

# Assessment News Alert

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This message was sent to assessment coordinators, ELL/Title III contacts, and WIDA Assessment contacts in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems.

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## Math, ELA, Science, and Alternate Assessment Updates

- **MSAA (SD-Math Alt and SD-ELA Alt) Window Opens Monday.** The MSAA window is March 11 to April 26. This assessment is the alternate assessment for math and ELA and is for students with the most severe cognitive disabilities. A sample [MSAA Parent Letter](#) is available for districts to personalize and send to the parents of students who will be participating. Just a reminder, this assessment must be administered one-on-one. Question? Reach out to [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us).
- **Making Changes to Students in the MSAA System for the math and ELA alternate assessments.** Districts MUST send changes for MSAA to [DOEassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:DOEassessment@state.sd.us). They are not automatic. This includes if you receive a new student or if a student leaves.
- **Assessment Office Half Hours.** Starting next week, 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
- **Assessment Coordinator's (AC) Hub.** All assessment training ppts, resources, and recordings are located in the [Assessment Coordinator's Hub](#) within Canvas (click on Modules). You as the District Assessment Coordinator should have access to this Hub. There you will find pertinent resources for the upcoming required summative assessments. Please reach out if you have any issues with access.
- **2024 Important Assessment Reminders & Steps.** This [two-page document](#) within the AC Hub includes important reminders and summarizes the steps before, during, and after the assessment windows for assessment coordinators and teachers/proctors. We hope you find it useful!

## English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS) Updates

- **Upcoming assessment webinar on interpreting score reports.** Join the WIDA Client Services Center on **Tuesday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. CT** to get *your* questions about ACCESS for ELLs scores and score reports answered by our experts. [Webinar Link](#) to add to your calendar.

WIDA is trying out a new format with this year's **Interpreting Score Reports Q&A webinar**, so before attending, review the [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) webpage and get your questions ready. Learn more and add this upcoming webinar to your calendar on the Webinars page (login required).

- **Timeline for when scores will be available:**
  - April 26, 2024 – Scores available online
  - May 2-3, 2024 – Printed Score reports arrive in district
  - Sept. 12, 2024 – Alt ACCESS Scores available online
  - Sept. 24, 2024 – Alt ACCESS scores arrive in district
  
- **First Year in Country Students.** The following information must be filled out in Infinite Campus for a student to be exempt from the state ELA assessment. This information is found under Census>People>Demographics (To qualify for exemption for SY 2023-24, enrollment would be from May 2, 2023 – May 1, 2024)
  1. Birth Country
  2. Date Entered US
  3. Date Entered US School
  4. Home Primary Language
  
- If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Shari Lord](#).