

Assessment News Alert- April 23, 2025

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

MSAA Test Window Closes this week, April 25

- SD Math and ELA Alternate Assessments- The MSAA (Math Alternate Assessment and ELA Alternate Assessment) test window at www.msaaassessment.org closes this Friday. All students assigned to alternate assessment must have all test sessions submitted by 5:00pm CT on April 25.
- If the Early Stopping Rule (ESR) is put into place, please remember to view the first four questions and mark both ELA and Math for ESR within the student's profile.

Writing Dimensions Showing as N/A or -1

You may have noticed that for some of your students, the writing dimensions in the Reporting System is showing as N/A or -1 for ELA. This is related to students receiving embedded field-test performance tasks (EFT PT). In the Reporting system, students who completed an EFT PT will initially see their CAT scores and 'n/a' or '-1' populated for the Writing dimensions.

Students will receive dimension scores as soon as their PTs have been hand-scored. As field-test sets do not contribute to a student's overall score, the scores that are live in Reporting will not change after the PTs scores are populated.

Science & Special Education Educators Needed

We are looking for participants for our South Dakota summer Science Content Item Review meeting to review General Education and Alternate Assessment items. This meeting will be **August 7** from 8:00am to 5:00pm CT for the SD Science Assessment and 10:00am to 5:00pm CT for the SD Science Alternate Assessment.

For those interested, this will be an in-person meeting that will be held in Pierre. Participants who attend will be compensated for their time at a rate of \$175.00 for the day. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please [complete this survey by Friday, May 30](#). If you have any questions about this opportunity, please reach out to [Sabrina Johnson](#).

Math and ELA Educators Needed

Middle School ELA and Math educators, want to help strengthen the South Dakota Math and English-Language Arts assessments? Then this opportunity is for you! We are inviting ELA and Math educators with experience engaging with students in grades 6-8 representing a variety of student perspectives, English learners, and students with disabilities to participate in up to five virtual content review panels, starting May 2025. The review panels will build on recent Student Interest Workshops conducted with students in grades 6 through 8. These virtual educator sessions will offer time for thoughtful collaboration with peers and exploration of foundational tools for assessment development. Educators who participate in this opportunity will receive a \$75 gift card for each review panel attended, totaling up to \$375 for participation in all five panels. Interested educators will need to **complete the [interest form](#) by May 9, 2025**.

New SmART (Smarter Annotated Response Tool) Resources Available for ELA Educators!

The [Smarter Annotated Response Tool](#) is a tool educators can use to better understand how student writing is scored on the ELA assessments and support writing instruction in your school or classroom. Educators can use this tool to browse a range of response types, explore interactive scoring rationales and rubrics, and practice scoring on your own or with colleagues. We wanted to let you know that 77 new resources were just released!

Assessment Virtual Office Half-Hour. During the testing window, our team will host a virtual office half-hour every Wednesday at 10:30 am CT (9:30 am MT). Today was the first! Zoom information is below:

- <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/93061304949>
- Meeting ID: 930 6130 4949

2024-25 Testing Windows

- MSAA (Math ALT and ELA ALT) are open March 10-April 25
- Math, ELA, Science, and Science ALT are open March 24-May 2
- ~~Paper Summative Assessments are March 31-April 18~~
- Interim Assessments close May 2 (IABs and FIABs)