

Assessment News Alert- June 24, 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. Thank you and have a good week!

NAEP Updates

Opportunity for Social Studies Teachers: Help Develop NAEP Civics Assessment Framework!

Do any of your Social Studies teachers want to have a say in what is assessed on the NAEP civics framework? The National Assessment Governing Board is looking for [panelists to serve on the NAEP Civics Assessment Framework Development Panel](#). This is an important opportunity to update and shape the content knowledge and skills assessed on future NAEP Civics Assessments. The Governing Board is looking for a variety of experiences and perspectives (and for participants across the U.S.) including:

- 4th, 8th, and 12th grade civics teachers
- Academic and research experts
- Curriculum specialists
- State social studies specialists
- District social studies specialists
- Assessment experts, particularly those with civics assessment experience

Know someone? [Nominate them or encourage them to apply here](#). The application deadline is June 30.

General Assessment Updates

Here are the 2026-27 testing windows:

- Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) for Math and ELA – available by request only
 - **Window 1:** Aug. 10, 2026 - Nov. 28, 2026
 - **Window 2:** Nov. 30, 2026 - March 5, 2027
- Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs/FIABs): Aug. 10, 2026 - May 21, 2027
- SD-ELP (ACCESS & ACCESS-Alt): Jan. 25 – Feb. 26, 2027
- Math Alternate & ELA Alternate Assessments (MSAA): Mar. 8 – Apr. 23, 2027
- SD-ACT
 - **Test Event 1:** March 9-12, March 15-19, 2027
 - **Test Event 2:** March 23-26, March 29-31, April 1-2, 2027
 - **Test Event 3:** April 6-9, April 12-16, 2027
- SD-Math, SD-ELA, SD-Science, & SD Science Alternate (Cambium): Mar. 29 - May 7, 2027

Cambium Secure Browsers (Please share with technology coordinators)

The [Secure Browser Version 18.0](#) remains available for Windows, MacOS, and Linux for the 2026-27 School Year. **There is no action required to update for the 26-27 school year, except for Chrome OS.** We will share more details and a timeline of when the Chrome OS update is ready soon.

SD-ACT Updates

SD-ACT Spring Testing: Please Complete the Survey

Some districts have requested the paper testing option for SD-ACT. To accommodate, the department has decided to allow paper testing for Test Event 1. We are not able to allow it for other test events in order to meet our accountability timelines. Schools will need to select one testing mode per school – either paper or online. Students within a school must test in the same mode, with limited exceptions for students with approved accommodations. This approach supports consistent administration and simplifies coordination and staffing, test security, material handling, and timing. **If a school chooses paper, the only day they can test is March 9, per ACT's policies – paper testing can only take place on the first day of the test event.** Hence, all your students would need to test on this date (and the following date if you choose to utilize the flexibility policy and test over two days. If a school chooses the paper testing option and students are absent that day, they may test online either during the first testing window or subsequent windows.

ACT needs to know an estimate of how many districts/students will utilize paper testing by mid-August. Please complete this [one-question survey](#) to let us know your plans. Also, we request that schools complete technology readiness and application checks early in the process so that, in limited cases, there may be an option to move to paper testing if needed. However, we are not able to provide paper materials to all schools as a blanket backup in the event of technical issues. Students must be assigned a testing mode by a specific cutoff date in the Schedule of Events (specific date will be shared in the fall).

Upcoming Administrative Platform Migration for the ACT

Beginning in November 2026, administrative activities for the SD-ACT will transition from ACT Now, Test Center Manager (TCM), and Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system to the Pearson Assessment Delivery and Management (ADAM) platform. This migration brings the ACT suite of state assessments for grades 11 onto a single, unified administrative platform, which will be used starting with the Spring 2027 administration. The unified platform is designed to streamline administrative processes, provide consistent workflows, and increase efficiency for testing staff across all ACT state and district assessment programs. More details to come in the fall!