

Assessment News Alert- Sept. 17, 2024

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

English Learner (EL) Screening timeline

At the beginning of the school year, identification, screening, and parental notification of eligible students must be given within **30 calendar days** of enrollment. Once the school year is underway, the window to complete this process is within **two weeks** of enrollment. Just a reminder, those administering the screener need to complete their annual training requirements for the screener before they can administer the screener to potential ELs. Questions? Email [Shari Lord](mailto:Shari.Lord@doe.sd.gov).

Changes to the Secure Browser

The [Secure Browser version 17.0](#) will become the only supported version for the 2024 – 2025 school year starting September 27. On this date, Secure Browser version 16.0 will no longer be supported, and all districts will need to update to the latest version. For any questions regarding the Secure Browser, please contact the [South Dakota Assessments Help Desk](#).

Available Interim Assessments

South Dakota provides three different types of Interim Assessments for math and ELA (and one type for Science). If you'd like to learn more, email us or sign up for a workshop!

- **Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs) – window closes May 2** - assesses no more than three assessment targets to provide educators a more detailed understanding of student learning. There are typically 10 to 15 items on Focused IABs.
- **Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) – window closes May 2** - assessments teachers can use throughout the school year to assess smaller bundles of content than ICAs. They are intended to provide educators and students the ability to check student performance at any given moment in time, and educators can use results to determine next steps for instruction. IABs assess between three and eight assessment targets. Since the IABs are more granular than the ICAs, educators can use IABs during the school year more consistently and frequently within the sequence of their curricula. There are typically 10 to 18 items on IABs.
- **Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) – available by request only; window closes March 7** - designed to measure a broader set of content than Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and provide a high-level overview of student performance in the same way as summative assessments. ICAs are built on similar blueprints to the full-form summative assessments. The ICAs may also be helpful as a source of information if a student is new to the state and educational records are not available, when prioritizing the allocation of additional instructional support, and as a mid-year progress check.

INTERIM ASSESSMENTS AT A GLANCE

Interim Comprehensive Assessments

Assess a broad range of targets, similar to the summative

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA
- Grade 3 Math



Interim Assessment Blocks

Assess 3–8 targets in ELA/literacy or Math

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA, Read Literary Texts
- Grade 3 Math, Operations and Algebraic Thinking



Focused Interim Assessment Blocks

Assess 1–3 targets in ELA/literacy or Math

Examples:

- Grade 3 ELA, Research: Use Evidence
- Grade 3 Math, Time, Volume, and Mass



Fall Interims 101 Assessment Workshops (Please share with teachers and principals)

This is an **introductory** workshop that SDDOE will be presenting in-person to give an in-depth look at all you need to know about the state-provided Interim Assessments and administering them. If you are new to using Interim Assessments or would like to start

using them, this will be a great workshop for you! The workshop will include presentations by professionals from other districts to help teachers and administrators find the most efficient and effective way to assess students. During the workshop, participants will have time to explore the resources and your district's systems with DOE personnel on hand to assist with any questions or issues. All workshops will go from 10 am to 3 pm local time. Register for one of the trainings below. Questions? Email [Rebecca Frerichs](#).

- [October 1 – Aberdeen](#)
- [October 2 – Watertown](#)
- [October 3 – Sioux Falls](#)
- [October 9 – Pierre](#)
- [October 10 – Rapid City](#)

Tools, Supports and Accommodations for Interim Assessments

Districts that utilize the Interim Assessments should ensure students who need supports and accommodations are receiving them. Here is an overview:

- **Tools** are access features of the assessments that are either provided as digitally delivered (embedded) components of the test administration system or separate from it (non-embedded) and are available to all students.
- **Supports** are features that some students may need that are both embedded and non-embedded. **Districts must mark these in TIDE.**
- **Accommodations** are provided to students on an IEP or 504 plan if the accommodation is needed. **The following accommodations must be requested by districts through TIDE Forms and approved by the South Dakota Department of Education.** Questions? Email [Beth Schiltz](#).
 - Reading passages accommodations
 - Print on Demand
 - Permissive mode
 - Speech-to-text
 - Word Prediction
 - Non-embedded accommodations

Assessment Coordinator (AC) Hub

The AC Hub is up and running and houses all resources for you! It can be used to watch/rewatch the New AC Training given on September 10. You can find it in your [Canvas](#). Questions? Email doeassessment@state.sd.us.

Three-Year Target Report

If your school or district would like a 3-year target data report, please reach out to [Rebecca Frerichs](#).

Communication

If you have any questions about assessments, please feel free to email doeassessment@state.sd.us or reach out to us individually. Our Assessment Team is looking forward to working with you this year!

Here is our team:

- Matt Gill, Administrator, matthew.gill@state.sd.us
- Rebecca Frerichs, Math & ELA Assessments, rebecca.frerichs@state.sd.us
- Sabrina Johnson, Science and Alternate Assessments, sabrina.johnson@state.sd.us
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