

DOE (Department of Education) required assessments:

Smarter Balanced (South Dakota ELA and Math Assessment) Grades 3-8 and 11. Testing window March 8-May 7, 2021

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.

SD ELA and Math Alternative Assessment Testing window March 15-April 30

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 8-May 7

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.

Home School Testing - Testing Window March 22-April 16

South Dakota students who receive alternative instruction are required to take a nationally standardized achievement test in Mathematics and Reading at grades, 4, 8 and 11 (grade 2 no longer required). The South Dakota Department of Education provides, free of charge, a norm-referenced test to children who receive alternative instruction. If parents/guardians use a different test than the one provided by the state, it must be a nationally standardized achievement test. These different tests will be at the expense of the parent/guardian and results need to be shared with the school district.

Please contact the school if you have a student in grades 4, 8 and 11 to get testing materials.

Results will be sent out in the fall.

NAEP – National Assessment of Educational Progress – January 25-March 19

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.

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

MAPS JrK-5th for Benchmark assessments done in September, December, and April.

COMMON QUESTIONS

How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?	Teachers can use the score to inform instruction, personalize learning, and monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district.
Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?	Yes, but please note that MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a student is performing. Please discuss any questions that you have about your child's performance with their teacher.
How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?	Most schools give MAP Growth tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year (in the fall, winter, and spring). Some schools choose to administer tests only twice a year.
What are norms?	NWEA provides schools with norms by utilizing anonymous data from more than 10 million students around the US. Knowing the top, middle, and bottom scores of all these students combined allows teachers to compare where your child is to other students and help them grow. In addition, NWEA provides comparison data for private, accredited, English-based, international schools using MAP Growth outside the US.
Is MAP Growth a standardized test?	MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year. Instead of asking all students the same questions, it adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly.
What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?	The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit Warmup.NWEA.org .

STAR Math is used with students grades 4-12 and are given as benchmark 3 times per year and as progress monitoring.

Amplify Math is used with students in grades JK-3rd grade. It is used for progress monitoring. Amplify Math is an individually administered measure of student skills in each of the key basic early math skills.

Middle School

Star Math and Star Reading assessments are used for Kadoka Middle School students and are given as benchmark 3 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. Middle of the year assessment results are given at February Conferences. End of the year results are sent home with report cards.

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

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>