# Assessment News Alert- Jan. 5, 2026

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

### New AC Check-In
The next Assessment Coordinator (AC) check-in Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. CT. We will provide updates for TIDE, accommodations, SD-ACT, MSAA, and ACCESS.

**Interim Assessment Training**
There will be various Interim Assessment trainings in January/February 2026. Be on the lookout for dates and registration links! Please share with your teachers and principals.
- Jan. 16, 2026 – Belle Fourche – 8:30 am to 11:30 am MT

**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 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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 be finishing up with requesting accommodations for the SD-ACT. 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
- DOE Made SD-ACT Tools, Supports, and Accommodations
- 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-Aprl. 3): **Feb. 11**

**SD-ACT Student Upload**

Students will be uploaded by the State. Districts do NOT need to worry about uploading students into ACT Now. Seniors who did not test as juniors are not required to test. Sophomores or Juniors who become Seniors during the testing window WILL need to test.

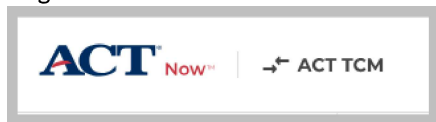**ACT-Hosted Webinar for Test Day Administration**

ACT will host their last training for the spring SD-ACT on **Jan. 13 from 11 a.m.-Noon CT**. The webinar is for 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**

SD-ACT training will be held Jan. 28, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CT in Pierre. Topics cover will include material from ACT's Jan. 13 training, as well as Q&A time, and opportunities 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.*

## MSAA Update

If the Assessment Coordinator is not the Test Coordinator for the MSAA, email doeassessment@state.sd.us. If you have students that should be added to the MSAA system or deleted from the MSAA system, email doeassessment@state.sd.us with student SSIDs and a sentence of which is needed and why (i.e. student transferred, change in decision by IEP team, etc.).

## 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.

**New Student Upload Process**

If you received a new student after Nov. 26, 2025, your district will need to screen the student to determine if he or she is an English Learner (EL). If the student is an EL, the district must create an EL record for the student in Infinite Campus. Then the district must complete the New Student Form (under Forms) and submit the form to doeassessment@state.sd.us starting Jan. 8, 2026.

**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, <u>were not</u> 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**.
    - 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 Updates

**NAEP Assessment Preparation Reminder**

Schools should schedule Assessment Planning Meetings with their NAEP Field Assessment Coordinators if they haven't already. Enter demographic details, including SPED and EL information, for students selected to participate. For schools using their own devices, install and verify the NAEP application. At least 50% of devices must be verified before assessment day. The Verification Code is available on the school page in the AMS or by contacting Betsy Chapman.