

# Key Assessment Milestones 2025-2026

|                  | All Assessments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ELA, Math, Science, and Science Alt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ELA & Math Alt (MSAA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | SD - ACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ACCESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | NAEP                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| August/September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post Test Windows on District Site</li> <li><b>Sept. 5:</b> Documentation for Braille and Large Print in TIDE due to DOE</li> <li><b>New Assessment Coordinator (AC) Regional Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sept. 3-4</li> <li>Sept. 8-12: Virtual</li> <li>Sept. 17-18</li> <li>Sept. 24-25</li> <li>Locations TBD</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Nightly rolling of student profiles into assessment system begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean up User Accounts</li> <li>Roster students</li> <li><b>Install secure browsers</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Interims- Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs), Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs), and Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs) live Aug. 11<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Virtual Interim Assessment Trainings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sept. 16th 3:30 pm CT</li> <li>Sept. 23rd at 4:30 pm CT</li> </ul> | <p><b>July 14 -Sept. 6</b> Reporting system is live for districts to download results from Spring 2025 testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After results are downloaded, send out parent letters with student results.</li> </ul>          | <p><b>Sept. 8:</b> Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) opens for Accommodation Requests</p> <p><u><a href="https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/south-dakota.html">SD ACT Website</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/south-dakota.html">https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/south-dakota.html</a></li> <li>Pre-Administration under ACT Now</li> </ul> | <p><b>Identification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Days from beginning of school year screen/identify EL students in Infinite Campus new to district. Once 30 days have passed, schools have two weeks to complete screening and identification of EL students</li> <li>Install secure browsers</li> <li>Staff administering Screeners <b>must complete training modules prior</b> to screening students located in WIDA Secure Portal</li> <li>Aug. 12 @ 11:00 am CT &amp; 3:00pm CT: Guide to Identification, Parent Notification, and Infinite Campus webinars</li> <li>Aug. 14 @ 11:00 am CT &amp; 3:00 pm CT: EL Screening Process</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Technology Survey Aug. 29</li> <li>Assessment details sent to schools</li> <li>School Coordinators register for the Assessment Management System (AMS)</li> </ul> |
| October/November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct. 6 AC Check-In 10:00 am CT</li> <li>Nov. 3 AC Check-In 10:00 am CT</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Regional Interim Trainings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct. 7-9</li> <li>Locations TBD</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>ACT Virtual Trainings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodations</li> <li>Pretest Activities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Nov. 6 @ 10:30 am CT &amp; 3:00 pm CT: Preparing for SD ELP Assessment Training</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Student lists imported Oct. 6 - Nov. 21</p>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| December         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec. 1 AC Check-In 10:00 am CT</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Dec. 1</b> Science Alt: Students identified for alternate assessment participation must be marked in Infinite Campus</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Dec. 1:</b> Students identified for alternate assessment participation must be marked in Infinite Campus</p>                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Student data file loaded into system</p> <p>Dec. 16 @ 10:30 am CT &amp; 3:00 pm CT ACCESS Paper and Alt ACCESS Training</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Complete install of NAEP Application on student or school devices</p>                                                                                                                                        |
| January/February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan. 5 AC Check-In 10:00 am CT</li> <li>Feb. 2 AC Check-In 10:00 am CT</li> <li>Feb. 23 Office Hours 10:00 am CT</li> <li><b>Winter Workshops</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feb. 18 – Sioux Falls*</li> <li>Feb. 19 – Sioux Falls*</li> <li>Feb. 23 – Watertown*</li> <li>Feb. 24 – Pierre*</li> <li>Feb. 25 – Rapid City*</li> </ul> </li> </ul>    | <p><b>Interim Assessment Regional Trainings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan. 27-29</li> <li>Feb. 3-5</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Student data file loaded into system for all students identified in Infinite Campus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test Coordinators add Test Administrators to system</li> <li>Feb. 17 Test Administrators Modules Open</li> </ul> | <p><b>ACT Virtual Trainings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test Administration &amp; Posttest activities</li> </ul> <p><u><a href="#">SD ACT Website</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test Administration under ACT Now</li> </ul> <p><b>Window 1a:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feb. 24-27</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Staff administering tests <b>must complete training modules prior</b> to testing located in WIDA Secure Portal</p> <p><b>Jan. 27 Test Window Opens</b><br/><b>Feb. 27: Test Window Closes</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Planning Meeting</li> <li>Technology readiness checks</li> </ul> <p><b>Jan. 26 Test Window Opens</b></p>                                                      |
| March/April      | <p>Assessment Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar. 2-Apr. 27 Every Monday 10:00 am CT</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Mar. 1:</b> Documentation for Text-to-Speech (TTS) ELA Passages &amp; all other non-embedded accommodations due to DOE</p> <p><b>Staff training modules available</b></p> <p><b>Mar. 6: Interim-ICAs Window Closes</b></p> <p><b>Mar. 30: Summative Window Opens</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Mar. 9 Test Window Opens</b></p> <p>MSAA Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar.13- Apr.17 Every Friday 11:00 am CT</li> </ul> <p><b>Apr. 24 Test Window Closes</b></p>                                                        | <p><b>Window 1b:</b></p> <p>Mar. 2-6</p> <p><b>Window 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar. 10-13</li> <li>Mar. 16-20</li> </ul> <p><b>Window 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar. 24-27</li> <li>Mar. 30-31</li> <li><b>Apr. 1-3</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Mar. 20: Test Window Closes</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| May/June/July    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>May 8: Summative Window Closes</b></p> <p><b>May 22: Interim-IABs &amp; FIABs Window Closes</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Individual student reports will be available late July</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><u><a href="#">SD ACT Website</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post Administration under ACT Now</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Individual student reports available: Share with parents and teachers</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## 2025-2026 South Dakota Assessment Overview

| Assessment Type                                  | Assessment Name           | Subject                                                    | Grades   | Estimated Time to Complete <sup>1</sup>                                                       | Testing Window                                                                                                                           | Recently Arrived in U.S. Exemption Date <sup>2</sup>                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Summative Assessments<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>SD ELA</b>             | <b>ELA</b>                                                 | 3-8      | 2 sessions, 1.5-2 hours each                                                                  | 03/30/26 to 05/08/26                                                                                                                     | Exempt 1 <sup>st</sup> year in country                                                                           |
|                                                  | <b>SD Math</b>            | <b>Mathematics</b>                                         | 3-8      | 2 sessions, 1-2 hours each                                                                    | 03/30/26 to 05/08/26                                                                                                                     | No exemption in math                                                                                             |
|                                                  | <b>SD Science</b>         | <b>Science</b>                                             | 5, 8     | 1 session, 1-1.5 hours                                                                        | 03/30/26 to 05/08/26                                                                                                                     | No exemption in science                                                                                          |
|                                                  | <b>SD-ACT</b>             | <b>Math, English, Reading, Writing, Science</b>            | 11       | English – 35 min<br>Math – 50 min<br>Reading – 40 min<br>Science – 40 min<br>Writing – 40 min | <b>Window 1:</b><br>02/24/26 to 03/06/26<br><br><b>Window 2:</b><br>03/10/26 to 03/20/26<br><br><b>Window 3:</b><br>03/24/26 to 04/03/26 | Exempt 1 <sup>st</sup> year in country:<br>English, Reading, and Writing<br><br>No exemption in math nor science |
| <b>General Summative Alternative Assessments</b> | <b>SD ELA-Alt (MSAA)</b>  | <b>English Language Arts</b>                               | 3-8, 11  | Varies                                                                                        | 03/09/26 To 04/24/26                                                                                                                     | Exempt 1 <sup>st</sup> year in country                                                                           |
|                                                  | <b>SD Math-Alt (MSAA)</b> | <b>Mathematics</b>                                         | 3-8, 11  | Varies                                                                                        | 03/09/26 to 04/24/26                                                                                                                     | No exemption in math                                                                                             |
|                                                  | <b>SD Science-Alt</b>     | <b>Science</b>                                             | 5, 8, 11 | Varies                                                                                        | 03/30/26 to 05/08/26                                                                                                                     | No exemption in science                                                                                          |
| <b>EL Assessments<sup>4</sup></b>                | <b>ACCESS</b>             | <b>Four Domains: reading, speaking, listening, writing</b> | k-12     | Varies                                                                                        | 01/27/26 to 02/27/26                                                                                                                     | No exemption, Required for all EL students                                                                       |
|                                                  | <b>ACCESS Alt</b>         |                                                            | 1-12     | Varies                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                  |

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Time estimates are for scheduling purposes only. South Dakota Assessments are untimed. Please provide adequate time for students to finish.

<sup>2</sup> First entry by the student in a U.S. school.

<sup>3</sup> Wired Headphones required for SD-Math and SD-ELA.

<sup>4</sup>Wired Headphones with microphone required.

<sup>5</sup>An Embedded Desmos Calculator will be available on the math section of the ACT.