

Assessment News Alert

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems.

Math, ELA, Science, and Alternate Assessment Updates

- **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**. Reminder that the **testing window closes April 26** for all Math-Alt and ELA-Alt assessments in the MSAA system. If a district identifies that a student is missing from the MSAA system, please notify DOEassessment@state.sd.us as soon as possible. Students with an observable mode of communication must participate in both the Math-Alt and ELA-Alt assessments. Closing tests for the early stopping rule is only used in very rare situations when a student has **no observable response mode**.
- **Cell Phone and Bluetooth Headphones Policy**. If a student uses a cell phone or Bluetooth headphones during testing, the test will be invalidated. If a student has Bluetooth headphones on them but don't use them, the district should confiscate, but the test will not be invalidated. If a student has a cell phone on them during testing, the test will be invalidated.
- **Sample Parent Letters and Resources**. Sample parent letters and reporting resources are available on the [DOE Assessment Website](#) (under Parent Communication and Resources) for districts to edit and use how they see fit. Resources include:
 - Grade 3-8 Sample Parent Letter
 - Grade 11 Sample Parent Letter
 - South Dakota Alternate Assessment Parent Letter
 - Individual Student Report example
 - Printing Individual Student Reports
 - Science Report Parent Letter
 - Reporting Memo
 - Parent Reporting letter
 - Review your child's test
 - SDSAA Parent Report Letter
 - State Assessment Changes Over the Years
- **Assessment Office Half Hours**. The Office of Assessment & Accountability will provide virtual Office Half Hours every Monday at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT) throughout the assessment window. Zoom info is:
 - Mondays at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT)
 - <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/99784177187>
 - Meeting ID: 997 8417 7187