

Assessment News Alert- April 17, 2025

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems.

This News Alert will focus primarily on the ELA Performance Task (PT).

- Below are the guidelines from the TAM regarding test administration. For the ELA PT, students should finish part 1 in one test session and then pause. They then should start part 2 in a different test session. **Students should NOT be instructed to take notes and/or create a rough draft and pause the test, and then return to the prompt at a different time to write their essay. This is unethical.** The intent is that students finish the prompt in one sitting, since this is a summative assessment. If students need more time, then they can pause. However, the teacher/proctor can NOT instruct the students on how to use their time responding to the prompts.

Table 10: Assessment Sequence—ELA

ELA	CAT Items	PT Items
Number and Duration of Sessions	Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two sessions (recommended) and no more than six sessions (rare/extreme) Session durations range from 40–60 minutes 	The PT is presented in two parts. Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Administer in two sessions corresponding to Parts 1 and 2 of the PT. Session durations range from 60–120 minutes. Part 2 should be scheduled to allow students enough time to complete the full-write in one test session.
Breaks within Sessions	Breaks can be provided during the test sessions using the software's pause feature. If the test is paused for more than 20 minutes, the student will not be able to go back to items on the previous screens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: A single test session should not include a break longer than 20 minutes. Instead, separate test sessions should be scheduled around extended breaks (e.g., lunch). 	The PT is presented in two parts. Students can take breaks within Parts 1 and 2; however, once students move to Part 2, they will not be able to review or revise items in Part 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: Students complete Part 1 in one test session and Part 2 the next school day in a separate test session.
Total Duration	Once a student has started the CAT items, they will be available for 45 calendar days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: The student completes this portion within five days of starting. 	Once a student has started the PT, it will be available for 10 calendar days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: The student completes both parts of the PT within three days or starting.

- If the student has only worked on part 1 and the 10-day window expires, the test will expire, and the district can submit an appeal to reopen the test.
- If the student has worked on both parts and the 10-day window expires, the test will be force-submitted. It is the being scored, and it can no longer be reopened.
- For reference, the segment barrier between Segment 1 and Segment 2 is impermeable. If the student responded to Segment 1 and navigated through the segment review screen and entered Segment 2, they cannot return to Segment 1. A student can pause and resume in Segment 2 as many times as allowed. This is how Practice tests, ICAs, and Performance Tasks are and have been historically configured.
- We are getting multiple reports that the system “glitches” and that students’ ELA PTs are being submitted. However, in every occurrence, the student had submitted their test, which includes the student check marking that they understand they are submitting the test. We will NOT reopen a test for this situation for security reasons. However, we will allow an appeal to reset the test, making it so the student starts over on new prompts.

Assessment Virtual Office Half-Hour. During the testing window, our team will host a virtual office half-hour every Wednesday at 10:30 am CT (9:30 am MT). Today was the first! Zoom information is below:

- <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/93061304949>
- Meeting ID: 930 6130 4949

2024-25 Testing Windows

- MSAA (Math ALT and ELA ALT) are open March 10-April 25
- Math, ELA, Science, and Science ALT are open March 24-May 2
- Paper Summative Assessments are March 31-April 18
- Interim Assessments close May 2 (IABs and FIABs)