

Assessment News Alert- Feb. 19, 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.

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

Testing Window

- Testing window closes on 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. Please 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.
 - **Last day to place an additional order will be Friday, Feb. 20, at 3:30 p.m. (CT)**

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

General Assessment Updates

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. 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.– Noon
LUNCH	Noon – 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.

State General Assessment Accommodations for Grades 3-8

Recommended deadline for submitting accommodation requests (through TIDE Forms) was **Feb. 1, 2026. Submit accommodation requests in ASAP.**

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)

Sabrina Johnson's last day at the SDDOE is today. If you have SD-ACT questions, email DOEassessment@state.sd.us.

Accommodations for SD-ACT

The deadline for districts to request accommodations for SD-ACT has passed. If you get a new student who needs accommodations, please follow this process:

1. **Complete** the [Qualified Exception to the Deadline \(QED\)](#) form.
2. **Upload** form to **Other Documentation** in TAA.
3. **Verify** all required documentation is complete and accurate, including the QED form, before selecting submit in TAA.

Important: If the examinee is denied for any reason under the Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline window, ACT will not review any reconsideration request for the examinee for this administration.

SD-ACT Student Upload

We updated the students in ACT Now this morning. The update is from Feb. 18, 2026. 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. 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.

SD-ACT To-Do: Using TCM to set up rooms

Below are some resources for Test Center Manager (TCM) and test day, including simulations and videos. These are also all available on the South Dakota ACT hosted website.

- [Using TCM](#)
- [Setting up TCM test coordinator \(Video\)](#)
- [Setting up TCM test coordinator \(Simulation\)](#)
- [Using TCM as a room supervisor or proctor \(Video\)](#)
- [Using TCM as a room supervisor or proctor \(simulation\)](#)
- [Test day overview for room supervisors \(online\)](#)
- [Test day checklist](#)

SD-ACT To-Do: Have students create MyACT accounts

In order for your students to utilize the four free score sends, they need to create a MyACT account and claim the MyACT student code within two days of testing. **It is recommended for students to complete this before testing.** Need support?

Check out [the MyACT User Guide!](#) The MyACT instructions are included in the initial shipment from ACT. The MyACT instructions can be accessed in ACT Now, under the Student tab in the Reports section.

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

MSAA Updates

The MSAA System is open!

Feb. 9:

- TCs accounts were activated; contact [Stacy Holzbauer](#) if you did not receive an activation email on February 9.
- TCs should create district TA accounts by EOD February 16.
- TCs should review students in the MSAA system; contact [Stacy Holzbauer](#) to add/remove students.

Feb. 17:

- 2026 Training Modules (or NEW shortened 2026 Refresher Training for those eligible) is available to TCs and TAs!
- TAs must complete their training before their students' test will open for administration.
- TAs can show students [MSAA Sample Items](#) to become familiar with the system.
- Districts can give parents the [Parent Letter Before Testing](#) and [MSAA Parent Brochure](#).

March 9-Apr. 24

- MSAA Test Administration (ELA-alt & Math-alt) window.
- If a student's test becomes "locked" or you experience MSAA system issues, contact MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org or 866-834-8879.

Upcoming Educator Opportunities

ELA & Math Review Opportunities (Please 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

Complete the [ELA application](#) to be considered for these opportunities or any other ELA reviews.

There will be **Math** item reviews available later this year as well. Complete the [Math application](#) to be considered for them.

K–2 Educator Involvement Opportunity for English Language Arts and Math Resource Development (Please share with your K-2 teachers!)

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.