
Fw: DOE Assessment News Alert

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Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:50 PM

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Assessment News Alert- Feb. 4, 2026

This message was sent to assessment coordinators and WIDA contacts in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems. If you have any questions email doeassessment@state.sd.us.

General Assessment Updates

New AC Check-In Resources

The recording and PowerPoint from the **New AC Check-In held on Mon. Feb. 2** are now available on the [AC Hub](#).

Interim Assessment Training

There will be an Interim Assessment training on [Feb. 11, 2026 – Sioux Falls – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT](#). The training is for educators that are interested in using the Interim Assessments.

Summative Assessment Winter Roadshow

This professional development equips Assessment Coordinators to effectively train district staff on administering required spring assessments. Each training will go from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (local time). Register using the links below. Below is rough draft agenda.

- [Feb. 12, 2026](#) – Timber Lake
- [Feb. 18, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 19, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 23, 2026](#) – Watertown
- [Feb. 24, 2026](#) – Pierre
- [Feb. 25, 2026](#) – Rapid City

TOPIC	Time
Background & Assessment Requirements	10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Cambium Assessments (grades 3-8)	10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Alternate Assessments (grades 3-8 & 11)	11:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
LUNCH	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Tools, Supports, and Accommodations (Grades 3-8)	1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
SD-ACT (Grade 11, public schools only)	1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
Questions and 1-1 Support	After 2:45 p.m.

ELA & Math Review Opportunities (Share with your ELA and Math teachers!)

There are some upcoming educator reviews for **ELA** item development for South Dakota:

- [February](#): Passage Review
- [May](#): Item Review

Please fill out the application below to be considered for these opportunities or any other ELA reviews.

- ELA: <https://smarterbalancedassessment.wufoo.com/forms/zxukdhe181k55t/>

There will be **Math** item reviews available later this year as well. Please fill out the application at the following link to be considered for them.

- Math: <https://smarterbalancedassessment.wufoo.com/forms/zttngoi0skqmf0/>

K–2 Educator Involvement Opportunity for English Language Arts and Math Resource Development

Smarter Balanced will soon begin developing ELA and Math lesson plans for Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade (K–2). All lesson plans will include formative assessment and accessibility strategies, and they will be available on the Tools for Teachers website.

We are looking for K–2 teachers to assist in the development of these new resources—specifically, current K–2 classroom teachers with strong expertise in grade-level expectations and experience supporting the unique needs of young learners. Compensation will be provided upon resource publication.

If you would like to participate, please complete the [Virtual SNE Workshop Interest Survey](#) to share your availability.

3-8 and 11 Educator Involvement Opportunity for English Language Arts and Math Resource Development (Please share with your 3-8 and 11 teachers!)

We are looking for grades 3-8 and 11 teachers to assist in the development of new resources. All lesson plans will include formative assessment and accessibility strategies, and they will be available on the Tools for Teachers website.

Compensation will be provided upon resource publication.

If you would like to participate, please complete the [Virtual SNE Workshop Interest Survey](#) to share your availability.

State General Assessment Accommodations for Grades 3-8

Recommended deadline for submitting forms (through TIDE) is **February 1, 2026**. TIDE forms include:

- Assessment Non-Embedded Accommodations Request
- General Assessment Print on Demand Request
- General Assessment Reading Passages Request
- Special Accommodation Consideration Request
- Speech-to-Text and/or Word Completion Request Form

It may take a week for the state to review and complete these requests, depending on the number of requests received.

If you have questions, contact [Beth Schiltz](#).

SD-ACT Updates (for public-school districts only)

SD-ACT Student Upload

We updated the students in ACT Now yesterday afternoon. The update is from 2/2/26. You will need to check your roster and assign students to the correct test window. Assigning students to the correct test windows will ensure they get their test materials on time. FYI, you can always print the students' MyACT instructions that were not shipped due to late adds. To do this, log into ACT Now, click on the Students Tab, click Reports, and click to generate the MyACT Instructions. See screenshot below. If you see students in your ACT Now that should not be testing (seniors, alternate assessment takers), please mark them as "Will not test" within ACT Now.

The screenshot shows the ACT Now web application interface. On the left is a navigation menu with icons and labels for Home, Contract, Administration, Students (highlighted in blue), and Test Events. The main content area is titled 'Students > South Dakota Department of Education >'. Below this title are four tabs: Students, Reports, Overview, and Files. The 'Reports' tab is active. It contains a table with two columns: 'Report Name' and 'Current version date'. The first row of the table is 'MyACT Instructions for Students' with a date of '-' and a 'Generate' button to the right.

Report Name	Current version date
MyACT Instructions for Students ⓘ	-

SD-ACT Training Provided by SDDOE Office of Assessment & Accountability

The recording of the SD-ACT DOE hybrid training held on Jan. 28 is now available on the [AC Hub](#). You'll find the session recording, the PowerPoint presented during the training, and an additional PowerPoint designed for training your staff.

There were many questions asked during our training. We have attached the list of questions with answers from ACT.

ACT on Board of Regents (BOR) Transcripts

State assessments are included on the Board of Regents transcript within Infinite Campus. The SD-ACT is now our high school state assessment; hence the SD-ACT assessment results will be on the BOR transcript. Districts cannot modify this transcript, as it is controlled by the Department of Education and the Board of Regents. Districts can, however, modify their local transcripts in Infinite Campus to either include or exclude the state assessment scores. The school district decides what is included on a local transcript.

Test Coordinators = Test Event Staff

Many ACT Test Coordinators (District/School) will also be Test Event Staff. **Within Test Center Manager (TCM), test coordinators are unable to assign themselves to a Test Event Staff role.**

All STCs (School Test Coordinators) become "Test Day Coordinators" in TCM - which means they can access and manage ALL rooms. If they will be the room supervisor, it's okay for that role to just be blank for that room in TCM. This will be the same if the District Test Coordinator will be Test Event Staff. Check out this [TCM resource](#)!

Accommodations for SD-ACT

Districts should be finishing up with requesting accommodations for the SD-ACT. District staff will need to create an account in Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA), which is in [ACT Success](#). If staff create the TAA account, it may take ACT three to five business days to verify the account. Here are some resources to help with the process:

- [How to Create an Account to Request Accommodations](#)
- [TAA User Guide](#)

- [South Dakota-Specific Accommodations Training Recording and Resources](#)
- DOE Made [SD-ACT Tools, Supports, and Accommodations](#)
- [List of available accommodations for SD-ACT](#)
- If district staff need additional support, they can reach out to ACT's accommodations team at actstateaccoms@act.org or at 800.553.6244, ext. 1788

Hard deadlines for accommodations are:

- Test Event 1 (Feb. 24-Mar. 6): **Jan. 14 CLOSED**
- Test Events 2 (Mar. 10-20): **Jan. 28 CLOSED**
- Test Event 3 (Mar. 24-April. 3): **Feb. 11**

Helpful District Tools

Here are a couple resources provided for district use.

- [Grade 11 Sample Parent Letter](#)- hot off the press- posted to our [website](#) under the Parent Communication and Resources section (and attached to this News Alert).
- [Parent/Guardian Guide](#) – This document is intended for communication with parents and guardians. It provides an overview of the SD-ACT and offers guidance on how they can best support their children.
- [SD-ACT Accommodations](#) – This quick-reference document is designed to assist districts in requesting appropriate accommodations for students.

Don't forget to check out the [SD-ACT Website](#) for resources, webinars and office hours, and other helpful information.

MSAA Update

Test Coordinators (TC) will be uploaded into the MSAA system on Monday, February 9th. Once added, TCs will receive a welcome email with instructions to sign in. After this step, Test Administrators (TA) can be added to the system.

Modules for Test Administrators will open on Tuesday, February 17th. TAs who completed and passed the modules with a score of 80% or higher last year (2025) will only need to complete a Refresher Training. New TAs are required to take the full course and achieve a score of 80% or higher to pass.

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

Testing Window

- Tuesday, Jan. 27 to Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

Newly Identified English Learner Students

- Any student who comes into your district during the testing window will need to be either added to DRC or transferred in DRC from another SD school. Follow the [New Student Upload Process](#).
- If you are administering WIDA ACCESS Online, make sure your students are entered in the appropriate registrations and accommodations are added if needed.

Test Materials

- SD DOE orders all materials for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS assessments. If additional materials need to be ordered, you will need to place an [Additional Order](#).
- Please make sure that you check for overage of materials before placing an additional order.
 - Additional orders can be placed until Feb. 20, 2026.

Returning Materials

- Must be Postmarked by March 9, 2026
 - DRC would like items returned ASAP
- Items that **MUST** be returned
 - All test booklets (collected in plastic bags)
 - All ACCESS Paper Test Administrator Scripts
 - ACCESS Online Test Administrator Scripts for grade 1 and grades 2-3
 - Listening and Speaking Test CDs
 - All large print, braille, Kindergarten ACCESS (including low-vision) and Alternate ACCESS test materials