Assessment News Alert- March 25, 2026

This message was sent to assessment coordinators 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

Grades 3-8 Testing Window Opens on Monday

The Cambium assessment window for the following assessments opens **Monday, March 30** and will close on Friday, May 8.

- SD ELA and Math Assessments – Grades 3-8
- SD Science Assessments – Grades 5 & 8
- SD Science-Alternate Assessments – Grades 5, 8, 11

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).
Zoom info is:

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

Cambium Resources, Hot off the Press! If the links on the Cambium Gateway take you to the spring 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

State General Assessment Accommodations for Grades 3-8

Districts need to check to ensure all accommodations have been marked in TIDE prior to testing. To do this, use the Manage Test Settings and Tools within TIDE. If they are not set, please use the forms to request the appropriate accommodations. 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 12 p.m. (CT)

- Reporting System Training – Thurs., 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. Please complete the **application by 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.

Got Tech Issues? Here is who to call:

- First Choice: 319.337.1566, option 3
- Second Choice: 800.553.6244 ext. 2800, option 2

This week's SD-ACT Q&A

1. Do you close the test between sessions (if you do a morning session and then an afternoon session after lunch)?

- No, do not close the session. The Room Supervisor locks the records in TCM (they do not close the room and do not mark students complete)

2. Is it an irregularity if the students start after 9 (have computer issues that push the start time back)?
    - The student MUST start by 10:30. Yes, it will be an irregularity, but it won't affect testing or the scores.
3. To clarify, do verbal instructions start at 9 or is that when students start testing?
    - Verbal instructions may begin as soon as all students have been identified and seated. It is recommended that the verbal instructions start no later than 9 a.m. in all rooms to ensure adequate testing time. Start time may be adjusted for accommodations and/or supports administrations as needed.
4. "Error code 3018: Connection to server has been lost" showed up for a bunch of students and it kicked them out of the test. They got through, but they wondered if other districts experienced this and what they did.
    - Hopefully the district reached out to ACT Support. The district will need to fill out an irregularity for this.
5. Will the Writing be part of the composite or separate?
    - Separate
6. How to get out of the apps on student devices that may disrupt testing.
    - CTRL-Alt-Delete and end processes for anything that is making it so TestNav doesn't work
    - Check out the tech guide. Page 4 has additional information for the question on apps on the student's device.
7. Students with an accommodation have to be in a separate room?
    - Yes, if they have different timing or breaks as needed

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 (For those using the ACT Schedule Flexibility Policy)?

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, **please make sure students do NOT access a cell phone during this break**. It is not allowed.

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 7 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.

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

Alternate Assessment Updates

ELA-alt & Math-alt in the MSAA system
- The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) testing window is **March 9-April 24.**
- 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 or with questions.

Science-alt in the Cambium system
- The Cambium Science-alt testing window is **March 30-May 8**.
- Any students in grades 5, 8, 11 who participated in the MSAA (ELA-alt & Math-alt) must ALSO complete the Science-alt in Cambium.
- Contact doeassessment@state.sd.us if you are unable to locate your student in the Science-alt in Cambium.
- Contact Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us with questions.

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