

# Assessment News Alert- March 12, 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](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us).

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## General Assessment Updates

### Cambium Resources, Hot off the Press!

- [2025-26 Summative Test Administration Manual \(TAM\)](#)
- [Test Proctor Script](#)
- [Test Administration Checklists](#)
- [TIDE User Guide](#)
- [TIDE Module](#)
- [TDS User Guide](#)
- [TDS Module](#)
- [Pause Rule Quick Guide](#)

### Office Hours During Testing Window

We will host weekly office hours during the testing window (March 2 - May 4) on Mondays at 10 a.m. CT.

- <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/94662091350>
- Meeting ID: 946 6209 1350

### 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](#).

### Virtual Trainings Provided by Cambium

Cambium will provide one-hour virtual trainings specifically for South Dakota assessment coordinators and educators. Details for the trainings and registration links are located on [the Gateway](#). All trainings are 11 a.m. - Noon (CT).

- March 12: [[http://Thursday, March 12](#)]SDSAA Training
- March 18 [Response Entry Interface System Training](#) (for SDSA Paper)
- April 9: [Reporting System Training](#)

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

### Opportunity for Educators: Apply to help set the Cut Scores for the SD-ACT (Share with your high school Math, Science, and ELA teachers!)

The South Dakota Department of Education invites educators to apply to participate in a two-day workshop focused on setting South Dakota-specific cut scores for the SD-ACT Grade 11 assessment. During this workshop, panelists will engage in a structured standard setting process to recommend cut scores that define performance levels aligned to the South Dakota Academic Standards. Each student who takes the SD-ACT will be placed in a performance level based on their scores and the cut scores, which will be used to calculate the Student Performance Indicator on the Accountability High School Report Cards. Your expertise is essential to ensuring the recommended cut scores accurately reflect the knowledge and skills expected of South Dakota students. Panelists will receive training on the standard setting process and will participate in multiple rounds of review, discussion, and cut score recommendations. Each panelist will focus on one subject area (math, ELA, science) during the workshop. The Standard Setting Workshop will take place **in person in Pierre** on July 8–9, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT. Complete the [application](#) only if you are available and committed to participating in the full workshop. Chosen participants will receive \$175 per day, as well as reimbursement for travel and meals outside of the workshop. ACT will pay for your hotel. Reach out to [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us) if you have any questions. All applicants will be notified of their selection status via email, regardless of the outcome. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of South Dakota's statewide assessment program.

### Spring 2027 ACT Window – We need your feedback

South Dakota needs to decide if we will go with Test Events 1-3, or if we go with Test Events 2-4 for the spring 2027 administration. Please take this [short survey](#) to vote for your preference.

### SD-ACT Window 2 Testing Has Begun

If you have issues during testing, please contact ACT support by calling 319.337.1566 ([option 3](#) is for tech assistance)

### Students Showing as Not Tested

If you have students who tested, but their status shows as “not tested,” the student is complete, but did not submit. If students do not submit, it takes a few days for the status to be marked “tested” after the window closes, not after they took the test. The system will mark them complete the Monday after the test window ends. Districts can see the students as tested around 48 hours after that. Districts can always check the student's status in the TCM room at any time.

### South Dakota State-Use Questions

South Dakota does not have any state-use questions. Room Supervisors can have students skip that section of the SD-ACT.

### Steps for Testing Coordinators to complete during testing:

1. Assign the test event to students before they test.
2. Enter and review any irregularities in ACT® Test Center Manager™ (TCM) as soon as possible (no later than 3 days after the end of the test event). Use Irregularity reports to identify any students who were absent on their originally scheduled test day and assign them to new test events and rooms in TCM.

### SD-ACT Student Upload

We are now updating students in ACT now daily. Please check your rosters and assign students to the correct test window, and then add them to your rooms in TCM. 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.

### 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.*

## **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. You can also access the MyACT instructions in ACT Now / Student tab / Reports.

- **REMINDER:** Students need to create their MyACT accounts no later than TWO calendar days after testing to complete their non-test information, receive their scores in their accounts, and be eligible to send free score reports. ACT recommends schools host in-class sessions to create and complete their MyACT accounts. MyACT account creation is recommended but not required.

Check out the [SD-ACT Website](#) for resources, webinars and office hours, and other helpful information.

## **MSAA Updates**

- The [Multi-State Alternate Assessment \(MSAA\)](#) testing started on March 9
- Students can be tested one-on-one during the March 9-April 24 testing window.
- If a student's test becomes "locked" or you experience MSAA system issues, contact [MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org](mailto:MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org) or 866-834-8879.
- Contact [Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us](mailto:Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us) to add/remove students.

## **SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)**

### **Score Reports**

- 5.5.26 -available online in DRC platform
- 5.11-13.26 -districts will receive printed reports from DRC