

Assessment News Alert- Dec. 19, 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.

General Assessment Updates

Summative Assessment Winter Roadshow

This professional development equips assessment coordinators to effectively train district staff on administering required spring assessments. Each training will go from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm local time. Register using the links below!

- [Feb. 18, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 19, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 23, 2026](#) - Watertown
- [Feb. 24, 2026](#) - Pierre
- [Feb. 25, 2026](#) – Rapid City

SD-ACT Updates (for public-school districts only)

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](#)
- [List of available accommodations for SD-ACT](#)
- 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

Hard deadlines for accommodations are:

- Test Event 1 (Feb. 24-Mar. 6): **Jan. 14**
- Test Events 2 (Mar. 10-20): **Jan. 28**
- Test Event 3 (Mar. 24-April. 3): **Feb. 11**

ACT-Hosted Webinar for Test Day Administration

ACT will host their last training for the spring SD-ACT on **Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. - Noon CT**. Please share with anyone who possibly will be assisting with test day. This includes test coordinators and test event staff (teachers).

SD-ACT Training Provided by SD DOE Office of Assessment & Accountability

We will offer a training over SD-ACT on Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. CT in Pierre. We will mainly cover the material from ACT's Jan.13 training, but this is also a time to ask questions and learn from other Assessment Coordinators. This will be a hybrid training – you can either attend in Pierre OR virtually.

ACT Now

Assessment Coordinators need to log into ACT Now and confirm participation and add event staff. Once this is completed, test event staff can complete modules in Test Center Manager (TCM). There is a toggle at the top of ACT Now to get to TCM.

Helpful District Tools

Here are a couple resources provided for district use.

- **Parent/Guardian Guide (attached)** – This document is intended for communication with parents and guardians. It provides an overview of the SD-ACT and offers guidance on how they can best support their children.
- **[SD-ACT Accommodations](#)** – This quick-reference document is designed to assist districts in requesting appropriate accommodations for students.

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

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.

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.

- Students identified as EL students after Nov. 26, 2025, were not captured in the Pre-ID file upload and the district will need to follow the [New Student Upload Process](#).
 - Students will be visible in DRC Insight beginning Jan. 5, 2026.
- If additional materials need to be ordered, you will need to place an [Additional Order](#).
 - Please make sure that you check for overage of materials before placing an additional order -materials will arrive in district by Jan. 9, 2026.
 - Additional orders can be placed from Jan. 7, 2026. thru Feb. 20, 2026.

NAEP Update

*Things to do **BEFORE** Christmas break!*

- **Check with your School Coordinator(s) to make sure they have logged in and begun doing the Pre-Assessment Activities.** Use this link to log in: [AMS](#). If you get a message about an incorrect email address, your account has been deactivated due to security protocols, contact the NAEP Help Desk:
 - **Phone:** 800-283-6237
 - **Email:** naephelp@westat.com
 - **Hours of Operation:** 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET, Monday – Friday
 - Only the Help Desk can reactivate accounts
- **Ensure all student lists are available in the AMS.**
 - If you log in and DO NOT see your student lists, contact betsy.chapman@state.sd.us or 605-323-3549.
 - Please check your lists and update any Students with Disabilities (SD) and EL student accommodations that are needed to take the assessment.
 - The ONLY SD/EL students who can be automatically excluded are ones that take the MSAA or are first year in country. **The expectation is that all others WILL test.**
 - Before requesting other accommodations OR marking a student as non-participating, please remember that IEPs do not have to be followed 100% for NAEP since there are no student level scores and students/parents may opt out of taking the assessment. Contact betsy.chapman@state.sd.us to discuss options.
 - Encourage student participation by asking them to try their best, but not to worry if they don't know the answers. (This is true for all tested students.)
 - Remind your SPED office that IDEA uses NAEP participation as part of their metrics. Students need to at least try so they are counted in the participation numbers,
 - Do not try to add new students. They will be added in January when a new list is uploaded.
 - Do mark students who have transferred as not participating and add the appropriate reason.
- **Set the Assessment Planning Meeting (APM) date** and time to meet virtually with the NAEP field staff working with your school.
- If your students will take the assessment using school/student devices, work with the technology department to **ensure that the application is installed and has been verified BEFORE Dec. 31.**
 - Verification codes may be found on the school page when you log into the AMS or you can email me for the code(s).