



SOUTH DAKOTA SCIENCE ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (SDSAA) PRACTICE TEST

QUICK GUIDE 2025–2026

Published March 19, 2026

Prepared by Cambium Assessment, Inc.®



Descriptions of the operation of the Test Delivery System, Test Information Distribution Engine, Reporting System, and related systems are property of Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI).

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About this Guide

This quick guide provides a quick overview on how to navigate the **South Dakota Science Alternate Assessments (SDSAA) Practice Test** once inside the **Student Testing Site**. If the steps apply to either the Summative or Practice assessments, those directions are clearly called out in this guide. For more details on how to access the site as a Teacher/Proctor (TE/PR) or a student using the Secure Browser, refer to the [Test Delivery System User Guide](#).

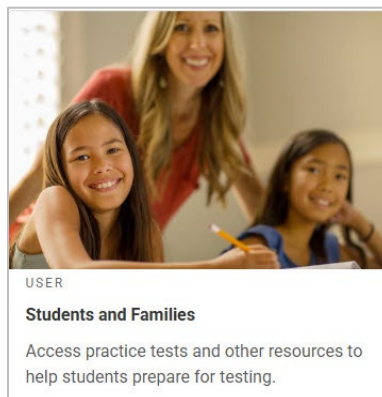
Disclaimer

The **South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment** is administered using the same procedure for administering the SD ELA Alternate and the SD Math Alternate assessments. Administration is one-to-one with the TE/PR and the student. The student should be read each stimulus and question-and-answer choice. This can be done by the embedded Human Voice Recording (HVR), or the TE/PR can also read questions and answers aloud provided they follow the Read Aloud Protocol provided by SDDOE. Students should never be left to navigate through the test themselves. If the student is able to take the assessment unassisted, it is possible they have been misidentified as being a student with a significant cognitive disability.

Accessing the SDSAA Practice Test

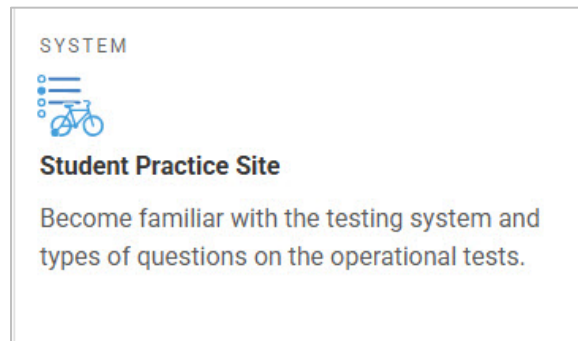
1. Navigate to the [South Dakota Assessment Gateway](#).
2. Select the **Students and Families** user card ([Figure 1](#)).

Figure 1. User Role Cards



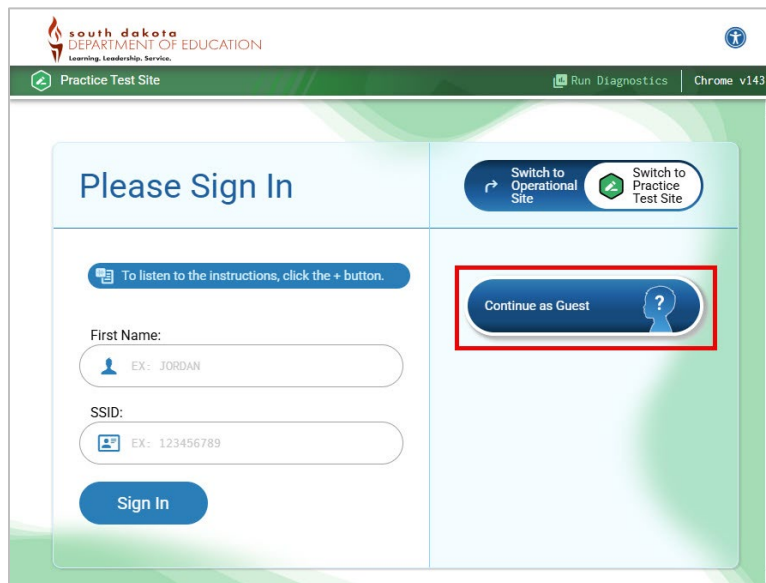
3. Select the **Student Practice Site** card ([Figure 2](#)).

Figure 2. Student Practice Site Card



4. On the *Student Practice Site Login* page, select **Continue as Guest** ([Figure 3](#)).

Figure 3. Student Practice Site Login Page

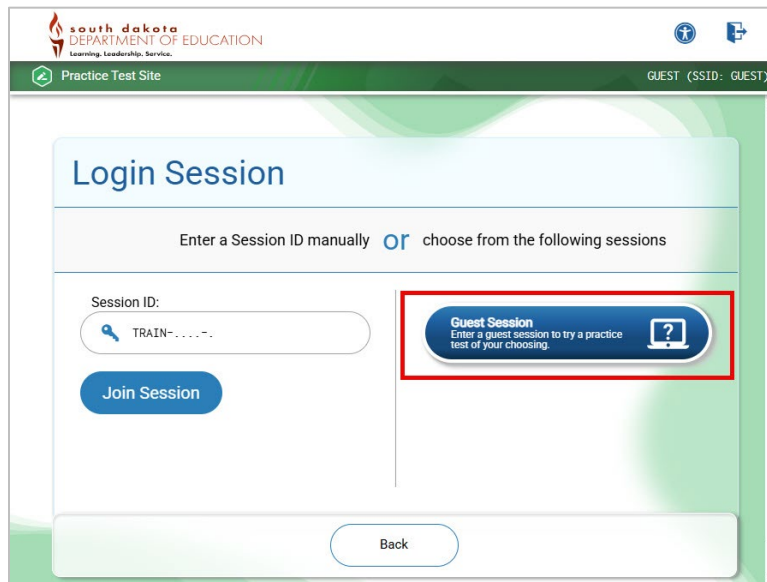


5. On the *Student Practice Site Login Session* page, select **Guest Session** ([Figure 4](#)).



Note: For more information on how to access the practice test or Summative test with the Secure Browser, refer to the full [Test Delivery System User Guide](#).

Figure 4. Student Practice Site Login Session Page

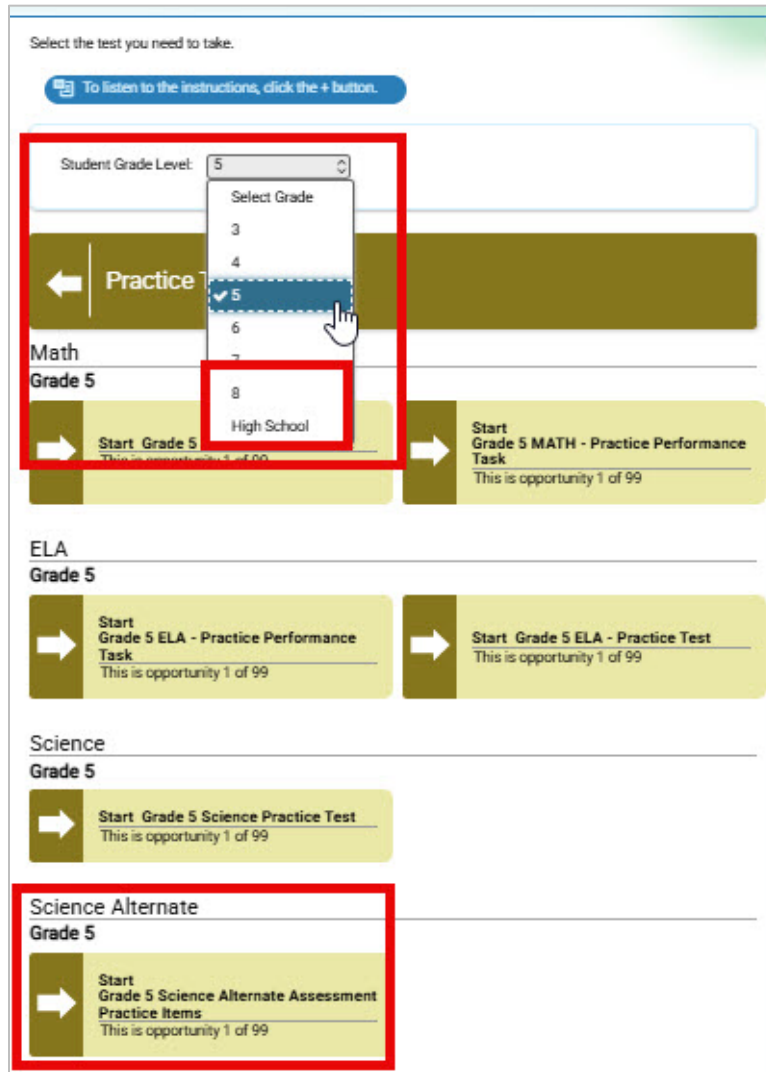


6. In the Student Grade Level drop down, select grade 5, 8, or High School.
7. Scroll down to the **Practice Tests – Science Alternate** section and select the test name ([Figure 5](#)).



Note: This Assessment is only given at grade levels 5, 8, and high school making them the only grades with these practice test options.

Figure 5. Practice Test Selection – Science Alternate



Navigating the Science Alternate Assessment Practice Test


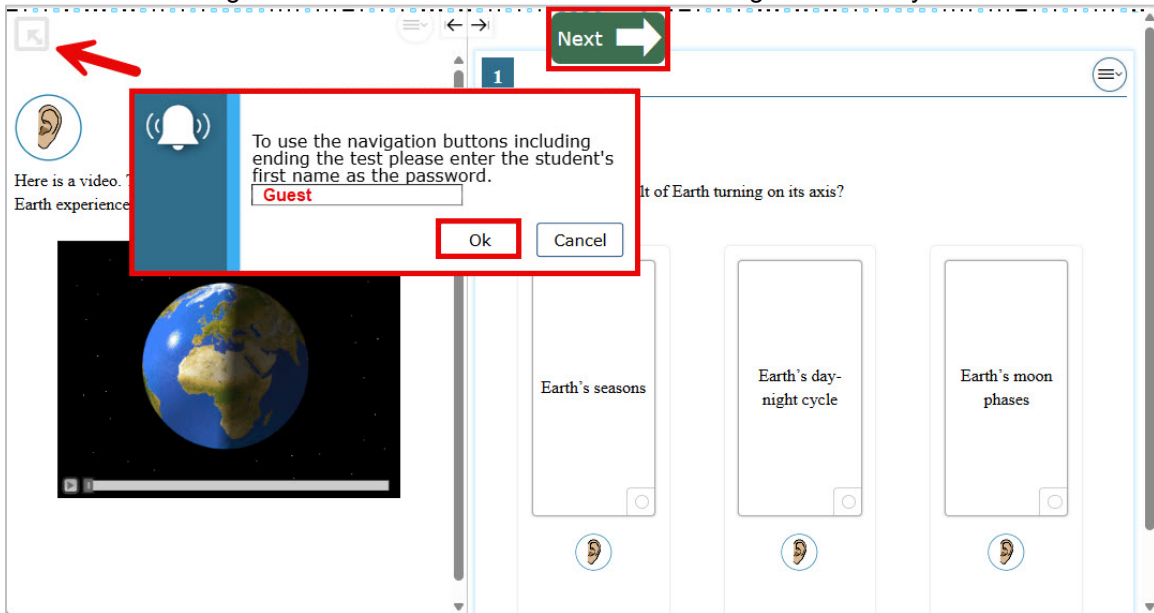
1. To proceed to the next question, select .

Figure 6. Science Alternate Practice Test Navigation and Layout




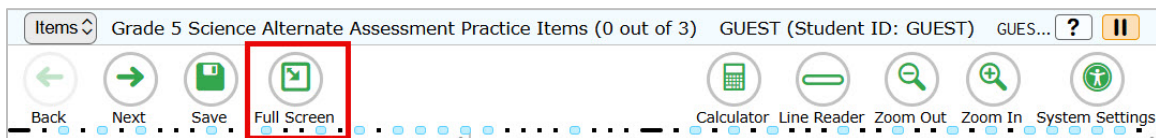
2. To exit full-screen mode and access the **global menu**, select  in the upper-left corner.
3. A message appears, asking for a **password**.
 - Enter the student's **first name** and select **OK**. The global menu appears at the top of the screen.
 - When signed in as a **guest user** in the *Student Practice Site*, enter **Guest** and select **Ok** ([Figure 6](#)).
4. To return to full-screen mode, select **Full Screen** in the **global menu** ([Figure 7](#)).

Figure 7. Science Alternate Practice Test Return to Full Screen



Listening to Audio Content


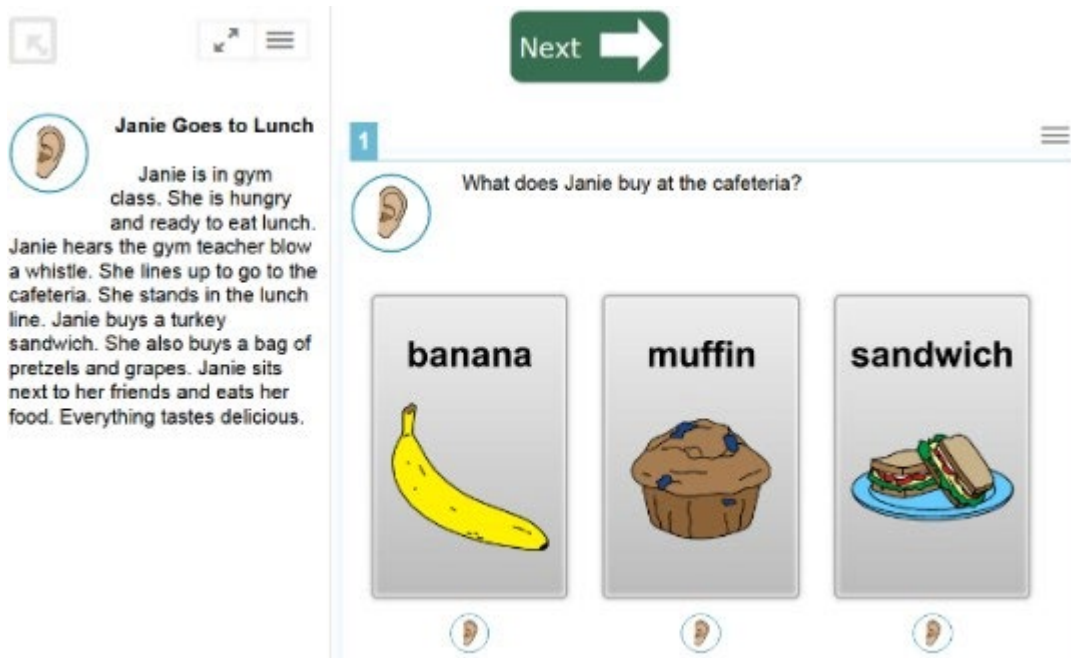





Some test pages display ear  icons, which read aloud the content for stimuli, questions, and answer options ([Figure 8](#)).

Figure 8. Science Alternate Practice Test Human Voice Recordings



1. To listen to the test's content, you must do the following:

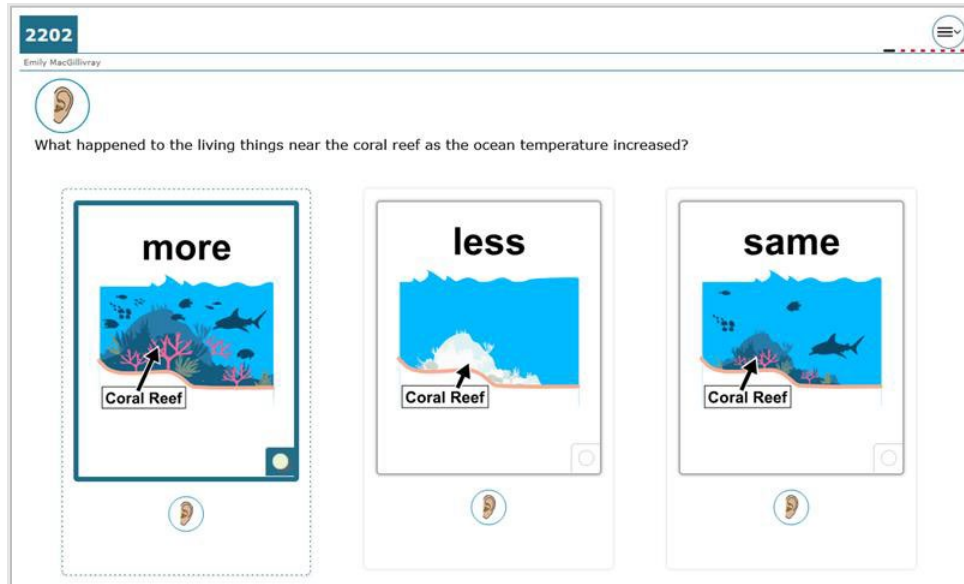
- To listen to a stimuli, select  beside the stimuli.
- To listen to a question and its answer options, select  beside the question.
- To listen only to an answer option, select  below the answer option.
- To stop the audio, select  while it is playing.
 - You cannot pause audio content.
 - If you select  again, it will play the audio from the beginning.

Responding to Questions and Ending a Test

Alternate assessment questions display answer options as cards, which may include text, graphics, or both.

1. To **select an answer** option, select a **card**.
 - a. Once a card is selected, a radio button appears at the bottom, right hand side of the card, along with a blue border ([Figure 9](#)).

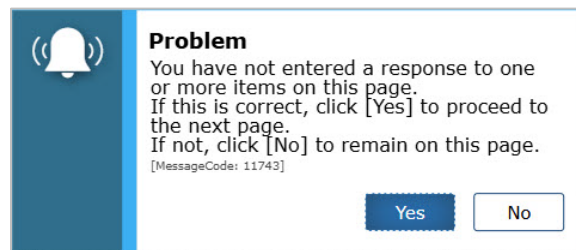
Figure 9. Alternate Assessment Card Item - Selected



2. To indicate that **no response was provided** for an item and proceed with the test, do the following:

- a. Select the **Next** button, then select **Yes** in the confirmation message that appears ([Figure 10](#)).

Figure 10. No Response Confirmation Prompt

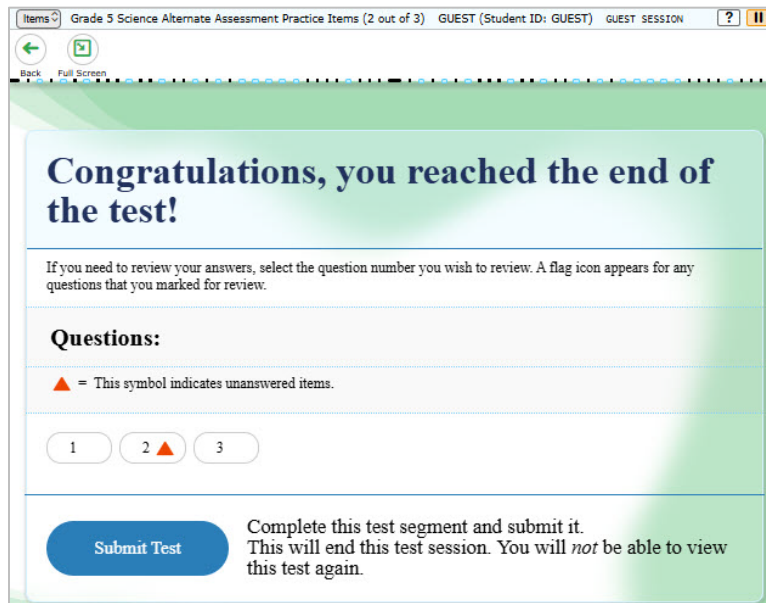


- b. Once in the **End of Test Review** page, items will be labeled with an ▲ orange triangle symbol indicating they were unanswered items ([Figure 11](#)).



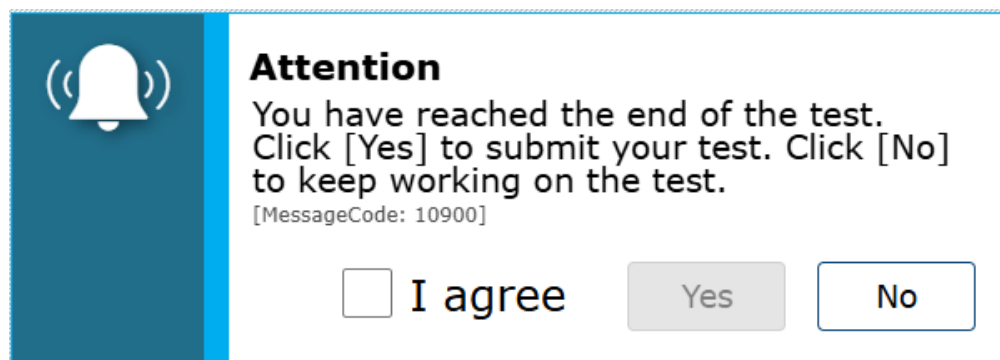
Note: This only applies to the first four items in the SDSAA Summative Assessment called the **Early Stopping Rule (ESR)**. For more information on the ESR and its use cases, refer to the [SDSAA Test Administration Manual](#).

Figure 11. End of Test Review Page - Item Marked Unanswered



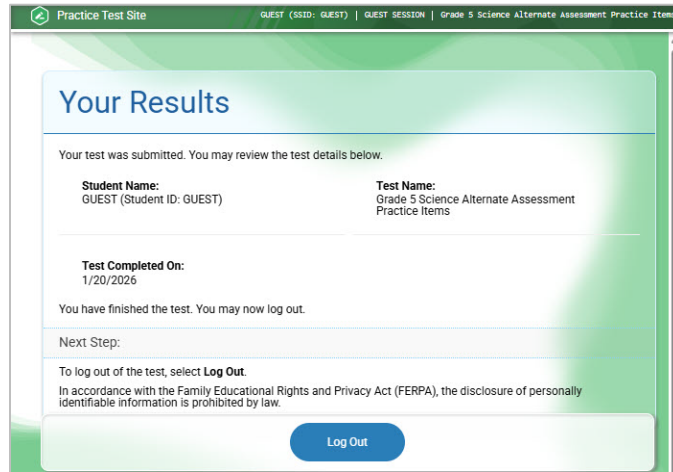
3. To **end a test**, select the **Next** button ([Figure 6](#)) to navigate to the **End of Test Review** page ([Figure 11](#)).
4. Select **Submit Test**.
5. Select the checkbox next to **I agree** and select **Yes** ([Figure 12](#)).

Figure 12. Submit Test Confirmation Prompt



6. The **Your Results** page ([Figure 13](#)) appears. Select **Log Out**.

Figure 13. Your Results Page



User Support

For additional information and assistance in using TDS, contact the South Dakota Assessments Help Desk. The Help Desk can assist with questions regarding any of the TIDE tasks, technical issues with computer-based test administration from both the TE/PR and student perspectives, and general testing process or functionality questions.

The Help Desk is open Monday–Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central Time (except holidays or as otherwise indicated on the [South Dakota Assessments Gateway](#)).

South Dakota Assessments Help Desk

Toll-Free Phone Support: 1-855-838-8378

Follow the prompts for digital testing and listen to the options for your area of concern.

Email Support: SDHelpDesk@cambiumassessment.com

Please provide detailed information about the issue, including:

- For student information issues, provide the SSID and associated district or school for that student. **Do not provide the student's name.**
- For TIDE user issues, provide the user's full name and email address.
- Any error messages that appeared.
- Device, operating system, and browser information, including version numbers.
- Information about your network configuration, if known:
 - Secure Browser installation (to individual devices or network)
 - Wired or wireless Internet network setup