_Skills.pdf).