

2025-2026 State, College and Career Testing Information

State Assessment Information

South Dakota ELA and Math Assessments for Grades 3 through 8

Subject Matter Assessed:

English Language Arts (ELA): reading, writing, listening, and research/inquiry.

Math: concepts and procedures, problem solving and modeling and data analysis, and communicating reasoning.

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The purpose of the SD ELA and Math Assessments is to measure students' achievement in relation to our state standards in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. In addition to providing overall scores in these two subjects, score reports will also provide information on student performance in the above mentioned assessed areas.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

State of South Dakota Department of Education

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 7 hours are required for both assessments combined

Schedule for the Assessment:

The SD State Window for these assessments is March 30-May 8, 2026. McIntosh tests during the end of March into April.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available from test submission. Results are often sent home by the McIntosh District with the final report cards in late May or early June.

URL for More Information Regarding the South Dakota ELA and Math Assessments:

<http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

South Dakota Science Assessment for Grades 5 & 8

Subject Matter Assessed:

Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth/Space Science

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The purpose of the South Dakota Science Assessment is to measure students' achievement in relation to our state standards in the area of science. In addition to providing overall scores in this subject, score reports will also provide information on student performance in the above mentioned assessed areas.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

State of South Dakota Department of Education

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 3 hours are required for the science assessment.

Schedule for the Assessment:

The SD State Window for these assessments is March 30-May 8, 2026. McIntosh tests during the end of March into April.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available from test submission. Results are often sent home by the McIntosh District with the final report cards in late May or early June.

URL for More Information Regarding the South Dakota Science Assessment:

<http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for grades 4 and/or 8

Subject Matter Assessed:

Math and Reading

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card, is a national 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.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

Federal regulations require that the NAEP be given and that the results be reported on state and district report cards.

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 2 hours are required for the NAEP.

Schedule for the Assessment: N/A, unless selected for required field test.,

NAEP contacts the school to schedule.

***NAEP has identified the 8th grade for the testing for the 25-26 School Year. The 8th grade students will test in mathematics and reading between January 26-March 20, 2026. NAEP representatives will pick the exact date and further information will be sent to parents/guardians.**

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

The results are disseminated to the public shortly after the school year begins in the fall when the state and district report card is made public via the McIntosh School website. Information on how to access this report card on the web or via a hard copy is also shared at this time by a letter mailed to all families in the district.

URL for More Information Regarding the NAEP Assessment:

<http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/NAEP.aspx> and at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/>

We also give the following state required assessments as needed for students with severe cognitive disabilities or for students who are English/Language learners. These assessments will be given when necessary.

South Dakota ELA and Math Alternate Assessments: Alternative assessment, grades 3-8 & 11, content areas: Math and Language Arts, testing times vary. Testing window is March 9-April 24, 2026. URL for More Information Regarding the SD ELA and Math Alt Assessments: <http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment: Alternative Assessment, grades 5, 8 & 11, content area: Science, testing times vary. Testing window is March 30- May 8, 2026. URL for More Information Regarding the SD Science Alt Assessment: <http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

WIDA- If any of the questions from the home language survey are answered something "other than English," the district will give the W-APT (WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test) to the student if they are in grade K or the Wida Screener if they are in grades 1-12. Content areas include: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The assessment is approximately 70 minutes. At the **beginning** of the school year, identification, screening, and parental notification of eligible students must be given **within 30 days of enrollment**. Once the school year is **underway**, the window for identification, screening and parental notification of eligibility is within **two weeks of enrollment**. Wida Screener criteria to classify students in **grades 1-12** as EL is a composite score lower than 5.0. Once a student has been identified as an EL student the Campus administrator must go into Infinite Campus and mark the status of this student.

ACCESS: Administered to EL students, grades 1st-12th, content areas: Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking, approximately 170 minutes. Testing window is January 27 -February 27, 2025. URL for More Information Regarding ACCESS: <http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

State Test Assessment and will also serve as college and career readiness assessment:

American College Testing (ACT) Test for all students in 11th grade

Subject Matter Assessed:

Knowledge / skills tested: English, math, reading, science and writing

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The ACT is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States. This test will also now serve as the state assessment for 11th grade students.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

State of South Dakota Department of Education

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 4 hours is needed to take the assessment. All sections of the test are required now by the state of SD Changes this year:

- **English:** 35 minutes, 50 questions (reduced from 75).
- **Math:** 50 minutes, 45 questions (reduced from 60).
- **Reading:** 40 minutes, 36 questions (reduced from 40).
- **Science:** 40 minutes, 40 questions
- **Writing:** 40 minutes for essay question

Schedule for the Assessment:

Window 1:

Feb. 24-27, March 2-6

Window 2:

March 10-13, March 16-20

Window 3:

March 24-27, March 30-31, April 1-3

The McIntosh School District Test Coordinator will give ACT test March 24 and March 25 to 11th grade students. 12th grade students wanting to retest can also take this test at other times in other locations around the area. The Test Coordinator will assist students to register for the ACT at other locations for 12th grades students.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated by ACT directly to the tester via an online account.

URL for More Information Regarding the ACT

<https://www.act.org/>

College and career readiness assessments:

National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) for grade 11 and 12

Subject Matter Assessed:

Applied Math-measures the students' ability to apply mathematical reasoning to work-related problems.

Graphic Literacy-measures students' ability to use information from diagrams, floor plans, tables, graphs, and charts.

Workplace documents-measures students' ability to comprehend work-related reading material from memos to policy manuals.

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The NCRC is a way for students to show prospective employers that they possess the skills required in the workplace and is designed to offer an accurate prediction about the success of people in the workplace. The NCRC can also be used to better match applicant skills to available positions. The NCRC is also used towards the Build Dakota Scholarship-it is preferred but not required for this scholarship.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

McIntosh School District

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 3 hours are required for the NCRC.

Schedule for the Assessment:

The McIntosh School District Test Coordinator will give the test to students on a case-by-case basis to students who would like to take it for the Build Dakota Scholarship.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available during an interpretive session with the school student advisor.

URL for More Information Regarding the NCRC:

www.act.org/certificate/

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for grade 11 and some seniors

Subject Matter Assessed:

General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Mathematics Knowledge, Electronics Information, Auto and Shop Information, and Mechanical Comprehension.

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The ASVAB is a high quality, career exploration and planning assessment as well as a military entrance qualifying exam. The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

McIntosh School District

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 3 hours are required for the ASVAB.

Schedule for the Assessment:

The McIntosh School District allows a tester from the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to give the battery. This year the test will be given on October 21, 2025.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available during an interpretive session with the ASVAB interpreters, the student advisor and/or the school guidance counselor.

URL for More Information Regarding the ASVAB:

www.asvabprogram.com

Skills Lab SDMyLife Assessment for Grade 10:

Subject Matter Assessed:

An engaging, interactive survey that has students consider their preference for a variety of skills that they believe they have.

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The Skills Lab is a career exploration tool which measures a student's perceived skills and compares the student's skills in various areas to student interests to come up with viable career options for the student.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

South Dakota Department of Education Administrative Rule 24:43:11:08.

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 2 hours

Schedule for the Assessment:

The McIntosh School District gives the test during the first semester of the school year.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available during an interpretive session with the student advisor and/or school guidance counselor.

URL for More Information Regarding the Skills Lab Assessment:

Speak with the school guidance counselor or go to <https://sdmylife.com/about-us>

Matchmaker Interest Inventory for Grade 8 and Re-Assess Throughout High School Years

Subject Matter Assessed:

Career Interests

Purpose for Which the Assessment is Designed and Used:

The Matchmaker is a career exploration tool designed to measure a student's interests in various tasks and then uses these measured interests to come up with viable career options and career clusters for the student.

Source of the Requirement for the Assessment:

South Dakota Department of Education

Amount of Time Students Will Spend Taking the Assessment:

Approximately 1 hour

Schedule for the Assessment:

The McIntosh School District gives the test during the first semester of the school year in the 8th Career Exploration class. Students can retake the test throughout their high school years and the student advisor can guide students through this.

Time and Format for Disseminating Results:

Results are disseminated as soon as possible after they become available during an interpretive session with the Career Exploration Educator, the student advisor and/or the school guidance counselor.

URL for More Information Regarding the CAP:

Speak with the school guidance counselor or go to <https://sdmylife.com/about-us>