

Assessment News Alert- March 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.

General Assessment Updates

Cambium Resources, Hot off the Press! If the links on the Cambium Gateway take you to the sprint 2025 resources, then you will need to clear your cache and try again.

- [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 until May 4) on Mondays at 10 a.m. (CT). Zoom info is:

- <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 ASAPt.**

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. Contact [Beth Schiltz](#) with questions.

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)

- Reporting System Training – [Thursday, April 9](#)

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

Help set the Cut Scores for the SD-ACT!

We invite educators to apply to participate in a two-day workshop, July 8-9 in Pierre, focused on setting South Dakota-specific cut scores for the SD-ACT Grade 11 assessment. We are aiming for well-rounded panels of teachers, administrators, and postsecondary faculty. Your expertise is essential to ensuring the recommended cut scores accurately reflect the knowledge and skills expected of South Dakota students. Panelists will focus on one content area, receive training, and participate in multiple rounds of review, discussion, and cut score recommendations. Complete the [application](#) by **Wed., March 25** only if you are available and committed to participating in the full workshop. Participants will receive a stipend, travel, and per diem. Reach out to doeassessment@state.sd.us if you have any questions.

Preparing you and your Room Supervisors for Test Day

Here are some resources that are located on our SD-ACT website that are especially helpful in preparing you and your Room Supervisors for testing. Enjoy!

- [Test Day Overview for Room Supervisors - Online \(video\)](#)
- [Before Test Day Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [Test Day Checklist \(pdf\)](#)

Makeup Tests

In South Dakota, if a student gets sick during testing, or there is a technical glitch that is beyond their control, we WILL allow the student to make up the tests. However, if the student is dismissed because of prohibitive behavior (e.g. has a cell phone), the student will NOT be able to make up the tests.

What if a Student is Absent Day 2?

You will need to unassign the student and move them to a new room for the makeup date, as long as it is in the same window. Please call customer support if you need help with that after the first day of testing.

Extended Break

If your students are testing over one day and utilizing the Extended Break. **Make sure students do NOT access a cell phone during this break.** It is not allowed.

SD-ACT Window 2 Ends Tomorrow!

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. The testing coordinator can go into the TCM room to see if they are complete. The school test coordinator has access to a closed room for seven days and a room supervisor would have access for 3 days.**

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 **by March 20**. This is a HARD deadline!
2. **Upload** form to **Other Documentation** in TAA.
3. **Contact** the Accommodations Team to make sure you have the correct documentation. (Phone: 800.553.6244, ext. 1788; actstateaccoms@act.org)
4. **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.*

Don't forget to 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 or 866-834-8879.
- Contact 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