SD ELA and Math Assessment Grades 3rd-5th (4/5/27-4/8/27) & 6th-8th (4/12/27-4/15/27)

The South Dakota Math and English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments are administered to students in grades 3-8. They measure student knowledge mastery/understanding of state content standards in math and ELA. The assessment system includes both summative and interim assessments. The summative assessment is administered every spring to all students in tested grades, while the interim assessments are optional for districts to use. The assessments use computer adaptive testing technologies to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that teachers can use to help students succeed. Results will be sent home in June. For more information, go to:

https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/SD-assessments.aspx

SD-ACT – Grades 11 (3/15/27-3/16/27)

Beginning Spring 2026, the SD-ACT will be the assessment for all 11th Graders. The national college admissions examination consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. The ACT test is the leading US college admissions test that measures what students learn in high school to determine their academic readiness for college.

The SD-ACT online test is administered during the testing window and is free. Results will be used to measure student performance on school & district's Accountability Report Cards.
https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/south-dakota.html

SD ELA and Math Alt Assessment (MSAA) Grades 3rd-8th and 11th (3/8/27-4/23/27)

Alternate Assessment of South Dakota Content Standards is available to students who are identified per the *Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines.* Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams determine if a student meets all three of the following participation criteria. Results will be sent out in the fall.

1. Student has a significant cognitive disability
2. Student requires extensive instruction and support to acquire and maintain skills
3. Student learns through alternate academic achievement standards (AAAS)/Core Content Connectors (CCCs)

https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/alternate.aspx

SD Science and Science Alt Grades 5th (4/5/27-4/8/27) & 8th (4/12/27-4/15/27)

The South Dakota Science tests measure students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards in Science adopted in May 2015 at grades 5 and 8. This test will cover the grade spans of 3-5 and 6-8. Questions will come equally as possible from life, physical, and earth sciences at all three tested levels. This assessment will be completely online. Results will be sent out in the fall.

https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/science.aspx or https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/alternate.aspx

PreACT 8/9 and PreACT Grades 9 & 10 (3/15/27-3/16/27)

PreACT® assessments offer our 9th & 10th graders an early experience with ACT test items, provides a predicted ACT test score, and offers a wealth of information to help students get the start they need to be college ready. The PreACT assessments help educators, students, and parents, identify areas of academic strength and opportunity. This assessment is given to the 9th & 10th graders during the testing window in the spring.

https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/preact.html

ACT – Grades 11 & 12 (3/15/27 & 3/16/27)

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading, and Science. The ACT test is the leading US college admissions test that measures what students learn in high school to determine their academic readiness for college.

The ACT is not a required assessment. It is not administered during school hours. Students must register for it and there is a fee to take the exam. Results are available online within 2 weeks after the test date. Students must log in through their student web account with ACT to see scores.

https://www.act.org/

ACCESS-Grades K-12 (1/25/27-2/26/27)

ACCESS for ELLs is taken annually by identified English learners to measure their English proficiency. The South Dakota Department of Education requires ELs in Grades 1-12 be administered the online version except in cases where online testing is not allowed. With the online version, multiple grades can be administered and finally, increased ease for TAs, who will no longer need to administer and score the Speaking test one-on-one. Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs continues to be paper-based and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will remain the same.

https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/elp.aspx

NWEA - Grades 1-11

MAP Growth is an assessment for measuring achievement and growth in K–12 math, reading, language usage, and science. It provides teachers with accurate, actionable evidence to help inform instructional strategies regardless of how far students are above or below grade level. It also connects to the largest set of instructional content providers, giving educators flexibility in curriculum choices. The assessment is given three times per school year to help teachers track the academic progress and growth of their students.

https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Grades 4 & 8; Administered when selected.

NAEP, often called "The Nation's Report Card", is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subjects. Its two major goals are to measure student achievement and to report change in student performance over time. The NAEP is given to a sampling of students across the nation. The results of the NAEP are given for the entire nation and for individual states. Results are also given for specific groups of students, e.g. gender, racial and ethnic groups, and National School Lunch Program eligibility. Results are not available for schools or individual students. NAEP is given to many South Dakota students in reading and mathematics at grades 4, 8, and 12 every two years. National and state results are reported to the public.

https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/NAEP.aspx

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Grade 11; Fall Assessment

The ASVAB is given to High School Juniors. Seniors can take it if they missed it their junior year or want to retake in order to improve their score. It is given during school hours and scheduled through ASVAB typically in the fall. It is not required. ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students. The assessment is given by a Proctor from the military and the National Guard will explain results to students usually within a month following the assessment .