

Assessment Guide 2026-2027 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	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 29- May 7, 2027	Mailed to parents with report cards at end of the year
South Dakota Science Assessment	Science	5, 8	State required summative assessment measuring science achievement.	SD DOE	Estimated testing time: 1.5-3 hours	March 29- May 7, 2027	Mailed to parents with report cards at end of the year
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 8-April 23, 2027	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 29-May 7, 2027	Mailed to parents once available
South Dakota ACT	English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing	11	State required summative assessment measuring English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing	SD DOE	Estimated testing time: 4.5 hours not including lunch break, longer for those with accommodations	Window 1: Window 2: Window 3:	Mailed to parents with report cards at end of the year
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.	Will not be selected in the 2026-2027 school year	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 26- February 26, 2027	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 25, 2026	Results will be discussed with students once results have been received
NWEA (MAPS Testing)	ELA, Mathematics, and Science	K-12	Assesses growth in math, reading, and writing throughout the school year	District Requirement	Estimated testing time: 1 hour per session per subject	3 benchmarks- beginning of year, middle of year, end of year	K-6 Parent teacher conferences, data used for driving instruction

