

Key Assessment Milestones 2026-27

	All Assessments	ELA, Math, Science, and Science Alt	ELA & Math Alt (MSAA)	SD-ACT	ACCESS
August/September	- Post Test Windows on District Site Sept. 5 Documentation for Braille and Large Print in TIDE due to DOE New Assessment Coordinator (AC) Regional Training: - Aug. 27 - Watertown - Aug. 28 - Sioux Falls - Aug. 31 - Pierre - Sept. 1 - Rapid City - Sept. 21 - Timber Lake - Sept. 22 - Mitchell	Nightly rolling of student profiles into assessment system begins - Clean up User Accounts - Roster students Install secure browsers Interims Assessments (IABs, FIABs, and ICAs) go live Aug. 10th Regional Interim Trainings - Sept. 29 - Rapid City	July 13 - Sept. 18 Reporting system is live for districts to download results from Spring 2026 testing After results are downloaded, send out parent letters with student results.	Sept. 7 Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) opens for Accommodation Requests ACT Accommodations Webinar: - Sept. 23 at 2 pm CT ACT Accommodations Office Hours: - Aug. 18 at 10 am CT - Sept. 2 at 2 pm CT - Sept. 15 at 10 am CT - Sept. 30 at 2 pm CT Schedule of Events (Coming soon) SD-ACT Website - Pre-Administration under ACT Now	Identification: 30 Days from beginning of school year screen/identify EL students in Infinite Campus new to district. Once 30 days have passed, schools have two weeks to complete screening and identification of EL students - Install secure browsers - Staff administering Screeners must complete training modules prior to screening students located in WIDA Secure Portal Guide to Identification, Parent Notification, and Infinite Campus webinars - Aug. 11 at 10:30 am & 3 pm CT EL Screening Process Webinar - Aug. 13 at 10:30 am & 3 pm CT
October/November	- Oct. 5 AC Check-In 10 am CT - Nov. 2 AC Check-In 10 am CT	Regional Interim Trainings - Oct. 1 - Sioux Falls Virtual Interim Assessment Trainings - Oct. 6 at 3:30 pm CT - Oct. 8 at 4:30 pm CT		ACT Accommodations Office Hours: - Oct. 13 at 10 am CT ACT Pre-Test Webinar: - Nov. 12 at 11 am CT	Preparing for SD ELP Assessment Webinar Nov. 5 at 10:30 am & 3 pm CT
December	Dec. 7 AC Check-In 10 am CT	Dec. 1 Science Alt: Students identified for alternate assessment participation must be marked in Infinite Campus	Dec. 1: Students identified for alternate assessment participation must be marked in Infinite Campus		Student data file loaded into system ACCESS Paper and Alt ACCESS Training Dec. 17 at 10:30 am & 3 pm CT
January/February	- Jan. 11 AC Check-In 10 am CT - Feb. 1 AC Check-In 10 am CT Winter Workshops: - Feb. 17 - Pierre - Feb. 18 - Rapid City - Feb. 23 - Aberdeen - Feb. 24 - Faith - Mar. 2 - Sioux Falls - Mar. 3 - Sioux Falls	Interim Assessment Regional Trainings: - Jan. 15 - Bon Homme – 1-4 pm CT - Jan. 26-28, Feb. 2-4 (Regional or virtual) Feb. 1: Documentation for Text-to-Speech (TTS) ELA Passages & all other non-embedded accommodations due to DOE	Student data file loaded into system for all students identified in Infinite Campus Test Coordinators add Test Administrators to system Test Administrator Modules Open	ACT Test Day/Post Test Webinar: - Jan. 14 at 11 am CT SD ACT Website - Test Administration under ACT Now	Staff administering tests must complete training modules prior to testing located in WIDA Secure Portal Jan. 25 Test Window Opens Feb. 26 Test Window Closes
March/April	Assessment Office Hours Mar. 8 – May 3 Every Monday at 10 am CT	Mar. 5 Interim-ICAs Window Closes Mar. 29 Summative Window Opens	Mar. 8 Test Window Opens Apr. 23 Test Window Closes	Paper Testing Window: Mar. 9 Window 1 online: Mar. 9-12, Mar. 15-19 Window 2 online: - Mar. 23-26, Mar. 29-31, Apr. 1-2 Window 3 online: - Apr. 6-9, Apr. 12-16 SD ACT Website Post Administration under ACT Now	
May/June/July	Individual student reports available: Share with parents and teachers	May 7 Summative Window Closes May 21 Interim-IABs & FIABs Window Closes Districts may request 3-year Target Reports starting July 1	Individual student reports will be available late July	Individual student reports will be available by the end of May	Individual student reports available: Share with parents and teachers

COLOR CODE: **Important Due Date** **Training** **Test Window Opens** **Test Window Closes**

*Dates and locations subject to change. All updates will be posted in the weekly newsletter.

2026-27 South Dakota Assessment Overview

Assessment Type	Assessment Name	Subject	Grades	Estimated Time to Complete ¹	Testing Window	Recently Arrived in U.S. Exemption Date ²
General Summative Assessments³	SD ELA	ELA	3-8	2 sessions, 1.5-2 hours each	03/29/27 to 05/07/27	Exempt 1 st year in country
	SD Math	Mathematics	3-8	2 sessions, 1-2 hours each	03/29/27 to 05/07/27	No exemption in math
	SD Science	Science	5, 8	1 session, 1-1.5 hours	03/29/27 to 05/07/27	No exemption in science
	SD-ACT	Math, English, Reading, Writing, Science	11	English – 35 min Math – 50 min Reading – 40 min Science – 40 min Writing – 40 min	Window 1: 03/09/27 to 03/19/27 Window 2: 03/23/27 to 04/02/27 Window 3: 04/06/27 to 04/16/27	Exempt 1 st year in country: English, Reading, and Writing No exemption in math nor science
General Summative Alternative Assessments	SD ELA-Alt (MSAA)	English Language Arts	3-8, 11	Varies	03/08/27 to 04/23/27	Exempt 1 st year in country
	SD Math-Alt (MSAA)	Mathematics	3-8, 11	Varies	03/08/27 to 04/23/27	No exemption in math
	SD Science-Alt	Science	5, 8, 11	Varies	03/29/27 to 05/07/27	No exemption in science
EL Assessments⁴	ACCESS	Four Domains: Reading, Speaking, Listening, Writing	K-12	Varies	01/25/27 to 02/26/27	No exemption, Required for all EL students
	ACCESS Alt		1-12	Varies		

Notes

¹Time estimates are for scheduling purposes only. South Dakota Assessments are untimed. Please provide adequate time for students to finish.

² First entry by the student in a U.S. school.

³ Wired Headphones required for SD-Math and SD-ELA.

⁴Wired Headphones with microphone required.

⁵An Embedded Desmos Calculator will be available on the math section of the ACT.