

# Assessment News Alert - Oct. 30, 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](mailto:doeassessment@state.sd.us). Thank you, and have a good rest of your week!

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## SD-ACT Updates

**The 2026 SD-ACT Schedule of Events is now available!**

We've released individual schedules for each testing window, as well as a comprehensive overview schedule.

- [Comprehensive overview schedule](#)
- [Individual Schedules for each Testing Window \(in the table within the SD-ACT row\)](#)

## 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:

- [SD-ACT Accommodations Visual](#)
- [How to Create an Account to Request Accommodations](#)
- [TAA User Guide](#)
- [South Dakota-Specific Accommodations Training Recording and Resources](#)
- District staff can reach out to ACT's accommodations team for additional support at [actstateaccoms@act.org](mailto:actstateaccoms@act.org) or at 800.553.6244, ext. 1788

## General Assessment Updates

### IDEA Indicator in TIDE

The IDEA indicator is still not available in TIDE. Work continues with Infinite Campus/SD STARS to ensure it will show up in TIDE soon. Districts are still able to request accommodations using the forms in TIDE as SD DOE has a work around for entering that information into TIDE for the students.

### Alternate Assessments Update

Please ensure students who are taking the Alternate Assessment are properly marked in Infinite Campus. The data pull for the MSAA will be on Dec. 1, 2025, and only properly marked students will be uploaded into the MSAA System.

**Test Coordinators** within the MSAA System are automatically the District Assessment Coordinators. If you wish for a different person to be the Test Coordinator for the MSAA, email [Sabrina Johnson](#).

## 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.](#)

#### **WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten: Seeking Observation Sites**

From December 2025 through February 2026, staff from WIDA and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) would like to travel to school sites to observe and audio record WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten test administrations. These observations and recordings will take place during your actual, scheduled WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten test administrations.

WIDA needs to obtain these recordings and student performance data to support the upcoming ACCESS Standard Setting event in July 2026. Learn more about standard setting on the [WIDA ACCESS in 2025-26](#) page. Staff from WIDA and CAL plan to collect approximately 8 recordings per school site.

Sites that participate will receive \$100 per participating student. Visit the [Building a WIDA Assessment](#) page and select “WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten Audio Recordings and Observations” under **Educator Involvement** to learn more. If your ACCESS test window takes place between December 1-February 20, and you're interested in welcoming observers, complete the recruitment survey by **Nov. 14, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CT**.

#### **Accountability Update**

The 2024-25 [South Dakota Report Card](#) is now available to the public! Explore the latest data on school performance and student outcomes today.