



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apperson and Devereux Form Strategic Partnership to Publish and Expand Social, Emotional Learning Tools for Educators

Internationally-recognized social-emotional skills assessment and intervention systems now available in print and launching online in February.

LOS ANGELES, CA – January 20, 2014 – Apperson, a publisher of solutions for assessing performance and measuring success in educational institutions, and Devereux, a leading national nonprofit behavioral healthcare organization, today announced a strategic partnership focused on promoting resilience and social-emotional success for children through the launch of [Apperson S.E.L. +](#).

The S.E.L. + assessment and intervention product line is a standardized, strength-based measure of social-emotional competencies of children in grades K-8th. Backed by the scientifically-proven and internationally-recognized Devereux Student Strengths Assessment, DESSA and DESSA-mini, these assessment tools are supported by some of the best and thorough research in the fields of social-emotional development and resilience. Starting January 2014, Apperson became the official publisher of the DESSA and DESSA-mini.

“With retention rates in K12 schools dropping, our research found that social-emotional learning is a huge factor in a child’s success and well-being,” said Bill Apperson, Chairman of the Board at Apperson. “We’re excited to join forces with Devereux, to become the international leader in spreading awareness of the benefits of assessing social and emotional competencies and providing every child in the classroom the support they need to succeed at school.”

“As the developers of the DESSA, we understand that our ability to positively impact students, parents and teachers is dependent upon our publisher’s ability to reach those audiences, presenting our resources in a way that makes them accessible and user-friendly, and represents our mission and values to the customer,” said Paul LeBuffe, Director of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children. “Apperson has a strong national presence in the education field and demonstrated competence in developing well designed, teacher friendly, web-based applications. This partnership will significantly bolster our mission of providing all children with the skills they need to succeed in school and life.”

All S.E.L. + assessments and resources for early care and education professionals, teachers, parents, and mental health professionals are available now in print and—as part of the new partnership—will launch online in February. Apperson is developing an online version of Devereux’s DESSA and DESSA-mini product called [SEL+ Compass](#) to make the assessment system more accessible and user-friendly. This innovative product will also allow for auto-scoring, tracking and reporting of individual and group data and produce comparison reports.

For more information about purchasing Apperson S.E.L. + products contact Marc Kirsch at 704-399-2571 and / or attend a [free webinar](#) on promoting resilience in school-age children through the use of screen and assessment tools.

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About Devereux:

Devereux is one of the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit behavioral healthcare providers, serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and behavioral health challenges. Founded in 1912 by Helena Devereux, we operate a comprehensive national network of clinical, therapeutic, educational, and employment programs and services that positively impact the lives of tens of thousands of children, adults and their families every year. We also provide public education and prevention initiatives that promote strong social and emotional health of all children. Devereux employs more than 6,000 people in 15 centers in 11 states, helping empower individuals with special needs to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.

www.devereux.org

About Apperson:

Apperson creates smart, friendly and affordable data capture solutions to drive informed decision. Apperson's full range of products and custom services leverage extensive capabilities to meet varied assessment, survey and other information collection needs.

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