# Todd County School District

## 2026–27 Family Assessment Guide

*A simple overview of when assessments happen, who takes them, and how results help students.*

**Important: Your child will take only the assessments that apply to their grade level or learning program.**

| Assessment | Who takes it? | When? | About how long? | Why is it given? | How families receive results |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District Assessments** | | | | | |
| **i-Ready Reading and Math** | Grades K–10 | Fall: Aug. 17–Sept. 3<br>Winter: Nov. 30 - Dec. 16<br>Spring: Apr. 26–30 | About 50–90 minutes | Shows current reading and math skills so teachers can plan instruction and support. | Family conferences and school reports |
| **Universal reading screeners** | All students in grades K–10 | Fall: Aug. 17–Sept. 3<br>Winter: Nov. 30 - Dec. 16<br>Spring: Apr. 26–30 | Usually a few minutes | Checks basic reading skills and shows whether a student is on track for the grade level. | Shared during conferences, reports, or when additional support is discussed |
| **Small reading-group placement** | All students in grades K–5 | Fall: Aug. 17-Sept 3 | Varies by grade and assessment | Helps teachers place students in the reading group that best matches their current skills. | Teachers explain group placement and progress during conferences or family contacts |
| **Diagnostic reading assessment** | Students who need a closer look at specific reading skills | After screeners and group-placement checks, and whenever needed | Varies by student | Identifies the specific reading skills a student needs so teachers can plan instruction or intervention. A vision screening may also be recommended. | Families are contacted when results lead to additional support or intervention |
| **Reading progress monitoring** | Students receiving targeted reading support | About twice each month | Brief repeated checks | Shows whether intervention is working and whether the student is making adequate progress. | Progress is shared during conferences, reports, and intervention updates |
| **Math Benchmark Assessment** | Grades K-8 | Fall: Aug. 17–Sept. 3<br>Winter: Nov. 30 - Dec. 16<br>Spring: Apr. 26–30 | Usually a few minutes | Checks basic math skills and shows whether a student is on track for the grade level. | Shared during conferences, reports, or when additional support is discussed |
| **State and federal assessments** | | | | | |
| **WIDA ACCESS** | English learners in grades K–12 | Jan. 25–Feb. 26 | Four sessions, about 50–90 minutes each | Measures growth in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in academic English. | Individual family report after results are available |
| **NAEP** | Selected students in grades 4 and 8 | NAEP is given every other year. 2027 is a no NAEP testing year. | About 40 minutes per subject | Provides a national picture of student achievement. Results are reported for groups, not individual students. | School notice; no individual score report |
| **South Dakota ELA and Math** | Grades 3–8 and 11 | Mar. 29–May 7 | Several sessions; about 4 hours total | Measures how well students understand South Dakota grade-level standards in English language arts and math. | Individual family score report |
| **South Dakota Science** | Grades 5, 8, and 11 | Mar. 29–May 7 | Several sessions; about 4 hours total | Measures understanding of South Dakota science standards. | Individual family score report |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MSAA Alternate ELA and Math** | Eligible students in grades 3–8 and 11 | Mar. 18–Apr. 23 | Several short sessions; timing varies | Provides an accessible alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. | Individual family score report |
| **Alternate Science** | Eligible students in grades 5, 8, and 11 | Mar. 29–May 7 | Several sessions; about 3 hours total | Measures science standards through an alternate assessment. | Individual family score report |
| **ACT** | Grade 11 | Mar. 9-19 | About 3 hours | South Dakota's official high school assessment and is used in school and district accountability report cards. | ACT score report |
| **High school college and career readiness** | | | | | |
| **ASVAB** | Grades 11–12 | Sept. 30 | About 3½ hours | Helps students explore careers and understand strengths related to future occupations. | Student and family report |
| **ACT** | Grade 11-12 | 2 opportunities<br>Oct. 14-15 and Feb. 23 | About 3 hours | Supports college admission, scholarship opportunities, and college-readiness planning. | ACT score report |
| **Classroom checks** | | | | | |
| **Curriculum unit assessments** | Grades K–12 | Throughout the year | Usually one class period or less | Checks learning from recently taught lessons and units. | Classroom feedback, report cards, and conferences |

*Dates may change because of state guidance, weather, or school schedules. Schools will share updates when needed.*

*Family Nights/ Conferences will be held on different days at each school during the following weeks: Oct. 19 - 29, Dec. 7 - 16, and Mar. 15 - 25.*

# Todd County School District — 2026–27 Assessment Year-at-a-Glance

Use this planning view to see major testing windows, literacy checks, and family communication points across the school year.

District benchmark | State/federal | College/career | Family communication

| Category | Assessment / event | Grades | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| District | i-Ready ELA and Math | K–10 | Aug. 17- Sept. 3 | | | Nov. 30- Dec. 16 | | | | | Apr. 26–30 | |
| District ELA Screener | Universal reading screeners | K–10 | Baseline / Fall | Fall | | Winter | | | | | Spring | |
| | Small-group reading placement | K–5 | Aug. 17- Sept. 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| District ELA Diagnostics | Diagnostic reading assessment | As needed | After baseline | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed | As needed |
| District ELA Diagnostics | Progress Monitoring | Students in intervention | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly | 2× monthly |
| Districtæ Math Benchmarks | Acadience | K-8 | Aug. 17- Sept. 3 | | | Nov. 30- Dec. 16 | | | | | Apr. 26–30 | |
| State/Federal | WIDA ACCESS | K–12 EL | | | | | | Jan. 28– Feb. 28 | | | | |
| State/Federal | NAEP | Selected 4 & 8 | NAEP is given every other year. 2027 is a no NAEP testing year. | | | | | | | | | |
| State/Federal | MSAA Alternate ELA/Math | Eligible 3–8, 11 | | | | | | | | Mar. 18– Apr. 23 | | |
| State/Federal | SD ELA & Math | 3–8, 11 | | | | | | | | Mar. 29– | All month | May 7 |
| State/Federal | SD Science | 5, 8, 11 | | | | | | | | Mar. 29– | All month | May 7 |
| State/Federal | Alternate Science | Eligible 5, 8, 11 | | | | | | | | Mar. 29– | All month | May 7 |
| State/Federal | ACT | 11 | | | | | | | | Mar. 9-19 | | |
| College/Career | ASVAB | 11–12 | | Sept. 30 | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| College/Career | ACT | 12-Nov | | Oct. 14-15 | | | | Feb. 23 | | | |
| Family | Family conferences / reports | All | | Oct. 19–29 | | Dec. 7–16 | | | Mar. 15–25 | | |

| Planning notes for teachers |
|---|
| • **Literacy decision rule: Students meeting both grade-level screening and small-group placement benchmarks continue Tier 1 instruction and are screened three times yearly. Students not meeting benchmarks receive diagnostic assessment and an intervention plan.** |
| • Progress monitoring is generally given twice monthly. Kindergarten uses easyCBM Letter Naming and/or Letter Sounds; grades 1–5 use easyCBM beginning at the student's instructional level. |
| • Confirm accommodations and rosters before each testing window. Avoid major projects or field trips during state testing when possible, and share parent notices in plain language. |