

Assessment News Alert- Oct. 22, 2025

This message was sent to assessment coordinators and WIDA contacts in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems. If you have any questions, email doeassessment@state.sd.us.

SD-ACT Updates

SD-ACT Accommodations

Districts should begin requesting accommodations for the SD-ACT as soon as possible. District staff will need to create an account in Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA), which is in [ACT Success](#). If staff create the TAA account, it may take ACT three to five business days to verify the account. Here are some resources to help with the process:

- **Hot off the press is this [SD-ACT Accommodations Visual](#). Please share with your staff!**
- [How to Create an Account to Request Accommodations](#)
- [TAA User Guide](#)
- [South Dakota-Specific Accommodations Training Recording and Resources](#)
- For additional support, reach out to ACT's accommodations team at actstateaccoms@act.org or at 800.553.6244, ext. 1788

ACT Now

There will be an upload of all Assessment Coordinators (ACs) into ACT Now on Nov. 3. At that time, every AC uploaded will receive an email welcoming them to the platform. District Assessment Coordinator that don't receive a welcome email by Friday, Nov. 7 should contact doeassessment@state.sd.us.

ACT Test Administration Webinar

The first Pre-Test Administration Webinar will be held Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. CT. These two webinars are the only trainings offered by ACT.

- [Pre-Test Administration Webinar – Nov. 13, 2025](#)
 - [Pre-Test Administration Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [SD-ACT Test Day Administration Webinar – Jan. 13, 2025](#)

Check out the [SD-ACT Website](#) for resources, webinars and office hours, and other helpful information.

General Assessment Updates

Putting Supports and Accommodations in TIDE

Even though the IDEA indicator is not showing in TIDE, districts are still able to put in the designated supports and accommodations. Districts are also still able to request accommodations for students through the forms found in TIDE. SD DOE has a work around to be able to enable/mark those accommodations to ensure students have them for interim assessments.

Interim Assessment Workshops

Thank you to all who attended an in-person Interim Assessment Workshop. If you have any questions about the interim assessments offered, or to schedule staff training, contact Rebecca Frerichs, Rebecca.Frerichs@state.sd.us.

Literacy Initiative Update

We're excited to announce the release of a [new series of asynchronous literacy courses](#) designed to support educators and leaders at every level with the latest in the Science of Reading and evidence-based instructional strategies.

Each course is designed to deepen your understanding of literacy development and equip you with practical, research-based strategies to support all learners.

College & Career Readiness Webinar

The department hosted a webinar focused on the future of the College and Career Readiness Indicator. This provided educators the opportunity to learn all about the changes with the NCRC test and options that may work to help districts meet goals for the College Career Readiness Indicator and the Advanced Career Endorsement. During this session, we walked through the key changes ahead, the timeline for implementation, updates with the NCRC and Industry Recognized Credentials, graduation endorsements, and strategies your district can use to plan effectively. You can [access the ppt and the recording](#) in Canvas/Catalog. You will first need to enroll in the course in Catalog, and then access the material in Canvas using the link. Email amy.miller@state.sd.us if you have any issues accessing the materials.

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

Upcoming Trainings for SD ELP:

1. **Preparing for SD ELP (ACCESS) Assessments:** This one-hour training will cover what districts need to do to prepare for this school year's SD ELP and Alternate SD ELP (ACCESS Assessments), which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.

Two webinars will be available:

- [Nov. 13, 2025, 10:30 a.m.](#)
- [Nov. 13, 2025, 3 p.m.](#)

2. **SD ELP: Paper and Alternate ACCESS:** This one-hour training will help districts prepare for this school year's SD ELP (ACCESS): Paper and Alternate Assessments, which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.

Two webinars will be available:

- [Dec. 16, 2025, 10:30 a.m.](#)
- [Dec. 16, 2025, 3 p.m.](#)

3. **SD ELP: Kindergarten and Online ACCESS:** This one-hour training is for districts to prepare for this school year's SD ELP (ACCESS): Kindergarten and Online Assessments, which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.

Two webinars will be available:

- [Dec. 17, 2025, 10:30 a.m.](#)
- [Dec. 17, 2025, 3 p.m.](#)

School Counselors Update

ASVAB testing update

Currently, the ASVAB Career Exploration Program does not have a traveling test administrator to come to schools to test students. As there is no way of knowing what future guidance will be, schools are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet-based ASVAB (iCAT) which can be administered by school staff. School staff can do a minimum training (approximately 30-40 minutes) and select dates and times during the school year to meet their testing needs.

For questions, contact [Jeannie A. Meyer Hoagland](#), 605.305.5277.