# Assessment News Alert- Oct. 8, 2025

This message was sent to assessment coordinators and WIDA contacts 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 rest of your week!

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## SD-ACT Updates

### ACT Q&A

During our first AC Check-In on Monday, Oct. 6, there were some questions that came up regarding the ACT. Please see below for the answers to the questions. Here is the recording from the Oct. AC Check-In.

- *Do we need to administer the ACT in one day, or can it be split over two days?*
  - It can be split over two days; however, students must take the SD-ACT in a specific order. See below for an example of how the schedule could be divided between the two days.



- *The accommodations consent form- is this just for district use or does it need to be uploaded with the state? Does this form need to be done every year?*
  - This is for district use. This does not have to be done every year; it would just need to stay on file for a year after the student tested.
- *Do districts need to do anything to transfer accommodations for students who took national testing for the state testing? Is there a process for this?*
  - Yes, they will need to associate the student to the test date, instructions are found starting on page 15 of the test accessibility and accommodations(TAA) user guide.
- *Will there be a guide coming out soon for items like: table separation, bathroom breaks, etc.?*
  - Yes, the modules/manuals for spring are being finalized; stay tuned.
- *Will text to speech be available for all kids as deemed necessary?*
  - Text to speech is an accommodation that would need approval and would be available for all students who are approved.
  - You can find *a list of supports within the Accessibility Supports Guide for the ACT here.*

### SD-ACT Accommodations

Districts should begin requesting accommodations for the SD-ACT as soon as possible. District staff will need to create an account in Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA), which is in ACT Success. If staff create the TAA account, it may take ACT three to five business days to verify the account. Here are some resources to help with the process:

- How to Create an Account to Request Accommodations
- TAA User Guide
- South Dakota-Specific Accommodations Training Recording and Resources
- If district staff need additional support, they can reach out to ACT's accommodations team at actstateaccoms@act.org or at 800.553.6244, ext. 1788

### 2025 ACT Workshops

Jerome Williams will be hosting in-person workshops that will focus on the latest from ACT and how to use data to inform your curriculum planning and set students up for postsecondary success. There are still available spots in Rapid City (Oct. 14) and in Pierre (Oct. 15).

# General Assessment Updates

**Putting Supports and Accommodations in TIDE**

Even though the IDEA indicator is not showing in TIDE, districts are still able to put in the designated supports and accommodations. Districts are also still able to request accommodations for students through the forms found in TIDE. SD DOE has a work around to be able to enable/mark those accommodations to ensure students have them for interim assessments.

**SD-ELP (ACCESS Updates)**

**Upcoming Trainings for SD ELP:**

1. **Preparing for SD ELP (ACCESS) Assessments:** This one-hour training will cover what districts need to do to prepare for this school year's SD ELP and Alternate SD ELP (ACCESS Assessments), which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.
   Two webinars will be available:
   - Nov. 13, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
   - Nov. 13, 2025, 3 p.m.

2. **SD ELP: Paper and Alternate ACCESS:** This one-hour training will help districts prepare for this school year's SD ELP (ACCESS): Paper and Alternate Assessments, which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.
   Two webinars will be available:
   - Dec. 16, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
   - Dec. 16, 2025, 3 p.m.

3. **SD ELP: Kindergarten and Online ACCESS:** This one-hour training is for districts to prepare for this school year's SD ELP (ACCESS): Kindergarten and Online Assessments, which will be administered Jan. 27-Feb. 27, 2026.
   Two webinars will be available:
   - Dec. 17, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
   - Dec. 17, 2025, 3 p.m.

# NAEP Update

NAEP schools need to name a School Coordinator in the Assessment Management System (AMS) if they have not already done so. They also need to designate an Application Installer for each school if using school/student devices. This should be done as soon as possible. Contact Betsy Chapman at betsy.chapman@state.sd.us or 605-323-3549 if you have questions.