

Assessment News Alert- April 13, 2026

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems. Questions? Email doeassessment@state.sd.us.

General Assessment Updates

Office Hours During Testing Window

Office hours will resume **today at 10 a.m. CT**. Zoom info is:

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

Important Reminder about the ELA Performance Task (PT)

During state assessments—including the ELA Performance Task—teachers/proctors must follow the script exactly as written. They cannot provide students with any additional instructions, strategies, or prompts beyond what the script allows. Because of this, directing students to create a graphic organizer, write a rough draft, or follow a specific writing process during the assessment would not be permitted. Teachers can definitely instruct students on the writing process during the year, just not on the actual test day. If you have any questions about what is or isn't allowable during testing, I'm always happy to help. Thank you for your understanding and for supporting a fair and secure testing environment.

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](#).

Grades 3-8 Testing Windows

The Cambium assessment window for the following assessments opened 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

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

SD-ACT Online Reporting: Important Information

- Only the assessment coordinators(DTC's) currently have access to the data as the trusted agent. DTCs need to either grant other users access, or the school coordinators would need to setup an account and request access and the trusted agent would need to approve.
- Scores are still rolling in up until May 18. If a student completed all tests, it may be that their test just has not been scored yet.
- The writing score can be released after the multiple choice. If you do not see the writing score after 8 weeks from the test date, you can call for an investigation.
 - School call 1-800-553-6244 ext 2800.
 - Student call 319-337-1270.
- The data file the state receives will specify a reason in case the student does not get a score. The reasons are below, but we won't get this until June.

64	W_Cond_Code	Writing Condition Code

20	Blank essay Essay not in English Essay off topic Essay voided Illegible essay

Online Reporting: Important Resources!

- [Setting Up for Success - Online Reporting and TAA \(pdf\)](#)
 - How to Get Access
 - How to create an account
 - How to make a request to get trusted agent access
- [ACT Online Reporting User Guide \(pdf\)](#)
 - Includes screenshots
- [Trusted Agent Best Practices](#)

Alternate Assessment Updates

ELA-Alt & Math-Alt (MSAA): March 9-April 24

- There are two weeks left to submit MSAA tests!
- If a student's MSAA test becomes "locked" or you experience MSAA system issues, contact MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org or 866-834-8879.
- Score reports will be available in July; results must be sent to parents.

Science-Alt (Cambium): March 30-May 8

- Any student who participated in the MSAA in **grades 5, 8, 11** must ALSO complete the Science-alt in Cambium.
- A [practice test](#) is available to familiarize students with the platform.
- A recommended Science-Alt [Teacher Certification Course](#) is available to Test Administrators.
- Refer to the [2026 SDSAA Test Administration Manual \(TAM\)](#) with questions.
- Contact SDHelpDesk@cambiumassessment.com or 1-855-838-8378 if you experience testing issues.
- Contact doeassessment@state.sd.us if you are unable to locate your student in the Science-alt in Cambium.
- Score reports will be available shortly after test completion; results must be sent to parents.

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