

Assessment News Alert- Dec. 1, 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. Thank you and have a good rest of your week!

General Assessment Updates

Monthly New Assessment Coordinator Check-in is Today! We will meet today at 10 a.m. CT and provide updates for TIDE, accommodations, SD-ACT, MSAA, and English Language Proficiency.

- Zoom link: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/94314341100>

SD-ACT Updates

Opportunity: We need educators to help determine the Performance Level Descriptors for the SD-ACT!

The ACT is becoming the statewide assessment for 11th grade students for ESSA accountability in South Dakota. We are looking for educators, administrators, university professors, and/or technical college faculty to help the department create the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) for the SD-ACT **virtually** on March 9-10, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT each day. PLDs serve to illustrate the knowledge, skills, and processes demonstrated by grade 11 students within each SD-ACT performance level relative to the South Dakota Academic Standards in English, reading, writing, mathematics, and science. The workshop will begin with an explanation and training on the process. Next, panelists will engage in multiple rounds of review and discussion, refining the draft PLDs. The workshop will conclude with panelists providing a set of recommended PLDs. Interested educators can **apply by Dec. 15!** Chosen participants will receive \$175 per day, and the school will be reimbursed for a substitute teacher if needed. Reach out to doeassessment@state.sd.us if you have any questions.

Accommodations for SD-ACT

Districts should begin requesting accommodations for the SD-ACT as soon as possible. **ACT recommends that accommodation requests are made before Christmas Break!** 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:

- [How to Create an Account to Request Accommodations](#)
- [TAA User Guide](#)
- [South Dakota-Specific Accommodations Training Recording and Resources](#)
- If district staff need additional support, they can reach out to ACT's accommodations team at actstateaccoms@act.org or at 800.553.6244, ext. 1788

Don't forget to check out the [SD-ACT Website](#) for resources, webinars and office hours, and other helpful information.

MSAA Update

Please ensure that students participating in the alternate assessments are accurately marked in Infinite Campus.

The data pull for MSAA is scheduled for **Dec. 1**. After this date, any students not included in the initial pull will need to be added manually to the MSAA system by the SD DOE.

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

Required Non-Disclosure Agreement. For the SD-ELP (ACCESS) Assessment, all Assessment Coordinators and Test Administrators **must** sign the SD DOE Non-Disclosure agreement before proctoring the SD-ELP (ACCESS) assessment. Form can be found here: [SD DOE Non-Disclosure](#)

Upcoming Trainings for SD ELP:

1. **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.](#)

2. **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.](#)

Test Materials. SD DOE orders all materials for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS assessments. It is important to verify that all newly identified EL students are properly identified in Infinite campus as EL students. SD DOE uses the data from Infinite Campus to generate the Pre-ID file.

- Each district needs to ensure that their EL students are properly identified in Infinite Campus as English learners. **Friday, Nov. 21, was the deadline to have all of this information updated.**
- Students identified as EL students after Nov. 26, 2025, will not be captured in the Pre-ID file upload and the district will need to follow the **New Student Upload Process**. More information about this is coming soon.
- If a student is considered an Alternate Assessment test taker - that area needs to be marked in Infinite Campus. K-12 students are able to take the Alternate Assessment
- For more information on EL Data and campus, please see the [EL Data Elements in Infinite Campus Mini Manual](#).

Literacy Initiative Update (Share with your ELA teachers! 😊)



The South Dakota Department of Education is looking for educators interested in presenting at its upcoming literacy conference, to be held June 16-17, 2026. If you are skilled in areas such as the Science of Reading, tiered literacy instruction, assessment, or other literacy-related topics, please submit a proposal.

Presenters will be paid \$150 for each breakout session, with a maximum of \$300 per breakout sessions with multiple presenters and free conference registration. Presenters are responsible for travel expenses. **Applications are due Dec. 19, 2025.**