

Assessment News Alert

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems.

Math, ELA, Science, and Alternate Assessment Updates

- **Testing Windows Open Monday.** The testing windows for Math, English-Language Arts, Science, and Science-Alt open on **Monday**. They will remain open through May 3. Any student enrolled 51% or higher in a public school is required to test. Just a reminder, students primarily receiving alternate instruction and foreign exchange students do NOT test.
- **Accommodations.** There was a large number of accommodation requests that came after the deadline of March 1. Because of this, the requests have bottlenecked, but we are working through them. Please be patient with us. And please make sure to send accommodation requests to doeassessment@state.sd.us, so they do not get lost in a specific person's email inbox. Thank you!
- **Reporting Overview Training.** Our assessment vendor, Cambium, is providing a virtual training over the Reporting System on April 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT (10-11 a.m. MT). After attending this training, you should become familiar with navigating the system to view Interim and Summative Assessment performance reports. This training is intended for District and/or School users. **Please register and pass along to your staff.**
- **First Year in Country.**
 - **What is a first year in country criteria?**
 1. must be an identified EL student
 2. have been enrolled in a school in one of the 50 states in the United States or the District of Columbia for less than 12 months
 3. Must participate in ACCESS for ELL 2.0 English language proficiency assessment if enrolled during the testing window
 4. For students arriving after the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing window, the WIDA Screener must be administered to provide evidence for SD ELA assessment exemption
 - **If the student meets the above criteria, then...**
 - The student is exempt from participating in the ELA portion of the SD state assessment; however, the student is **required** to participate in Math and Science. Scores are not included in accountability.
 - **Qualifying Dates for ELA Exemption for School Year 2023-2024**
 - May 2, 2023 – May 1, 2024
- **Assessment Office Half Hours.** The Office of Assessment & Accountability will provide virtual Office Half Hours every Monday at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT) throughout the assessment window. Zoom info is:
 - Mondays at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT)
 - <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/99784177187>
 - Meeting ID: 997 8417 7187