



Social and Emotional Skills Assessment System

Pilot Opportunity with Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Area Schools

June 24, 2020

Roadmap



- What are social and emotional skills?
- Are they important?
- ACT's social and emotional skill assessment: ACT Tessaera
- ACT Tessaera validity evidence
- Pilot study opportunity
- Questions

Social and Emotional Skills

Interpersonal, self-regulatory, and task-related behaviors important for adaptation to and successful performance in education and workplace settings



Are they important?

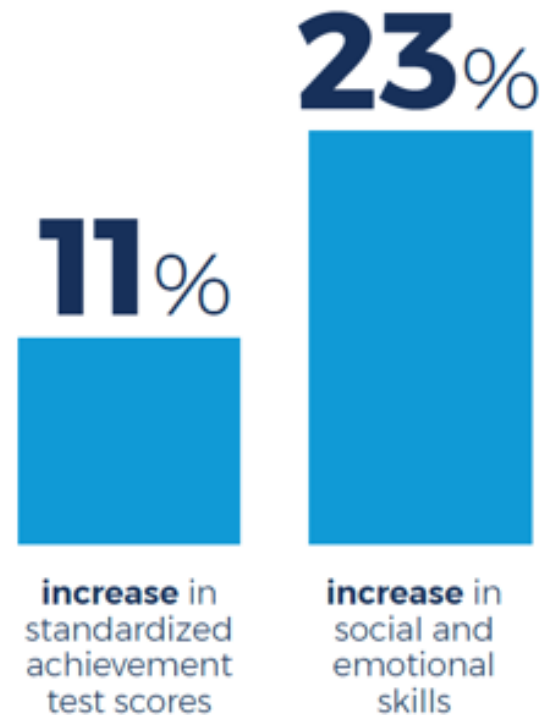
Among others, social and emotional skills predict....

School	Work	Life
Academic Performance (Poropat, 2009)	Job Performance (Barrick et al., 2001)	Happiness (Diener & Lucas, 1999)
Absenteeism (MacCann et al., 2009)	Job Satisfaction (Judge et al., 2002)	Health (Bogg & Roberts, 2004)
College Retention (Robbins et al., 2004)	Counterproductive Work Behavior (Berry et al., 2007)	Marital Satisfaction (Watson et al., 2000).
Behavioral Problems (Ge & Conger, 1999)	Organizational Citizenship (Borman et al., 2001)	Peer Relationships (Jensen-Campbell et al., 2002)
Leadership (Judge & Bono, 2002)		

Meta-Analysis: SEL Programs Lead to Higher Academic Performance

One influential meta-analysis found that SEL programs:

- 1) Are effective in improving social and emotional skills
- 2) Lead to an increase in achievement scores



(Durlak, Weissberg, Dymnicki, et al., 2011)

SEL DELIVERS AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT.⁴

On average, **every \$1 invested** in SEL programs **yields \$11 in long-term benefits**, ranging from reduced juvenile crime, higher lifetime earnings, and better mental and physical health.



SEL and Equity

Educators are embracing social and emotional learning (SEL) as a way to promote educational equity

- Promotes college and career readiness
- Equips students with tools they need to lead healthy and productive lives
- Enables educators to interrupt inequitable practices
- Fosters a strengths-based perspective

ACT[®] Tessera[®]

- ACT Tessera is a family of social and emotional skills assessment systems
- Includes
 - Assessment
 - Reports
 - Curriculum for skill improvement

SUSTAINING
EFFORT



How actions demonstrate diligence, effort, organization, self-control, and compliance with the rules.

GETTING ALONG WITH
OTHERS



How actions demonstrate positive interactions and cooperation with others, kindness, friendliness, and tactfulness.

MAINTAINING
COMPOSURE



How actions demonstrate relative calmness, serenity, and the ability to manage emotions effectively.

KEEPING AN
OPEN MIND



How actions demonstrate open-mindedness and curiosity about a variety of ideas, beliefs, people, and experiences.

SOCIAL
CONNECTION



How actions demonstrate a preference for social interaction, assertiveness in social situations, and optimism.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH
SCHOOL PERSONNEL



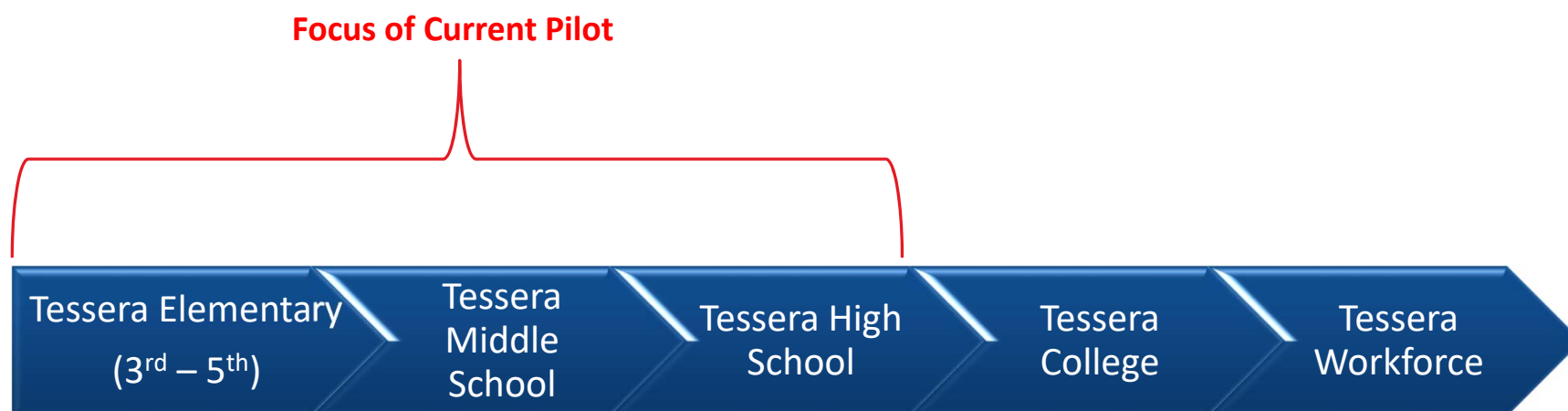
The extent to which students relate to school personnel as part of their connection to school.

SCHOOL SAFETY
CLIMATE



A student's perception of the school qualities related to security at school.

ACT Tessera Assessments from Elementary to Career

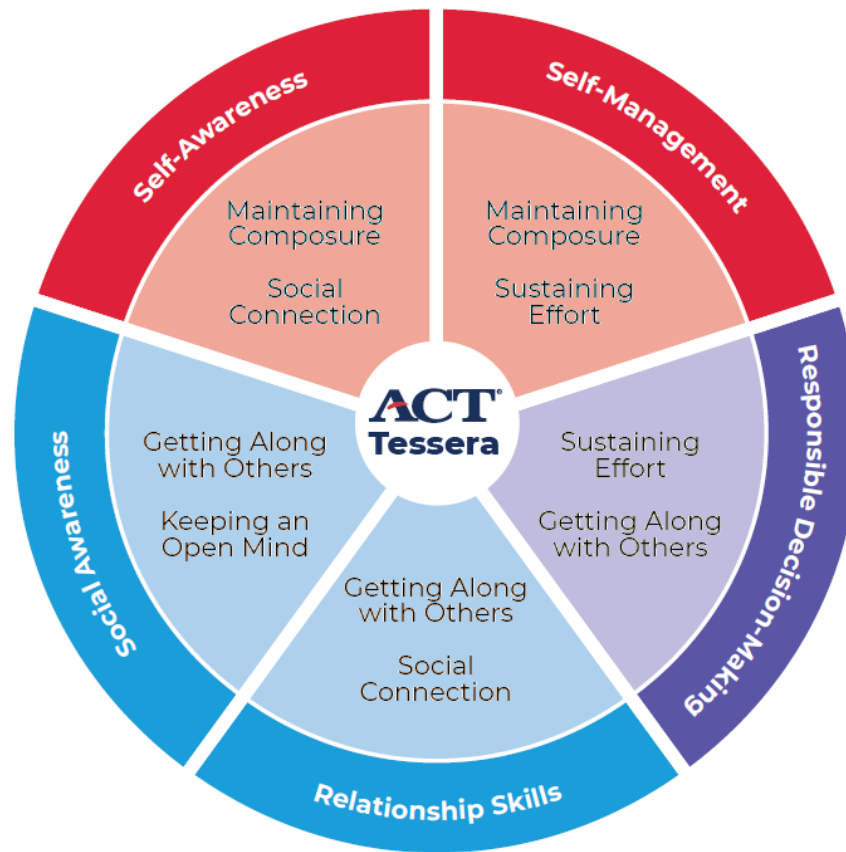


What does ACT Tessera measure?

Social and Emotional Skill	Example Components
Sustaining Effort	work ethic; responsibility
Getting Along with Others	empathy; fairness
Maintaining Composure	bouncing back from setbacks; stress management
Keeping an Open Mind	creativity; openness
Social Connection	assertiveness; enthusiasm

School Climate	Description
Relationships with School Personnel	relationships with adults in school
School Safety	feelings of safety at school

Alignment with Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)



How does ACT Tessaera measure social and emotional skills?

Multiple Methods

Typical Social and Emotional Skill Measurement: Self-Report Likert-Type

I am prepared for class

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6

- ✓ Efficient
- ✓ Valid
- ✓ Reliable
- However, these items are also subject to biases

ACT Tessera Solution: Triangulation Using Multiple Methods



Situational Judgment Tests

You are working on a group assignment for class. The group lacks direction and isn't making much progress, but no one has stepped up to lead the group.

How likely are you to do each of the following?

	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	May or May Not	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
Ask if anyone wants to be the group leader.	1	2	3	4	5
Sit back quietly and wait to see how things play out.	1	2	3	4	5
Immediately take the lead and start giving everyone specific assignments with due dates.	1	2	3	4	5

Forced Choice

Which sentence is MOST like you? Which sentence is LEAST like you? Choose by dragging one sentence into each box. Leave the remaining sentence alone.

People can count on me to keep my commitments.

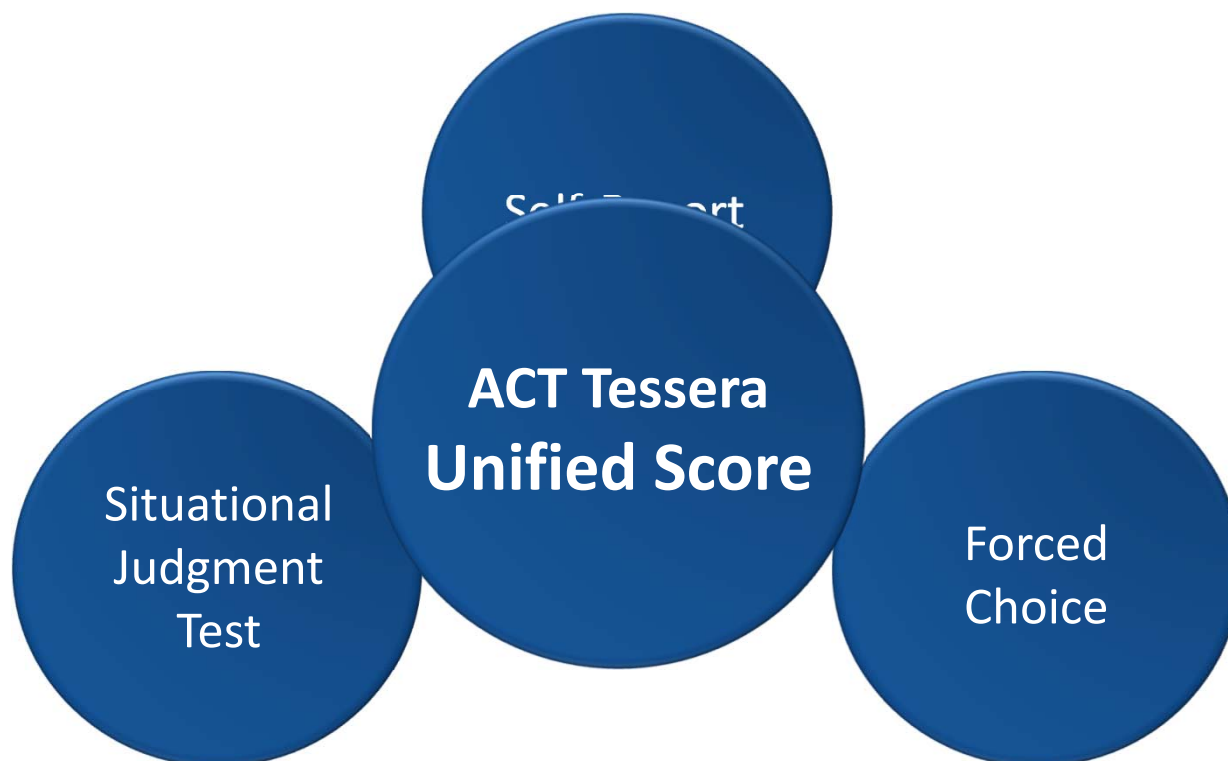
I am kind to others.

I take it personally when I am criticized.

Most like me

Least like me

One Solution: Triangulation Using Multiple Methods



Reports and Learning Component

Reports

ACT Tessera Student Performance File (SPF) Sample

This SPF file represents a summary of your students' individual results on the Tessera assessment.

Student				Grit Star Score	Teamwork Star Score	Resilience Star Score	Curiosity Star Score	Leadership Star Score	Relationships Climate Scale Score	School Safety Climate Scale Score
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Actual Grade							
FName 1	MI 1	LName 1	6	1	4	1	4	3	6	3
FName 2	MI 2	LName 2	6	3	1	3	2	1	3	1
FName 3	MI 3	LName 3	6	3	2	3	1	2	6	6
FName 4	MI 4	LName 4	7	1	3	1	2	4	4	4
FName 5	MI 5	LName 5	7	3	1	3	2	1	2	3
FName 6	MI 6	LName 6	7	3	4	3	1	2	1	3
FName 7	MI 7	LName 7	8	1	3	4	2	3	3	2
FName 8	MI 8	LName 8	8	4	1	3	2	1	2	5
FName 9	MI 9	LName 9	8	3	2	3	1	2	2	3

School Aggregate Report

SCHOOL PROFILE DETAIL: SUSTAINING EFFORT

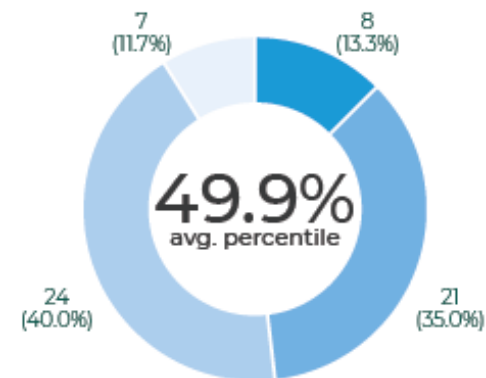


How actions demonstrate diligence, effort, organization, self-control, and compliance with the rules.

RESEARCH SHOWS: SUSTAINING EFFORT IS IMPORTANT

- This skill is associated with improved outcomes in both work and school.
- Students in the top quartile of Sustaining Effort tend to earn higher grades than students in the bottom quartile.
- Students in the lowest quartile of Sustaining Effort are nearly 4 times more likely to be chronically absent than students in the top quartile.

OVERALL STUDENT DISTRIBUTION ALL GRADES



DEVELOPING

APPROACHING

DEMONSTRATING

MASTERING

Student Report

SUSTAINING EFFORT



How your actions demonstrate diligence, effort, organization, self-control, and compliance with the rules.

YOUR SUSTAINING EFFORT SCORE



DEMONSTRATING

WHEN YOU DEMONSTRATE SUSTAINING EFFORT, YOU...

- Complete tasks on time without needing reminders and even during difficult circumstances
- Actively seek feedback to improve work and make needed revisions
- Keep all of your materials organized
- Attempt challenging tasks and persevere through frustrations
- Set realistic goals for yourself and make realistic plans to achieve them

WANT TO IMPROVE IN SUSTAINING EFFORT? HERE'S A WAY TO START:

Get organized. Start keeping track of all of your assignments and chores at home, and organize your time so that you can get all of your tasks done. To access videos and other tools to help you improve in Sustaining Effort, go to www.act.org/link

GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS



How your actions demonstrate positive interactions and cooperation with others, and kindness, friendliness, and tactfulness.

YOUR GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS SCORE



APPROACHING

WHEN YOU DEMONSTRATE GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS, YOU...

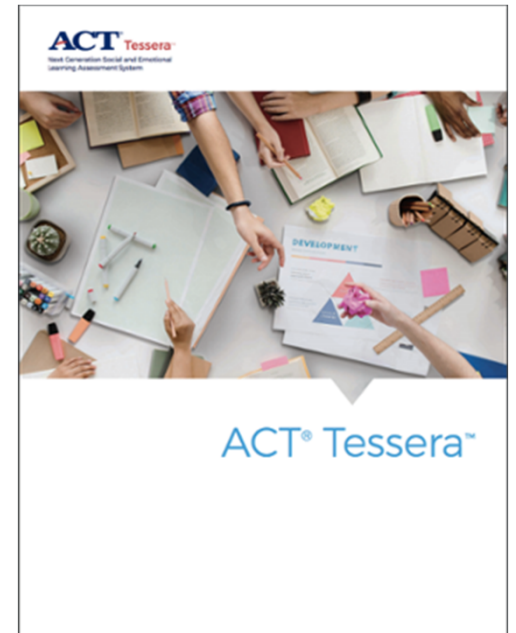
- Consistently show compassion or empathy for others in a variety of circumstances
- Work pleasantly with others following conflict
- Are able to identify when others need help and help others without expecting anything in return
- Consistently speak to teachers and peers politely, using respectful language and tone
- Appropriately identify sources of conflict when disagreements arise and actively suggest solutions

WANT TO IMPROVE IN GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS? HERE'S A WAY TO START:

Consider other team members' perspectives. The next time you work with others, try to see things from their points of view. To access videos and other tools to help you improve in Getting Along with Others, go to www.act.org/link

ACT Tessera Playbook

- Contains curriculum and other resources designed to help students improve their social and emotional skills, with 10+ lessons per skill that teachers can lead in classroom
- Activities are research based or come from teacher experience



Social and Emotional Skill Curriculum Units

ACT Tessaera Teacher Playbook

GET STARTED

INFUSING SEL IN ACADEMICS

SCHOOL CLIMATE

TEAMWORK

RESILIENCE

GRIT


CURIOSITY

LEADERSHIP

ADDITIONAL VIDEO RESOURCES

ACT[®] Tessaera[®]

Teamwork



1

▼ Teamwork Unit Overview

Intended Learning Outcomes and Essential Question

✓ PDF

2

▼ Introduction to Teamwork

Teamwork Introduction and Lecture/Discussion Material

20m ▶ PDF

Teamwork Group Activity

45m ▶ PDF

Teamwork Knowledge Quizzes

20m PDF

Teamwork Knowledge Quizzes - Answer Keys

PDF

ACT Tessera Playbook Sample Lesson: Maintaining Composure

The Gratitude Journal

To make a gratitude journal, simply write down about five people, events, or things you are grateful for. Do this once or twice per week. It might be more effective to think about people you are grateful for but it's okay to write about events and things you are grateful for, too.

Five people, events, or things I am grateful for

1)

2)

Some Validity Evidence

Correlations Between ACT Tessera SE Skills and Climate

Middle School

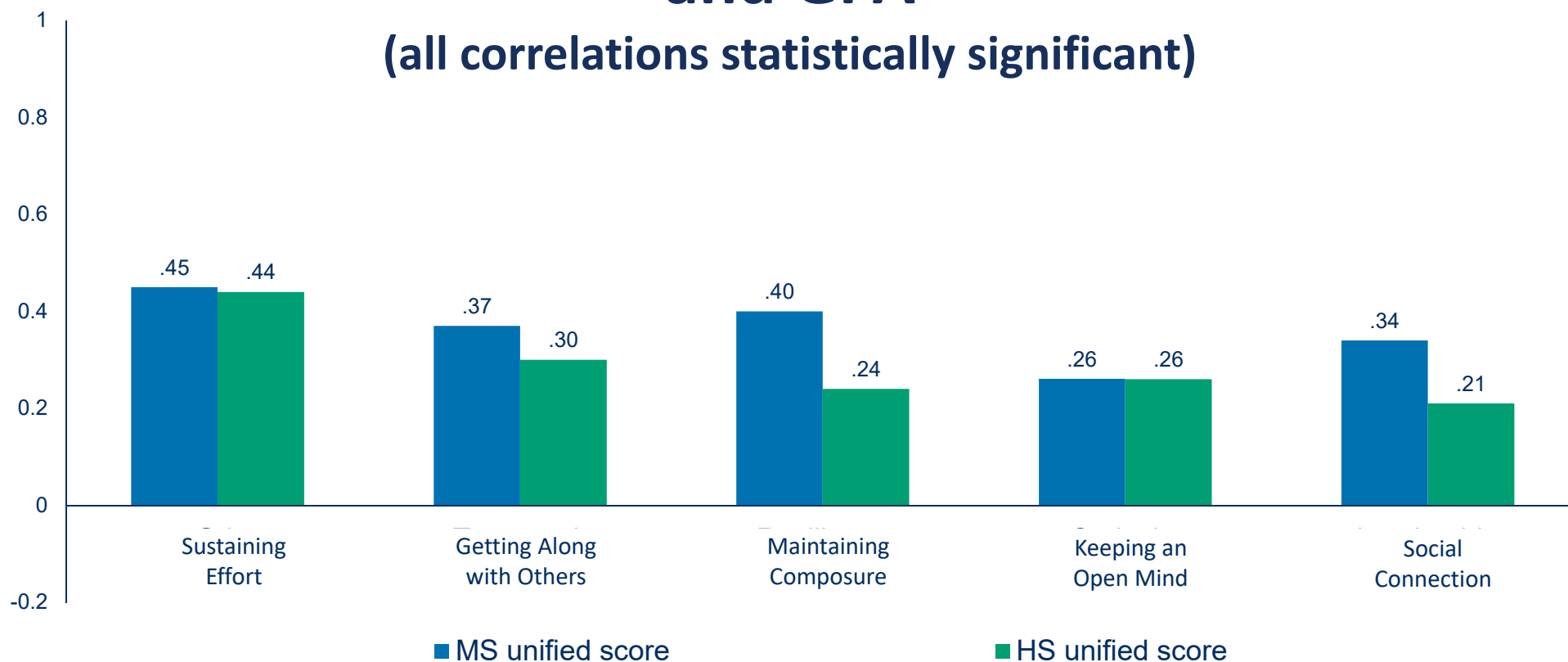
	Relationships	Safety
Sustaining Effort	.50*	.38*
Getting Along with Others	.50*	.38*
Maintaining Composure	.54*	.43*
Keeping an Open Mind	.48*	.34*
Social Connection	.49*	.29*

High School

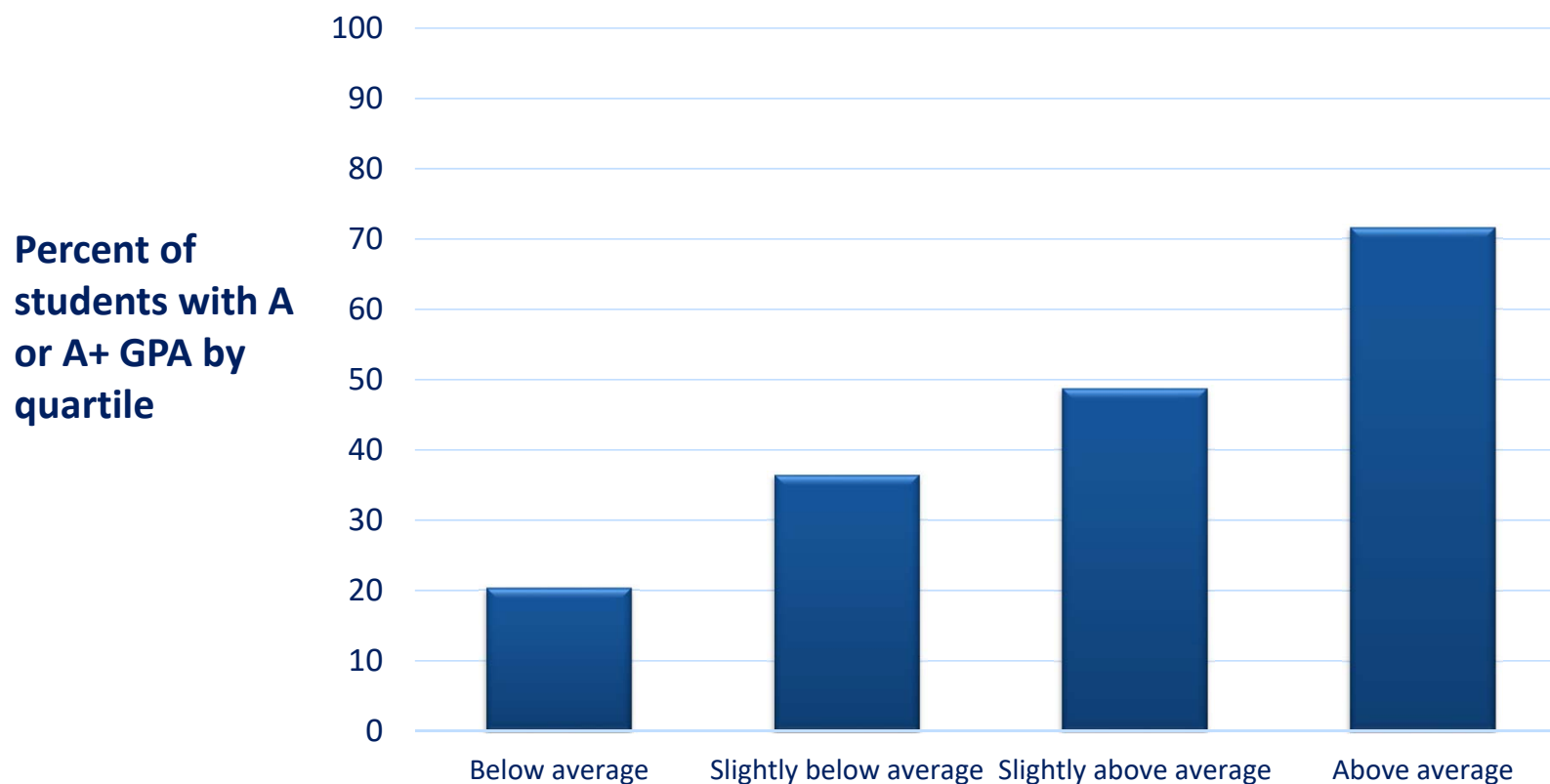
	Relationships	Safety
Sustaining Effort	.41*	.29*
Getting Along with Others	.44*	.33*
Maintaining Composure	.41*	.32*
Keeping an Open Mind	.39*	.24*
Social Connection	.42*	.19*

Correlations Between ACT Tessa SE Skills and GPA

(all correlations statistically significant)



Association between Sustaining Effort and GPA: A Closer Look (MS)



Associations between ACT Tessa SE Skills and Disciplinary Infractions

Students with at least 1 disciplinary infraction had...

Middle School

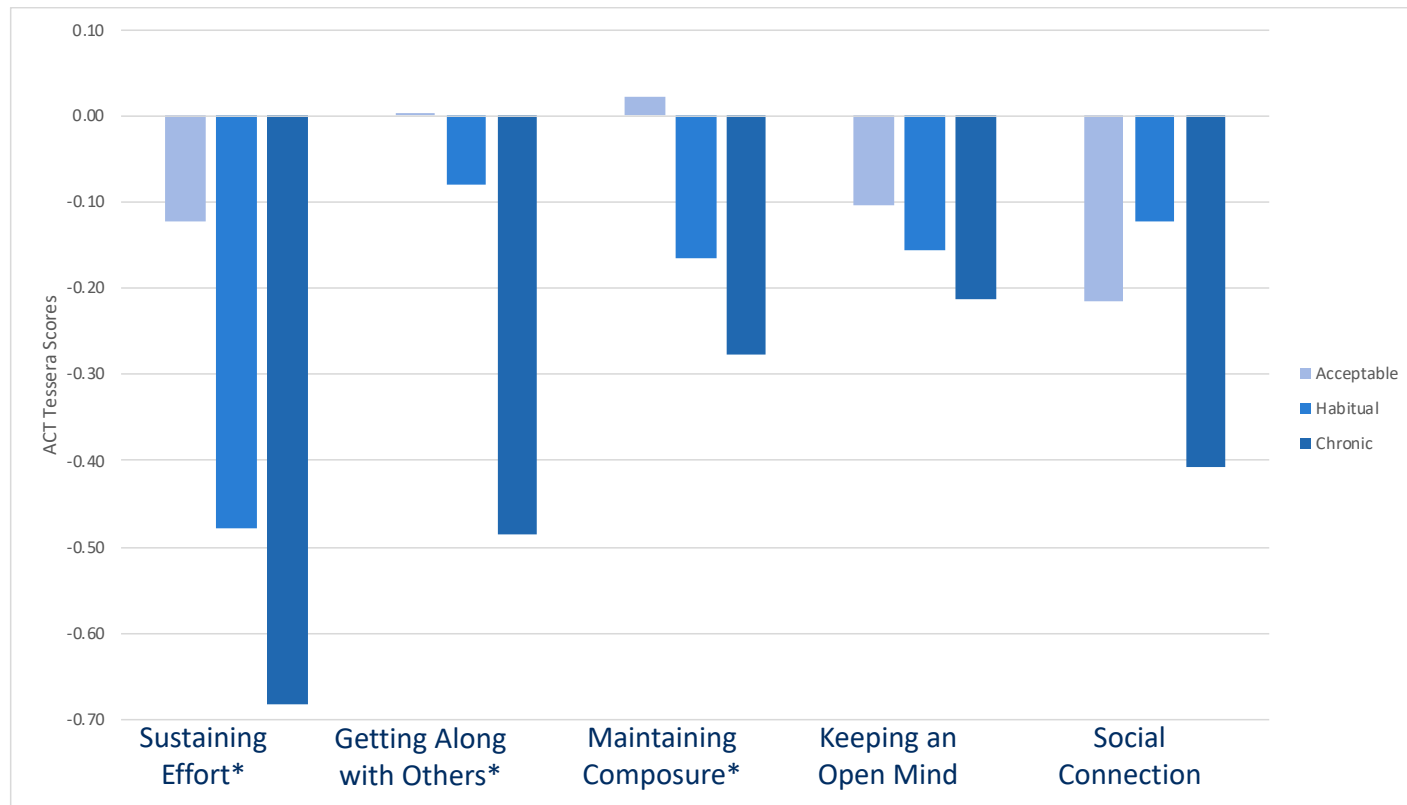
- Lower Sustaining Effort
- Lower Getting Along w Others
- Lower Maintaining Composure
- Worse Relationships with adults at school

High School

- Lower Sustaining Effort
- Lower Getting Along w Others
- Lower Maintaining Composure
- *Higher* Social Connection
- Worse relationships with adults at school
- Lower feelings of School Safety

...as compared to students with 0 disciplinary infractions

Associations between ACT Tessa SE Skills and Absenteeism (HS)



Subgroup Differences on ACT Tessa SE Skills

Very few to no significant differences for:

- Socio-economic status (free and reduced lunch vs. other)
- Race/Ethnicity

Significant differences consistent with literature for gender differences:

- Females tend to score higher on most skills

Current Pilot Study

What is it?

- Pilot study of Tessera Elementary/MS/HS
- Asking schools to follow a cohort for 3 years
 - 3rd, 6th, 9th grade starting
 - Schools can test once or twice per year
- Schools are encouraged to sign up by August 31

What will schools receive?

- 50% discount on ACT Tesseract (\$5/student)
- Reporting
 - Student
 - Roster
 - School

What are we asking of schools?

- School data
 - Grades, attendance, discipline, etc.
- Students take additional outcome items
 - About 10 minutes or less additional testing time
- Please contact Jennifer Daly if interested
 - jdaly@icriowa.org

Questions?

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