



Customer Spotlight

HUMBLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Location: Houston, TX

Schools: 41

Students: 42,000

KEY RESULTS:

From fall of 2014 to fall of 2016, Humble's pilot schools reported that its referrals had nearly been cut in half and a 76 percent decrease in Out-of-School suspension assignments.

About Our Evo Customer Spotlight

HUMBLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Humble Independent School District is a preK-12 district serving 42,000 students in the Houston suburbs. It includes 27 elementary schools, 8 middle schools and 6 high schools, including an early college high school that partners with the local community college. Humble ISD also has a campus for students who have had disciplinary issues.

Seven years ago, Humble ISD launched Making Connections, a district wide initiative to improve and standardize SEL practices throughout the district. The five tenants of the program are to keep students healthy, safe, challenged, engaged and supported. As part of these five tenants, the district added SEL professional development workshops for its educators and hired behavioral specialists to provide additional support for teachers and students. Over the past few years, Humble has been refining their initiative into what is now called The Great 8: A Whole Child Wellness Initiative.

Why Humble Selected Evo Social/Emotional

One hurdle for the district was determining how to measure the success of the Making Connections program. Humble ISD had no standardized method of determining which students needed intervention, so it adopted Aperture Ed's Evo Social/Emotional to administer the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) and DESSA-mini. The DESSA is a 72-item assessment that measures SEL competencies in students. DESSA-mini is a shorter version of the DESSA that is intended to be used as an initial SEL screening tool. In its first year, Humble ISD piloted the assessments with 2,000 students at five schools. If a student showed a "need for improvement" on the DESSA-mini, the teacher administered the full DESSA and, based on those outcomes, referred the child to a behavioral specialist. The behavioral specialist then conducted classroom observations and worked with the teacher to create an intervention plan for each student. At the pilot schools, teachers and staff are also working to provide instruction on the "Great 8 Skills" – the eight key social emotional competencies measured by the DESSA – self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, goal-directed behavior, personal responsibility, decision making and optimistic thinking. Humble now has a program that introduces students to each Great 8 Skill, teaching one skill per quarter over two consecutive school years.

Humble ISD's Results

Humble ISD has seen positive results so far as a result of their screenings and interventions. When it compared data from the fall of 2014 to the fall of 2016, one of its pilot schools reported that discipline referrals had been cut by nearly 75 percent. Humble ISD is continuing to expand their program and plans to use the DESSA-mini as a universal screener in every classroom in the 2017-2018 school year. The district also participated in a project to help Aperture norm the DESSA-High School Edition in the hopes to eventually use the assessment with high school students.



DIY: Universal SEL Screening + Targeted Interventions

3 EASY DO-IT-YOURSELF STEPS TO SEL SCREENING & TARGETING INTERVENTIONS

STEP **UNIVERSALLY SCREEN**

1

- Use the 8-item DESSA-Mini form to screen the population in less than 1 minute per child.
- The screening will result in a Social and Emotional Total (SET) score. The DESSA-Mini also produces a RTI-aligned descriptor of the SET designating whether the child has Need for Instruction, Strengths, or is exhibiting Normal SEL competence.
- Review aggregate scores across classes and between grade levels. What patterns do you see?

STEP **ASSESS FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS**

2

- Review SET scores for individual students. How many students has the DESSA-Mini identified as having a Need? Use this data to determine which students you want to assess more fully.
- Using the 72-item full DESSA, assess the children you have decided you need to know more about. It will take about 5 to 8 minutes per child.
- The DESSA will yield scores and descriptors that show relative strengths and needs across 8 specific SEL competencies. Now you know not only WHO has the need, but WHAT the needs are.

STEP **USE INTERVENTIONS**

3

- Now that you know who has a need for instruction and precisely where the need is you can create a plan for delivering targeted instruction.
- Evo SEL contains over 100 strategies and lessons you can use for both universal instruction and targeted intervention.
- Consider using the DESSA data to group students with like needs and using support staff to deliver group instruction.
- For students requiring additional instruction, consider using the individual strategies and supplement with Evo's take-home lessons.

Ready To Take SEL Further?

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

- Use the DESSA-Mini every 4-6 weeks to monitor progress.
- Ask parents to complete the DESSA on their children and compare results in a parent teacher conference.
- Consider including DESSA competencies on office referral forms to see trends between behavioral infractions and SEL needs.