

Assessment News Alert- Nov. 4, 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.

General Assessment Updates

Assessment Coordinator Monthly Check-In

Our monthly Assessment Coordinator check-in was yesterday (Nov. 3). If you missed it, the recording and ppt are on the [AC Hub](#).

SD-ACT Updates

[ACT Test Administration Webinar](#)

Mark your calendars for the first **Pre-Test Administration Webinar**. It will be **Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. CT**. This is one of two trainings that ACT hosts.

ACT Now

Our office uploaded all Assessment Coordinators (ACs) into ACT Now on Nov. 3. Last night, every AC uploaded should have received an email welcoming them to the platform (see screenshot below). If you are the Assessment Coordinator for your district and **did not** receive a welcome email, contact doeassessment@state.sd.us.

- Assessment Coordinators can log into [ACT Now](#) and create staff roles and confirm participation.
 - [Adding Users with Roles](#)
 - [Confirm Organization Participation Status](#)

Hello,

To activate your ACT Now account, click the link below.

[Activate ACT Account](#)

Please complete this activation within 24 hours.

Do not forward this email; the link was created for your use only.

Do not reply to this email. If you need account assistance, you may contact us at 800.553.6244 x2800 or statetesting@act.org.

Regards,

ACT Online Account Management

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

Don't forget to check out the [SD-ACT Website](#) for resources, webinars and office hours, and other helpful information.

School Counselors Update



Methodize webinar recording & slide deck

A webinar was provided on October 20th to provide an overview of the free ACT test prep program provided within SDMyLife, [Methodize](#).

Educators and 9-12th grade students may use Methodize in multiple ways to help students boost their skills, discover their strengths, and learn how they would perform on the ACT. Students who have consistently used Methodize to study for the ACT have seen an average increase of 3 points! [Register](#) to gain access to the recording and slide deck. Questions? Contact [Kara Schweitzer](#).

- Online, on-demand [REGISTER](#)

NAEP Update

NAEP 2026 Assessment Dates are in the Assessment Management System and notification emails are currently being sent. If there is a conflict with a date, let [Betsy Chapman](#) know as soon as possible. Your email should include what the conflict is and why the school would need a different assessment date.

MSAA Update

Please ensure that students participating in the alternate assessments are accurately marked in Infinite Campus. (Refer to slide 20 in the attached PowerPoint.)

The data pull for MSAA is scheduled for **Dec. 1**. After this date, any students not included in the initial pull will need to be added manually to the MSAA system by the SD DOE.

Test Coordinators

If your district designates someone other than the Assessment Coordinator as the primary contact for alternate assessments, please notify us as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding alternate assessments, contact [Sabrina Johnson](#).

Literacy Initiative Update (Share with your ELA teachers!)



The Department of Education is looking for educators interested in presenting at its upcoming literacy conference, to be held June 16-17, 2026. If you are skilled in areas such as the Science of Reading, tiered literacy instruction, assessment, or other literacy-related topics, please submit a proposal.

Presenters will be paid \$150 for each breakout session, with a maximum of \$300 per breakout sessions with multiple presenters and free conference registration. Presenters are responsible for travel expenses. [Applications are due Dec. 19, 2025.](#)

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.](#)