**Sample District Letter for Parents Regarding South Dakota Alternate Assessment Testing Window**

*Schools may adapt this letter and print on school letterhead*.

Date: Date

Re: South Dakota Alternate Assessment

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to provide more information about the South Dakota Alternate Assessment, which is available for students who have been identified per their Individual Education Program (IEP). The alternate assessments include comprehensive testing systems designed to measure and promote high academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The test items contain grade-level alternate academic achievement standards (AAAS), called the South Dakota Core Content Connectors (CCCs). The CCCs are derived from and aligned to the South Dakota Standards in Math, English Language Arts, and Science. The alternate assessments are administered one-on-one by a certified teacher and contain many built-in supports that allow students to show what they know and can do as independently as possible.

* **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)**: The MSAA for English Language Arts (SD ELA-Alt) and Mathematics (SD Math-Alt) in available for students who are identified. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 are tested on the ELA CCCs and Math CCCs. The MSAA testing window is **March 10 through April 25, 2025.**
* **SD Science Assessment-Alternate (SDSA-Alt)**: The SDSA-Alt is available for students who are identified. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 are tested on the Science CCCs. The SDSA-Alt testing window is **March 24 through May 2, 2025**. (Delete this bullet if student is not in grade 5, 8, or 11.)

For more information regarding South Dakota alternate assessments, please visit the following website: <https://doe.sd.gov/assessment/alternate.aspx>. If you have questions, please contact (School Contact) at (School Contact Information).

Sincerely,

[School Principal/Assessment Coordinator/SPED Coordinator]

[Contact Information]