

## **DOE (Department of Education) required assessments:**

**Smarter Balanced** (ELA and Math Assessment) Grades 3-8 and 11. Testing window March 7 to May 6, 2022.

With new state standards, students are working harder, thinking more critically, and applying their learning to the real world. To measure these new standards, educators from [states using Smarter tests](#) have worked together to develop new, high-quality tests in English and math for grades 3–8 and high school. Want to learn more? Go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents/>.

Results will be sent home with final report cards at the end of the school year.

**MSAA** (Alternate ELA and Math Assessment) Testing window March 15 to April 30, 2022.

Alternate Assessment is available for students who have met the significant cognitive disability criteria. These students are working with the Core Content Connectors and their IEP's indicate alternate assessment for statewide testing.

Results will be sent home at the beginning of the following school year.

**SDSA and SDSA Alt** (South Dakota Science Assessment). Testing Window March 7 to May 6, 2022.

The South Dakota Science tests measures students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards in Science adopted in May 2015 at grades 5, 8, and 11. This test will cover the grade spans of 3-5, 6-8, and high school. Questions will come equally as possible from life, physical, and earth sciences at all 3 tested levels. This assessment will be completely online.

Results will be sent out as soon as the DOE makes them available to us.

**NAEP** – National Assessment of Educational Progress – NAEP testing may be conducted this school year. NAEP testing is typically conducted every other year, but this has been interrupted with the pandemic

NAEP is 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.

**WIDA EL Assessments (ACCESS)** – Testing Window January 24 to February 25, 2022.

South Dakota is a part WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment), a consortium of states dedicated to the design and implementation of high standards and equitable educational opportunities for English language learners. WIDA provides South Dakota with language proficiency assessments for grades K-12.

**More information about these required assessments can be found here:**

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

## **Additional assessments used by the district for benchmark and progress monitoring:**

**Benchmark assessments** are short tests administered throughout the school year that give teachers immediate feedback on how students are meeting academic standards. Regular use of **benchmark assessments** is seen by many as a tool to measure student growth and design curriculum to meet individual learning needs. **Progress monitoring** is the practice of testing students briefly but frequently on the skill areas in which they are receiving instruction, to ensure that they are making adequate **progress**.

## Elementary

**Dibels reading** is used with students in grades Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Scores are used for identification purposes for targeted interventions. Students identified will be progress monitored throughout the school year to measure growth.

**Star Math and Star Reading assessments** are used for Dell Rapids Elementary students and are given as benchmark between three and five times per year and as progress monitoring.

[Star Assessments](#) are short tests that provide teachers with learning data. Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust to each answer your child provides. This helps teachers get the best data to help your child in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests take). Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. Star Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery. By pinpointing exactly what your child knows, teachers can personalize your child's practice to keep them growing. Plus, short test times ensure your child spends more time learning and less time testing.

The assessments are given beginning, middle and end of the year. Students are progress monitored at varying points in-between. Parents are given the results of beginning of the year and possible first progress monitor at parent-teacher conferences. End of the year results are sent home with report cards.

**Curriculum Based Measurements** are used in all content areas throughout the school year to identify mastery of content and measure growth.

## Middle School

**Star Math and Star Reading assessments** are used for Dell Rapids Middle School students and are given as benchmark between three and five times per year and as progress monitoring.

[Star Assessments](#) are short tests that provide teachers with learning data. Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust to each answer your child provides. This helps teachers get the best data to help your child in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests take). Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. Star Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery. By pinpointing exactly what your child knows, teachers can personalize your child's practice to keep them growing. Plus, short test times ensure your child spends more time learning and less time testing.

The assessments are given beginning, middle and end of the year. Students are progress monitored at varying points in-between.

Parents may be given the results of beginning of the year at parent-teacher conferences.

**For more information about Star Testing:** [https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-star-assessments/?\\_ga=2.245748291.657452512.1508275016-1267221592.1501703398](https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-star-assessments/?_ga=2.245748291.657452512.1508275016-1267221592.1501703398)

**SBAC Interim Assessments are used for grades 5-8.**

The assessments are given at the beginning and end of units of instruction to measure knowledge and skills. Interim assessments are used as a tool to evaluate student needs and to help teachers design

instruction to meet individual learning needs. Assessments are specific to content standards at each grade level in both math and ELA. Individual teacher discretion is used to determine which test/s will be most effective in evaluating content and grade level content and skills. Interim tests typically take around 20 minutes. Results of the tests are available upon request and typically aren't included in student's course grade.

Interim assessments are available for use from September 13, 2021 to May 1, 2022.

**For more information about SBAC Interim Assessments:**

<https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/documents/SBAC-interim18.pdf>

**Curriculum Based Measurements** are used in all content areas throughout the school year to identify mastery of content and measure growth.

## High School

**Curriculum Based Measurements** are used in all content areas throughout the school year to identify mastery of content and measure growth.

## Optional High School assessments:

**NCRC** (National Career Readiness Certificate) Grade 11 or 12, schools work with CTE and Dept. of Labor to schedule a time for the assessment at the school.

The NCRC is an industry-recognized, portable credential certifying essential skills needed for workplace success. To earn certification, students must attain at least the lowest certification level on three ACT® WorkKeys assessments: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. This vital initiative is part of the Department of Education's goal to ensure that, "All students graduate college, career, and life ready."

Scores are sent to the school to be distributed to students as soon as possible.

**ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) 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.

**ACT** is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading and Science.

The ACT® test is the nation's most popular college entrance exam accepted and valued by all universities and colleges in the United States. The ACT is based on what students learn in high school and provides personalized information about their strengths for education and career planning.

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

**For more information about the ACT, how to register and testing**

**dates:** <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html>