

Assessment News Alert- Jan. 28, 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.

General Assessment Updates

Interim Assessment Training

There are upcoming Interim Assessment trainings in different locations. See below for dates and registration links. **Share with your teachers and principals!**

- [Rapid City: Jan. 29, 2026 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \(MT\)](#) – in person
- [Sioux Falls: Feb. 11, 2026 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \(CT\)](#) – in person
- [Feb. 2, 2026 – 4:30 p.m.](#) - virtual
- [Feb. 3, 2026 – 10 a.m. - Noon](#) - virtual

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. - 3 p.m. local time.

- [Feb. 12, 2026](#) – Timber Lake (**NEW ADDITION!**)
- [Feb. 18, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 19, 2026](#) – Sioux Falls
- [Feb. 23, 2026](#) – Watertown
- [Feb. 24, 2026](#) – Pierre
- [Feb. 25, 2026](#) – Rapid City

ELA & Math Review Opportunities (**Share with your ELA and Math teachers!**)

There are some upcoming educator reviews for ELA item development for South Dakota:

- [February](#): Passage Review
- [May](#): Item Review

Fill out the [application to be considered for these opportunities or any other ELA reviews](#).

There will be Math item reviews available later this year as well. Fill out the [math application](#) to be considered for them.

K-2 Educator Involvement Opportunity for English Language Arts and Math Resource Development

Smarter Balanced will soon begin developing ELA and Math lesson plans for Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade (K-2). All lesson plans will include formative assessment and accessibility strategies, and they will be available on the Tools for Teachers website.

We are looking for K-2 teachers to assist in the development of these new resources—specifically, current K-2 classroom teachers with strong expertise in grade-level expectations and experience supporting the unique needs of young learners. Compensation will be provided upon resource publication.

If you would like to participate, please complete the [Virtual SNE Workshop Interest Survey](#) to share your availability.

Instructional resources will need to be created in grades 3-8 as well

State General Assessment Accommodations for Grades 3-8

Recommended deadline for submitting forms (through TIDE) is **Feb. 1, 2026**. TIDE forms include:

- Assessment Non-Embedded Accommodations Request
- General Assessment Print on Demand Request
- General Assessment Reading Passages Request
- Special Accommodation Consideration Request
- Speech-to-Text and/or Word Completion Request Form

It may take a week for the state to review and complete these requests, depending on the number of requests received.

If you have questions, contact [Beth Schiltz](#).

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

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

A recording of today's SD-ACT training will be available in the AC Hub.

ACT on Board of Regents (BOR) Transcripts

State assessments are included on the Board of Regents transcript within Infinite Campus. The SD-ACT is now our high school state assessment; hence the SD-ACT assessment results will be on the BOR transcript. Districts cannot modify this transcript, as it is controlled by the Department of Education and the Board of Regents. Districts can, however, modify their local transcripts in Infinite Campus to either include or exclude the state assessment scores. The school district decides what is included on a local transcript.

Test Coordinators = Test Event Staff

Many ACT Test Coordinators (District/School) will also be Test Event Staff. **Within Test Center Manager (TCM), test coordinators are unable to assign themselves to a Test Event Staff role.**

All STCs (School Test Coordinators) become "Test Day Coordinators" in TCM - which means they can access and manage ALL rooms. If they will be the room supervisor, it's okay for that role to just be blank for that room in TCM. This will be the same if the District Test Coordinator will be Test Event Staff. Check out this [TCM resource!](#)

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): **CLOSED**
- Test Event 2 (Mar. 10-20): **CLOSED**
- Test Event 3 (Mar. 24-April. 3): **February 11**

Helpful District Tools

Here are a couple resources provided for district use.

- [Grade 11 Sample Parent Letter](#)- hot off the press- posted to our [website](#) under the Parent Communication and Resources section.
- [Parent/Guardian Guide](#) – 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 you have students that need to be added to or taken out of the MSAA System, email [Sabrina Johnson](#) with their SSID. Students must be marked in Infinite Campus as taking the alternate assessment (in the Special Education Summary).

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

- **Testing Window**
 - Jan. 27 - Feb. 27, 2026
- **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.
- **Newly Identified English Learner Students**
 - Students identified as EL students after Nov. 26, 2025 will need to be added to DRC. Follow the [New Student Upload Process](#).
 - When administering WIDA ACCESS Online, students need to be entered in the appropriate registrations and accommodations are added if needed.
- **Test Materials:**
 - SD DOE orders all materials for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS assessments. If additional materials need to be ordered, you will need to place an [Additional Order](#). (Make sure that you check for overage of materials before placing an additional order.) Additional orders can be placed until Feb. 20, 2026.
- **Any educator who will be administering the ACCESS assessment must complete the appropriate training in the WIDA Secure portal.**

NAEP Updates

The testing window is open! Finish up any preassessment activities and technology updates that are necessary to be ready for the assessment in the selected schools. Encourage students to do the best they can do as they represent South Dakota. If you have any questions, contact [Betsy Chapman](#).