

## Home School Testing Frequently Asked Questions

**What is required for testing of home school (public school exemption)?** South Dakota students who are home schooled are required to take a normed-referenced assessment at grades 2, 4, 8, and 11. The students must be assessed in reading and mathematics.

**What test do the students take?** The South Dakota Department of Education provides the SAT10 at no cost to the parents through the local school district. Parents may administer another test at their own expense and provide the school district the results.

**When should students test?** The recommended test window for the SAT10 is March 28 – April 22, 2016 and all materials **must** be shipped to Pearson for scoring by **May 13, 2016**. Any tests sent after May 15<sup>th</sup> will not be scored or results provided.

**Can students take a 4<sup>th</sup> grade test as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader?** There is no out of level testing allowed for the SAT10. The norms and results are for the specific grade tested.

**I have a home school family who travels. Can I send them the SAT10 out of state?** Since parents are required to sign a test security agreement before test materials can be provided, sending tests out of state or out of the country is not allowed. In those instances, parents will need to provide results of a norm-referenced test when applying for a public school exemption at the beginning of the next school year.

**Can a home school student take Smarter Balanced or DSTEP?** No, the only test SD DOE provides for home school students is the SAT10.

**Should I order extra tests this year? I have heard that we won't be able to order any more tests after this year?** The SAT10 will be available for the 2015-16 school year. After that time, Pearson will no longer be supporting the test and SD DOE is looking for other option for the home school students. There is no need to order more materials than needed for this year's administration.

**Are there accommodations for the SAT10?** The document, [SAT10 Disability Accommodation Guide](http://doe.sd.gov/oats/Sat10.aspx), can be found at <http://doe.sd.gov/oats/Sat10.aspx>.

**What if the student needs an alternate assessment?** SD DOE does not provide an alternate assessment for home school students and parents would be responsible for providing a test.

**What other tests would SD DOE allow for home school students?** SD DOE does not provide a list of options and it is the responsibility of the parents to do the research to find appropriate tests instead of the provided tests.

**I am a new test coordinator and don't know what to do for home school testing.** Go to the Home School testing page on the SD DOE website, <http://doe.sd.gov/oats/Sat10.aspx>. Information, order forms and SD DOE staff contacts are provided.

**The district has some home school students attending school one or two periods a day. Do they take SAT10 or Smarter Balanced?** The rule for partial enrollments is that if a student is enrolled in the public school 51% of the school day, the student takes the required tests such as Smarter Balanced, ACCESS, DSTEP Science, or NCSC at all the tested grades. Otherwise, the students take the SAT10 at grades 2, 4, 8, and 11.

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**After the home school student takes the SAT10, then what?** The SAT10 needs to be returned to the local school district by the established deadline of April 22, 2016. Districts send tests to be scored by Pearson and student reports are returned to the local district. The local school district is responsible for sending the test scores to the families. It is recommended that the district make a copy of the student report to keep on file with the public school exemption forms.

**If choosing a different test than the SAT10, when does testing need to be completed?** Testing of a home school child in grades 2, 4, 8, and 11 must be conducted sometime in that school year. Test results must be provided to the local school district (in percentile format for math and reading) before the end of the school year.