Assessment Guide
Parker School District
School Year 2026-27
https://doe.sd.gov/assessment/

Name of Assessment	Grades	Purpose of the test (what is it designed for and how are the results used)	Approximate time Spent taking the test when Administered	Dates Administered (state window and district dates)	Disseminating of Results
Fall NWEA MAP Testing Math and Reading	K-2nd	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	August 31-September 11	As soon as results are posted but no later than September 11, data is used periodically throughout the school year
Fall NWEA MAP Testing Math, Reading, Language Usage, and Science	3rd-11th	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	August 31-September 11	As soon as results are posted but no later than September 11, data is used periodically throughout the school year
Winter NWEA MAP Testing Math and Reading	K-2nd	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	January 4-15	As soon as results are posted but no later than January 15, data is used periodically throughout the school year
Winter NWEA MAP Testing Math, Reading, Language Usage, and Science	3rd-11th	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	January 4-15	As soon as results are posted but no later than January 15, data is used periodically throughout the school year
Spring NWEA MAP Testing Math and Reading	K-2nd	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	May 3-14	As soon as results are posted but no later than May 14, data is used periodically throughout the school year
Spring NWEA MAP Testing Math, Reading, Language Usage, and Science	3rd-11th	The primary purpose of NWEA assessments is to measure a student's academic achievement and track their learning growth over time, regardless of their grade level.	Varies	May 3-14	As soon as results are posted but no later than May 14, data is used periodically throughout the school year
South Dakota public school students participate in annual summative testing in English language arts and mathematics. The results of these tests are included in the state accountability system. South Dakota also requires annual assessment of science and writing.					
SD ELA and Math Assessments Subject: English Language Arts, Math The testing window can be located at: https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/	3rd-8th	The South Dakota Math and English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments are administered to students in grades 3-8. They measure student knowledge mastery/understanding/ of state content standards in math and ELA. The assessment system includes both summative and interim assessments. The summative assessment is administered every spring to all students in tested grades, while the interim assessments are optional for districts to use. The assessments use computer adaptive testing technologies to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that teachers can use to help students succeed.	Approximately 6.5 hours total	State Testing Window March 29- May 7, 2027 District Testing Dates April 19-30, 2027	Student scores are sent home via mail to parents and guardians 1 week after all testing has finished.
SD ELA and Math Alternate Assessments Subject: English Language Arts, Math	3rd-8th, 11th	Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	Varies	March 8- April 23, 2027	Student scores are sent home via mail to parents and guardians 1 week after all testing has finished.
SD-ACT Subject: English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing	11th	To serve as both the state's federally required high school accountability exam and a free college entrance test for 11th-grade public school students.	Approximately 3.5 hours total	Window 1 (online): March 9-12, March 15-19 March 9 (paper)	
				Window 2 (online): March 23-26, March 29-31, April 1-2	
				Window 3 (online): April 6-9, April 12-16	
SD Science Assessment Subject: Science	5th, 8th	The South Dakota Science test measures students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards in Science adopted in May, 2015 at grades 5 and 8. This test covers the grade spans of 3-5, 6-8, and high school. Questions come equally as possible from life, physical, and earth sciences at allvtested levels. This assessment is administered completely online.	Approximately 1 hour	State Testing Window March 29- May 7, 2027 District Testing Dates April 19-30, 2027	Student scores are sent home via mail to parents and guardians 1 week after all testing has finished.
SD Science Alternate Assessment Subject: Science	5th, 8th, 11th	Students with most severe cognitive disabilities	Varies	March 29- May 7, 2027	Student scores are sent home via mail to parents and guardians 1 week after all testing has finished.
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Subject: Reading, Math, (every other year)	4th, 8th	Only a sample of schools are chosen. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 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.			
SD English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS 2.0) Subject: Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening	K-12th	To measure the annual progress and academic English language proficiency of kindergarten through grade 12 students identified as English learners (ELs).	Varies	30 days from beginning of school year and/or enrollment (if identified)	Student scores are sent home to parents and guardians after all testing has finished.
Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs) Subject: English Language Arts, Math, Science	3rd-8th	The purpose of interim assessments are to give teachers actionable data to monitor student progress, target instruction, and help students practice for end-of-year tests.		State Testing Window Aug. 26, 2026- May 21, 2027	
Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) Subject: English Language Arts, Math	3rd-8th	The purpose of interim assessments are to give teachers actionable data to monitor student progress, target instruction, and help students practice for end-of-year tests.		State Testing Window August 26, 2026-March 5, 2027	
Pre-ACT	10th	To prepare students for the ACT test.	Approximately 2 hours	Spring 2027	Students receive a copy of their score report once testing is finished.
ASVAB	12th	To inform students about possible career interests based on their skills.	Approximately 2 hours	Fall 2026	Students receive a copy of their score report during the ASVAB score interpretation session.

This document can be found on the Parker School District webstie (*For Parents -> Helpful Links -> Testing Transparency Assessment Guide*).
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1762805056/parkerk12sdus/rqvvcz2y0ngwrhf4ssry/44_Testing_Transparency_Assessment_Guide.pdf