

# Assessment News Alert- April 22, 2026

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems. If you have any questions email [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us). Thank you and have a good week!

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## General Assessment Updates

### Welcome Bonnie!

Please join me in welcoming **Bonnie Weisz** to the Office of Assessment & Accountability! Bonnie started with us this past Monday and will be overseeing **SD-ACT, Science, and Alternate Assessments**. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to the expertise and energy she brings to our work. Welcome to the team, Bonnie!

### Office Hours During Testing Window

Office hours will resume **April 22 at 10 a.m. CT**. Zoom info is:

- <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/94662091350>
- Meeting ID: 946 6209 1350

### Opportunity for Science and Special Education Teachers: Help Review Science Assessment Items – Apply by May 11

The department is seeking science and special education teachers to bring their expertise to the **Science Item Review Committee**. Selected committee members will review newly developed Science items for potential inclusion on the South Dakota Statewide Science Assessments. Each item will be evaluated for alignment to standards, grade-level appropriateness, content accuracy, clarity, and freedom from bias.

Participants will receive a \$175 stipend. Please complete the [registration request](#) by **Monday, May 11**. Questions? Please contact [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us). Thank you for considering this opportunity to support South Dakota's assessment program!

#### Meeting Details

**Date:** August 4, 2026

**Location:** Pierre

#### Meeting Times (CT):

- Science General Education (Grade 5): 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Science General Education (Grade 8): 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Science Alternate Assessment (Grades 5, 8, and 11): 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Students accidentally submitting ELA PT

We have received several reports from districts indicating that students have accidentally submitted their ELA Performance Task (ELA PT). If this occurs, please notify us. We can request that Cambium review the student's activity to determine how much time was spent on each prompt and whether the student entered any responses. After the review, districts will have two options:

1. Keep the ELA PT submission as is, or
2. Reset the ELA PT so the student can start over with new prompts.

### State General Assessment Accommodations for Grades 3-8

Districts need to check to ensure all accommodations have been marked in TIDE prior to testing. To do this, use the Manage Test Settings and Tools within TIDE. If they are not set, please use the forms to request the appropriate accommodations. If you have questions, contact [Beth Schiltz](#).

### Grades 3-8 Testing Windows

The Cambium assessment window for the following assessments opened Monday, March 30 and will close on Friday, May 8.

- SD ELA and Math Assessments – Grades 3-8
- SD Science Assessments – Grades 5 & 8
- SD Science-Alternate Assessments – Grades 5, 8, 11

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

### **SD-ACT Score Reports**

ACT mails individual score reports out 3-8 weeks after testing. Once the bulk of the scores are released, ACT will ship out reports. If any scores are taking longer to process, they will be shipped out in subsequent shipments. Please send one of the score reports home to the students' parents/guardians, per ESSA requirement. We are working on drafting a letter that you can send home to parents with the score report. Hopefully it will be ready in a week or two. Thanks!

## **Alternate Assessment Updates**

### **ELA-Alt & Math-Alt (MSAA):**

- The MSAA test window closes this **Friday, April 24!**
- The deadline to add/remove students is Wednesday, April 22.
- If a student's MSAA test becomes "locked" or you experience MSAA system issues, contact [MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org](mailto:MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org) or 866-834-8879.
- Contact [Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us](mailto:Stacy.Holzbauer@state.sd.us) with student questions.
- Score reports will be available in July; results must be sent to parents.

### **Science-Alt (Cambium):**

- Any student who participated in the MSAA in **grades 5, 8, 11** must ALSO complete the Science-alt in Cambium by May 8.
- Contact [SDHelpDesk@cambiumassessment.com](mailto:SDHelpDesk@cambiumassessment.com) or 1-855-838-8378 if you experience testing issues.
- Contact [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us) if you are unable to locate your student in the Science-alt in Cambium.
- Score reports will be available shortly after test completion; results must be sent to parents.

## **SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)**

### **Score Reports**

- 5.5.26 -available online in DRC platform
- 5.11-13.26 -districts will receive printed reports from DRC