State Assessment Changes Over the Years

South Dakota administers eight state assessments to students. These assessments are:

- South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment (SD-ELA)
- South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment (SD-ELA Alt)
- South Dakota Mathematics Assessment (SD-MATH)
- South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment (SD-MATH Alt)
- South Dakota Science Assessment (SD-SCI)
- South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment (SD-SCI Alt)
- South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment (SD-ELP)
- South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment (SD-ELP Alt)

Over the years, South Dakota experienced changes in these state assessments. These changes can impact how the results are reported in SD-STARS and how to interpret the data. Below is information on each state assessment and the changes over the years.

South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment (SD-ELA)

2020-21 to Current
The South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment is currently through **the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**. This is the same test as the one administered in 2018-19. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th take the assessment at the end of the year. All tests are administered online via Cambium (vendor).

2019-20
In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2014-15 until 2018-19
Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, the South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment was through the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the assessment at the end of the year. All tests were administered online via AIR (vendor).

2013-14
In 2013-14, the South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment was a **pilot** through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. A pilot was needed because state standards for ELA changed drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the state

assessment at the end of the year. Most tests were administered online via AIR (vendor) but there was also paper-pencil completion. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2012-13 and Prior Years
The South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (DSTEP)**. At that time, the subject was noted as "reading." There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Tests were administered via paper-pencil. DSTEP results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment (SD-ELA Alt)
2020-21 to Current
The South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment is currently through the **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**. This is the same test as the one administered in 2018-19. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are proficient. This test is given to students that are in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2019-20
In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2015-16 until 2018-19
The South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment was through the **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**. There was a name change in the assessments, but the test was the same as 2014-15 assessment. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2014-15
The South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment was through the **National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)**. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2013-14

In 2013-14, the South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment was a **pilot** through the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC). A pilot was needed because state standards for ELA changed drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2012-13 and Prior Years

The South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress Alternate (STEP-A)**. At that time, the subject was noted as "reading." There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. STEP-A results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota Mathematics Assessment (SD-MATH)

2020-21 to Current

The South Dakota Mathematics Assessment is currently through the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**. This is the same test as the one administered in 2018-19. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th take the assessment at the end of the year. All tests are administered online via Cambium (vendor).

2019-20

In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota Mathematics Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2014-15 until 2018-19

Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, the South Dakota Mathematics Assessment was through the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the assessment at the end of the year. All tests were administered online via AIR (vendor).

2013-14

In 2013-14, the South Dakota Mathematics Assessment was a pilot through the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**. A pilot was needed because state standards for mathematics changed drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Most tests were administered online via AIR (vendor) but there was

also paper-pencil completion. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2012-13 and Prior Years
The South Dakota Mathematics Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (DSTEP)**. There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. Students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Tests were administered via paper-pencil. DSTEP results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment (SD-MATH Alt)
2020-21 to Current
The South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment is currently through the **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**. This is the same test as the one administered in 2018-19. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are proficient. This test is given to students that are in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2019-20
In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2015-16 until 2018-19
The South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment was through the **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**. There was a name change in the assessments, but the test was the same as 2014-15 assessment. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2014-15
The South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment was through the **National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)**. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

2013-14
In 2013-14, the South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment was a **pilot** through the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC). A pilot was needed because state standards for math changed

drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2012-13 and Prior Years
The South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress Alternate (STEP-A)**. There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (3rd-8th, 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. STEP-A results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota Science Assessment (SD-SCI)
2020-21 to Current
The South Dakota Science Assessment is offered through Cambium. It is updated with new questions and benchmarking, therefore it is not comparable to the test offered in 2018-19. We call it **SDSA 2.0**. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th take the state assessment at the end of the year. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are considered not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are considered proficient. Tests are administered primarily through the computer.

2019-20
In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota Science Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2017-18 and 2018-19
The South Dakota Science Assessment was offered through the Questar. This version of the test can be referred to as **SDSA 1.0**. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were considered not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were considered proficient. Tests were administered primarily through the computer.

2016-17
The South Dakota Science Assessment was a **pilot** through the Questar. A pilot was needed because state standards for science changed drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Tests were administered primarily through the computer. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2014-15 and 2015-16

The South Dakota Science Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (DSTEP)**. There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Tests were administered primarily through the computer. DSTEP results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

2013-14 and Prior Years

The South Dakota Science Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (DSTEP)**. There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th took the state assessment at the end of the year. Tests were administered via paper-pencil. DSTEP results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment (SD-SCI Alt)

2021-22 to Current

The South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment is offered through Cambium. It is updated with new questions and benchmarking; therefore, it is not comparable to the test offered in 2018-19 nor 20-21. We call it **SDSA Alt 2.0**. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th with the most significant cognitive disabilities take the state assessment. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are considered not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are considered proficient.

2020-21

The South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment is offered through Cambium. It is updated with new questions and benchmarking; therefore, it is not comparable to the test offered in 2018-19. We call it **SDSA Alt 2.0**. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th with the most significant cognitive disabilities take the state assessment. There are four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 are considered not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 are considered proficient. **South Dakota could not run a valid standards setting process, so cut scores for 20-21 are not valid.**

2019-20

In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. Districts did not administer the South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment. Any results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2017-18 and 2018-19

The South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment was offered through the Questar. This version of the test can be referred to as **SDSA Alt 1.0**. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th with the most significant cognitive disabilities took the state assessment. There were four proficiency levels. Level 1 and Level 2 were considered not proficient. Level 3 and Level 4 were considered proficient.

2016-17

The South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment was a **pilot** through the Questar. A pilot was needed because state standards for science changed drastically, so a new state assessment was needed. Students in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th with the most significant cognitive disabilities took the state assessment. U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver to the requirements for reporting state assessment results, though South Dakota was required to report participation information. Therefore, any assessments results received during this year were unofficial and not reported by the South Dakota Department of Education in SD-STARS.

2015-16 and Prior Years

The South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment was through **South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress Alternate (STEP-A)**. There were four proficiency levels. Below basic and basic were considered not proficient. Proficient and advanced were considered proficient. This test was given to students that were in a tested grade (5th, 8th, and 11th) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Tests were administered via paper-pencil. STEP-A results are no longer reported in SD-STARS reports.

South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment (SD-ELP)

2020-21 to Current

The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment is through **ACCESS 2.0**. Even though the name may indicate otherwise, ACCESS 2.0 is comparable to the previous ACCESS Test. Therefore, it is appropriate to compare ACCESS results to ACCESS 2.0 results. This test is given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversees this test. Students who had a composite score of 5.0 or higher were considered proficient and could exit from EL services. Students below 5.0 were not considered proficient and continued with EL services.

2019-20

In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. However, many English learners had already completed the South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment before schools closed. When results were available, they were used and reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2017-18 and 2018-19

The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment was through **ACCESS 2.0**. Even though the name may indicate otherwise, ACCESS 2.0 is comparable to the previous ACCESS Test. Therefore, it is appropriate to compare ACCESS results to ACCESS 2.0 results. This test was given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversaw this test. Students who had a composite score of 5.0 or higher were considered proficient and could exit from EL services. Students below 5.0 were not considered proficient and continued with EL services.

2016-17 and Prior Years

The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment is through **ACCESS**. This test is given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversees this test. Proficiency was based on a

combination of subtest scores. To exit EL services (aka: be proficient on the SD-ELP assessment), the student must have a composite score of 4.7 or higher, and reading score of 4.5 or higher, and a writing score of 4.1 or higher on the SD-ELP.

South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment (SD-ELP Alt)

2020-21 to Current
The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment is through **ACCESS 2.0 Alt**. Even though the name may indicate otherwise, ACCESS 2.0 Alt is comparable to the previous ACCESS Test. Therefore, it is appropriate to compare ACCESS Alt results to ACCESS 2.0 Alt results. This test is given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversees this test. ACCESS Alt does not have criteria for proficiency, so no scores are considered proficient.

2019-20
In 2019-20, U.S. Department of Education granted South Dakota a **waiver** for the testing requirements due to COVID-19. However, many English learners had already completed the South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment before schools closed. When results were available, they were used and reported by the South Dakota Department of Education.

2017-18 and 2018-19
The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment was through **ACCESS 2.0 Alt**. Even though the name may indicate otherwise, ACCESS 2.0 Alt is comparable to the previous ACCESS Alt Test. Therefore, it is appropriate to compare ACCESS Alt results to ACCESS 2.0 Alt results. This test was given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversaw this test. ACCESS Alt did not have criteria for proficiency, so no scores were considered proficient.

2016-17 and Prior Years
The South Dakota English Language Proficiency Alternate Assessment is through **ACCESS Alt**. This test is given to English learners in any grade (KG-12). WIDA Consortium oversees this test. ACCESS Alt did not have criteria for proficiency, so no scores were considered proficient.

Appendix: Assessment Changes Over the Years

	South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment (SD-ELA)	South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment (SD-ELA Alt)	South Dakota Mathematics Assessment (SD-MATH)	South Dakota Mathematics Alternate Assessment (SD-MATH Alt)	South Dakota Science Assessment (SD-SCI)	South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment (SD-SCI Alt)	South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment (SD-ELP)	South Dakota English Language Proficiency Assessment (SD-ELP Alt)
2012-13	D-STEP	STEP-A	D-STEP	STEP-A	D-STEP	STEP-A	ACCESS	ACCESS Alt
2013-14	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	D-STEP	STEP-A	ACCESS	ACCESS Alt
2014-15	Smarter Balanced^	NCSC^	Smarter Balanced^	NCSC^	D-STEP	STEP-A	ACCESS	ACCESS Alt
2015-16	Smarter Balanced	MSAA*	Smarter Balanced	MSAA*	D-STEP	STEP-A	ACCESS	ACCESS Alt
2016-17	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	Pilot	Pilot	ACCESS	ACCESS Alt
2017-18	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	SDSA 1.0	SDSA Alt 1.0	ACCESS 2.0*#	ACCESS 2.0 Alt*
2018-19	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	SDSA 1.0	SDSA Alt 1.0	ACCESS 2.0	ACCESS 2.0 Alt
2019-20	Waiver No Tests	Waiver No Tests	Waiver No Tests	Waiver No Tests	Waiver No Tests	Waiver No Tests	Waiver ACCESS 2.0	Waiver ACCESS 2.0 Alt
2020-21	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	Smarter Balanced	MSAA	SDSA 2.0^	SDSA Alt 2.0^	ACCESS 2.0#	ACCESS 2.0 Alt

* Test is comparable to the prior testing year.

^ Test is not comparable to the prior testing year.

Change to exit criteria.