

Assessment News Alert-

June 18, 2025

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

Assessment Coordinator Changes.

- If your district will have a new assessment coordinator for the 2025-26 school year, please complete this [survey](#).

Opportunity: Transforming Assessment Systems.

- Districts are often asked to add assessments to meet stakeholder needs—but rarely have time to evaluate whether those assessments are truly serving their purpose. To support a more thoughtful approach, the **South Dakota Department of Education** and the **Center for Assessment** invite districts to send a team to a **2-day, in-person Assessment System Review Summit** in fall 2025 or spring 2026. These hands-on sessions will help teams analyze students' assessment experiences and create a more balanced, purposeful system.

Learn more at one of two informational webinars (no registration required):

- August 6, 2025: 3-4pm CT → [Zoom Link](#)
- August 13, 2025: 10-11am CT → [Zoom Link](#)

Attending a webinar or requesting the recording is required to apply. Districts will be selected by early September.

Potential summit locations include: Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Pierre, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, Mobridge-Pollock, Lemmon, and Todd County.

Please share the **attached flyer** ([or use this hyperlink](#)) with others who may be interested. For questions, contact Carla Evans (cevens@nceia.org) or Caroline Wylie (ecwylie@nceia.org).

Summative Assessment Target Report – not available until after July 1, 2025.

- Need help analyzing your district's summative data? Our team can create a customized three-year target report for your school or district. These reports are especially valuable for:
 - Analyzing your districts' summative assessment trends to determine areas of strength and growth over multiple years
 - Planning instruction for the upcoming year
 - Identifying focus areas for interim assessments

Please contact [Rebecca Frerichs](#) to request your target report.

2025-26 Testing Windows. The 2025-26 testing windows can be found on the [DOE Assessment website](#). Notice that there is now a link for ACT with more information. An ACT-hosted website for South Dakota will be available in July or August, and we will provide more training information at that time.

Name of Required Assessment	Tested Grade Levels	2025-26 Test Windows
SD ELA and Math Assessments Subject: English Language Arts, Math	3-8	Mar. 30 - May 8, 2026
SD ELA and Math Alternate Assessments Subject: English Language Arts, Math	3-8, 11 Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	March 9 - April 24, 2026
ACT Subject: English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing	11	Window 1: Feb. 24-27, Mar. 2-6 Window 2: Mar. 10-13, Mar. 16-20 Window 3: Mar. 24-27, Mar. 30-31, Apr. 1-3
SD Science Assessment Subject: Science	5, 8	Mar. 30 - May 8, 2026
SD Science Alternate Assessment Subject: Science	5, 8, 11 Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	Mar. 30 - May 8, 2026
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Subject: Reading, Math, (every other year)	4 and 8 Only a sample of schools is chosen	Jan. 26 – Mar. 20, 2026
SD English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS 2.0) Subject: Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening	K-12 For students identified as English Learners	Jan. 27 – Feb. 27, 2026

Name of OPTIONAL Assessment	Tested Grade Level	2025-26 Test Window
Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs) Subject: English Language Arts, Math, Science	3-8	Aug. 11, 2025 – May 22, 2026
Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) Subject: English Language Arts, Math	3-8	Window 1: Aug. 11, 2025 – Nov. 28, 2025 Window 2: Dec. 1, 2025 – Mar. 6, 2026