

Assessment Guide 2025-2026 School Year

Name of Assessment	Subject Matter Assessed	Grades Administered	Purpose for how it is designed and used	Source of Requirement	Approximate time spent when administered	Dates Administered	Reporting Results
Smarter Balanced Assessment	Mathematics, ELA	3-8, 11	State required summative assessment measuring English Language Arts and Math achievement.	SD DOE	Estimated testing time: ELA 3-4 hours Math 2- 4 hours	March 30- May 8, 2026	Mailed to parents once available.
South Dakota Science Assessment	Science	5, 8, 11	State required summative assessment measuring science achievement.	SD DOE	Estimated testing time: 1.5-3 hours	March 30- May 8, 2026	Mailed to parents once available.
South Dakota ELA & Math Alternate Assessment	Mathematics, ELA	3-8, 11	Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	SD DOE	Testing times vary greatly between testing participants.	March 9-April 24, 2026	Mailed to parents once available.
South Dakota Science Alternative Assessment	Science	5, 8, 11	Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	SD DOE	Testing times vary greatly between testing participants.	March 30-May 8, 2026	Mailed to parents once available.
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Reading, Math (every other year)	4 & 8	NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Students in grades 4 and 8 are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every two years and in other subjects periodically.	SD DOE	Testing times vary greatly between testing participants.	January 26-March 20, 2026 (if selected)	Data only reported at state level. No individual student data collected.
ACCESS & ACCESS Alternative (for EL Students)	English Language Proficiency	K-12	Used to assess English Language Proficiency and continued eligibility for EL services	District Requirement	Testing times vary greatly between testing participants.	January 27- February 27, 2026	Mailed to parents
WIDA EL Assessments	Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening	K-12	When students enter the district to determine eligibility for EL services	SD DOE	Estimated testing time: 1.5 hours	Within the first 30 days of the school year or within 2 weeks of enrollment after	Mailed to parents with letter regarding eligibility for services
DIBELS	Reading	K-6	DIBELS reading assesses reading comprehension and related skills.	District Requirement	Estimate testing time: 20 minutes per test; 3x/year.	Fall, Winter, Spring. One exam in each subject (math/reading) per benchmark period.	Shared at parent/teacher conferences
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)	Military Aptitude	11	Qualification assessment for enlistment in the military as well as various mechanical aptitudes.	District Requirement	Estimated testing time: 3 hours	November 26, 2025	Results will be discussed with students once results have been received.