

Assessment News Alert- May 4, 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.

General Assessment Updates

Grade 3-8 Assessment Window Closes Friday!

The Cambium assessment window closes this Friday, May 8. Please ensure your students complete all required testing before the deadline. This includes the following assessments:

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

Medical Exemption Window

In rare instances, a student may be unable to participate in any part of the state assessments due to a significant and fully incapacitating medical emergency that extends through the entire testing window. For such situations, the department may provide a medical exemption if the student was unable to receive instruction for the duration of the testing window. The Medical Exemption Form is now available in TIDE under Forms until **Friday, May 15**. This is the only opportunity to submit a medical exemption request for all assessments, including Cambium assessments, SD-ACT, and MSAA. Just a reminder, the district must provide evidence that the student was unable to receive instruction for the entire testing window and include documentation from a medical professional.

Office Hours – Today is the Last!

The final Office Hour of the year will be **today at 10 a.m. (CT)**.

Zoom info:

- 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

Results in the Reporting System

As of April 13, results have been available in the [Reporting System](#) on a rolling basis. The [Reporting Quick Guide](#) is available to help assist you in accessing the results. Federal law requires districts to send these results home to families. To support this requirement, the department has the [Parent/Guardian Reporting Letter](#) available. Districts may customize this letter and send it home to help families understand their students' results. Once all your students' results are showing in the Reporting System, you should print the [Individual Student Reports](#) to send home to families and keep a copy within the school's students' academic files.

Opportunity for Science and Special Education Educators

We are still 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 **Aug. 4** from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (CT) for the SD Science Assessment and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (CT) for the SD Science Alternate Assessment. **We could use more Science and Special Education educators!** 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 for the day, will be provided a hotel if needed, and will receive travel reimbursement. If you have teachers interested in participating in this opportunity, have them complete this [survey](#) by **Monday, May 11**. If you have any questions about this opportunity, email doeassessment@state.sd.us.

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

SD-ACT Parent/Guardian Reporting Letter

Most of you should have received your students' SD-ACT score reports in the mail by now. All SD-ACT results are final as of **May 18**. Federal law requires districts to send these results home to families. To support this requirement, the department has prepared the attached SD-ACT Parent/Guardian Reporting Letter. Districts may customize this letter and send it home to help families understand their students' SD-ACT results. Please let us know if there is anything else we can provide to assist you.

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. All SD-ACT results are final as of **May 18**.

Alternate Assessment Updates

ELA-Alt & Math-Alt (MSAA):

- Score reports will be available in July for MSAA Test Coordinators to download; results must be sent to parents.

Science-Alt (Cambium):

- Science-Alt closes this **Friday, May 8**
- Any student who participated in the MSAA in **grades 5, 8, 11** must ALSO complete the Science-alt in Cambium.
- Contact 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 parents.

SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)

SD-ELP Score Reports

- 2025-2026 WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Score Reports will be available **online** in [WIDA AMS](#) on **Tues., May 5, 2026**.
- **Printed** reports will arrive in district on or before **Wed., May 13, 2026**.
- To access score reports [WIDA AMS](#):
 - Select the **Download Student and Status Reports** tile from the landing page.
 - Select **Published Reports** from the left side navigation window.
 - Select the District, School, and Registration Window (as applicable).
 - Select **Display Reports**.
 - Add additional filters in the Reports table (as applicable)

SD-ELP Exited Students

- SD DOE will begin to look at students who have exited based on achieving one of the following two criteria. These students will be updated in Infinite Campus later this summer.
 - 5.0 or above on SD-ELP or
 - 4.0 on SD-ELP and a 3 or 4 on state ELA assessment for grades 3-8 and ACT assessment for juniors
- 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. Updated information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

ACCESS Standard Setting

WIDA will be conducting a standards setting this summer. Please use this link to help you better understand the purpose of and reason for the upcoming standards setting: [How Standard Setting Impacts 2026 WIDA ACCESS Scores | WIDA](#). It gives a concise FAQ, links to resources that will support LEAs in interpreting and applying 2026 ACCESS scores, and bulleted list of key takeaways for LEAs.