

# Assessment News Alert- May 21, 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](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us).

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## General Assessment Updates

### Results in the Reporting System

As of April 13, results have been available in the [Reporting System](#) on a rolling basis. The [Reporting Quick Guide](#) is available to help assist you in accessing the results. Federal law requires districts to send these results home to families. To support this requirement, the department has the [Parent/Guardian Reporting Letter](#) available. Districts may customize this letter and send it home to help families understand their students' results. Once all your students' results are showing in the Reporting System, you should print the [Individual Student Reports](#) to send home to families and keep a copy within the school's students' academic files.

### Opportunity for Math and ELA Teachers

The 2026 Summer State Network of Educators (SNE) Virtual Workshop will be offered twice: **July 8 - 9** or **July 15 - 16**. Chosen educators choose which one they want to attend. The workshop will run from 12pm to 4pm CT (11am to 3pm MT) each day. At this workshop, chosen educators will create instructional resources still needed in Tools for Teachers. The focus of this workshop is twofold:

- ELA/reading comprehension instructional for grades 3-8
- Early reading and math instructional for grades K-2.

Educators will receive a payment of \$300 for each accepted resource they write. Interested educators need to complete this [Interest Survey Form](#) by **May 29** if they would like to partake. Selected participants will receive an invitation to register via email on June 3. Note, an invitation to register depends on state lead approval and qualifying experience related to workshop goals.

For general questions about the SNE workshop, please contact [rebecca.frerichs@state.sd.us](mailto:rebecca.frerichs@state.sd.us). For more information about Tools for Teachers, contact the Tools for Teachers team at [tools.for.teachers@smarterbalanced.org](mailto:tools.for.teachers@smarterbalanced.org) with any further questions. Feel free to forward this to any interested colleagues who have the instructional background to help us meet our workshop goals!

## SD-ACT Updates

Last week, ACT shared a communication, that was then forwarded to District Administrators and Test Coordinators by Laura Scheibe, Deputy Secretary at SDDOE. The email shared information impacting the Spring 2026 SD-ACT online testing. Should you have questions related to this communication, please reach out to ACT Customer Support at:

- Phone: 800.553.6244
- [act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus](https://act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus)
- [act-cares@act.org](mailto:act-cares@act.org)

ACT has also provided FAQs for Students and Families, as well as for Schools and Districts on the [SD ACT Website](#).

## Alternate Assessment Updates

### ELA-Alt & Math-Alt (MSAA) Score Reports:

- Score reports will be available July 13 through Sept. 18.

### Science-Alt (Cambium) Score Reports:

- Federal law requires districts to send results home to families. See General Assessment Update for Reporting System instructions.

## SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

### SD-ELP Score Reports

- Printed ACCESS reports were delivered to districts last week by **Wednesday, May 13, 2026**. If you did not receive your printed score reports, please reach out to DRC so they can track shipping and let you know where reports might be.

### SD-ELP Exited Students

- SD DOE will begin to look at students who have exited based on achieving one of the following two criteria. **These students will be updated in Infinite Campus later this summer.**
  - 5.0 or above on SD-ELP or
  - 4.0 on SD-ELP and a 3 or 4 on state ELA assessment for grades 3-8 and ACT assessment for juniors
- **Juniors exiting with SD-ACT**
  - Clarification regarding exit criteria for English Learners who are currently juniors. These students will continue to be eligible for exit based on achieving a score of 3 or 4 on the SD-ACT. At this time, the specific cut scores associated with each performance level have not been finalized. These cut scores will be determined during the standards-setting workshop scheduled for July. Updated information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

### ACCESS Standard Setting

WIDA will be conducting a standards setting event this summer. Please use this link to help you better understand the purpose of and reason for the upcoming standards setting: [How Standard Setting Impacts 2026 WIDA ACCESS Scores | WIDA](#). It gives a concise FAQ, links to resources that will support LEAs in interpreting and applying 2026 ACCESS scores, and bulleted list of key takeaways for LEAs.