

# Assessment News Alert- April 28, 2026

This message was sent to assessment coordinators in public school districts and several approved programs and non-public school systems. Questions should be emailed to [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us).

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## General Assessment Updates

### 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, use the forms to request the appropriate accommodations. If you have questions, contact [Beth Schiltz](#).

### Office Hours During Testing Window

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

- [state-sd.zoom.us/j/94662091350](https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/94662091350)
- Meeting ID: 946 6209 1350

### Running Participation Reports in TIDE

There is less than two weeks left in the testing window! Districts are able check their participation progress in TIDE under **Plan and Manage Testing**. From there, district users can run reports for:

- Students who **have not started** assigned tests
- Students who **have started but not completed** assigned tests
- Students who **have not completed** assigned tests
- Students who **have completed** an assigned test

### 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. Complete the [registration request](#) by **Monday, May 11**. Contact [doeassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us) with questions.

#### Meeting Details

**Date:** Aug. 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.

### 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 Spring 2027 Testing Windows

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the SD-ACT Spring 2027 Test Windows! The three selected windows will be:

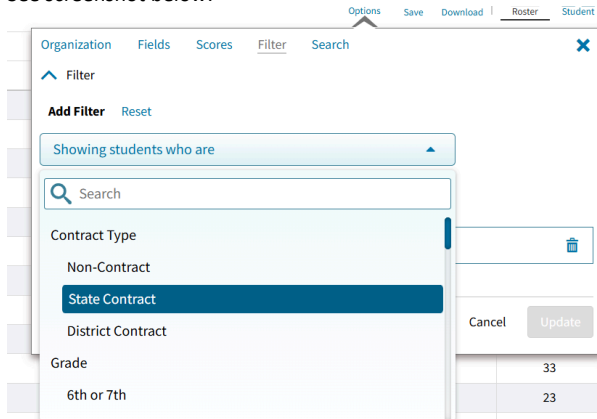
- Test Event 1: March 9-12, March 15-19  
Test Event 2: March 23-26, March 29-31, April 1-2  
Test Event 3: April 6-9, April 12-16

## 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!

## Viewing SD-ACT Scores

There is no longer a tab for the ACT State Contract in ACT Success. To view SD-ACT results, you will need to click on the Student Roster and then choose Student Scores. Once you are seeing all results, click on Options in the upper right corner, then Filter. Then choose State Contract. See screenshot below:



## Alternate Assessment Updates

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

- The MSAA test window closed on April 24.
- Score reports will be available in July for MSAA Test Coordinators to download; 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.
- Score reports are available shortly after test completion; results must be sent to parent

## 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

### Juniors exiting with SD-ACT

Clarification regarding exit criteria for English Learners who are currently juniors. These students will continue to be eligible for exit based on achieving a score of 3 or 4 on the SD-ACT. At this time, the specific cut scores associated with each performance level have not been finalized. These cut scores will be determined during the standards-setting workshop scheduled for July.