

# Assessment News Alert- Aug. 4, 2025

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

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## Assessment Coordinator Changes

The Assessment Coordinator for each district can be viewed on the [SD Educational Directory](#). If this contact is incorrect, report it to the Educational Directory Contact within your district so they can update the contact information.

## Opportunity: Transforming Assessment Systems

- Districts are often asked to add assessments to meet stakeholder needs—but rarely have time to evaluate whether those assessments are truly serving their purpose. To support a more thoughtful approach, the **South Dakota Department of Education** and the **Center for Assessment** invite districts to send a team to a **2-day, in-person Assessment System Review Summit** in fall 2025 or spring 2026. These hands-on sessions will help teams analyze students' assessment experiences and create a more balanced, purposeful system.

**Learn more at one of two informational webinars (no registration required):**

- August 6, 2025: 3-4pm CT → [Zoom Link](#)
- August 13, 2025: 10-11am CT → [Zoom Link](#)

**Attending a webinar or requesting the recording is required to apply.** Districts will be selected by early September.

Potential summit locations include: Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Pierre, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, Mobridge-Pollock, Lemmon, and Todd County.

For questions, contact [Carla Evans](#) or [Caroline Wylie](#).

## Download MSAA Test Results before Sept. 5, 2025

South Dakota ELA-Alternate and Math-Alternate spring 2025 results are currently available in the [MSAA System](#). District Test Coordinators must download test results for students in their district **before Sept. 5, 2025 at 5 p.m. CT**. Districts are federally required to provide results of individual student state assessment performance to parents. Please print and send MSAA results to parents and share with Test Administrators as soon as possible. The [2025 Score Report Interpretation Guide](#) and MSAA Parent Guides per grade level on the [Alternate Assessment Website](#) can also be shared with parents. For questions, contact [DOEassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:DOEassessment@state.sd.us).

## NEW Science Core Content Connectors

The Science Core Content Connectors (CCCs) are the alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Office of Special Education, the Office of Assessment & Accountability, the Office of Standards, Learning, and Leadership, and SD educators collaborated to align the Science CCCs with the 2024 SD Science Standards that will be assessed in Spring 2026. In addition, Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) were added for grades 3 through high school. These ALDs will better help science and special education teachers to instruct and evaluate students at their individual performance level. The new Science CCCs can be found on the [Alternate Assessment website](#) for these grade spans: [K-5](#) [6-8](#) [9-12](#).

## TIDE Updates

TIDE is getting a makeover! Logging into TIDE for the 2025-26 school year will be a whole new experience. The system has had a major refresh, so get ready for some exciting changes! An overview of the changes is attached. Be on the lookout for trainings on the new system this fall. If you have any questions in the meantime, reach out to us at [DOEassessment@state.sd.us](mailto:DOEassessment@state.sd.us).

## Gizmos Update

As was announced last week to assessment coordinators, effective with the 2025-26SY the department is no longer able to provide Gizmos for science teachers. If districts would like to purchase Gizmos, contact [Daniel Silvers](#); 866.882.4141 x314.