

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

### **SD English Language Arts & SD Math** Grades 3-8 and 11. Testing window March 1-May 5, 2023

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. Students are allowed as much time as they need to complete the assessments, with most students needing approximately 2-3 hours per subject. 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 English Language Arts Alternate & SD Math Alternate** Testing window March 13-April 28, 2023

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. There is no time limit for the assessment and students are allowed to take as much time as needed for completion, which can vary depending on the individual student's needs.

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

### **SD Science & SD Science-Alt** Testing Window March 1-May 5, 2023

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. Students are allowed as much time as they need to complete the assessments, with most students needing approximately 2-3 hours.

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

### **WIDA Screener and ACCESS** - Testing Window Screener: within 20 days of enrollment / Testing Window ACCESS: January 23-February 24, 2023

Students in grades K-12 who have been identified as potential English Language Learners are given the WIDA Screener within 20 days of the start of enrollment. Those who do not test proficient on the Screener are identified as English Language Learners. These students are administered the ACCESS assessment in winter/spring of each school year to assess their progress in developing English language proficiency until they test proficient. The test covers four areas of language development (Listening, Reading, Speaking, & Writing) in both social language and academic language. The Kindergarten assessment is on paper while the grades 1-12 assessment is online (with paper writing still in grades 1-3). Results of ACCESS testing are sent out at the end of the school year.

### **NAEP** – National Assessment of Educational Progress – Spring 2024 (Dates and Sampled Grades TBD)

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. Testing takes approximately 2 hours for those students who are sampled.

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

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

## **Additional assessments used by the Elkton School 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**.

## **District Testing:**

**Dibels reading** is used with students in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade. It is given 3 times a year. (1<sup>st</sup>-first 15 days of school, 2<sup>nd</sup>-15 days before Christmas break, 3<sup>rd</sup>-last 15 days of school)

**DIBELS** are individually administered measures of student skills in each of the key basic early literacy skills. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (**DIBELS**) are a set of procedures and measures for **assessing** the acquisition of early literacy skills (areas of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, reading fluency & accuracy, vocabulary, and comprehension).

Results are sent home as soon as testing is complete.

**IXL** will be used for diagnostic testing and progress monitoring throughout the school year (8/17/2022-5/17/2023) in grades K-12 in the areas of ELA and Math. Grades 7-8 will also include the area of Science for progress monitoring.

IXL is a comprehensive learning program offering unlimited math, language arts, and science practice across thousands of skills—all of which are aligned to state standards. IXL is designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The program is adaptive and will adjust based on your child's demonstrated understanding of the material. While IXL adapts to each student, teachers are also able to assign specific skills to practice, review, and reinforce concepts taught in class.

Benchmark testing (also called a "Diagnostic Snapshot") occurs five times a year. At the elementary level, everyone is required to do 10 practice questions each week. At the secondary level, students have the goal of reaching proficiency in two skill sets per week in each subject area with a score of 80 or above.

Parents of students in grades K-12 will receive updates on progress at conferences and at the end of each quarter.

**Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments** are given as a benchmark for students in grades 3-11 in the areas of ELA, Math, and Science. These will be used throughout the school year (9/22/22-2/23/23) prior to the SD ELA, Math, and Science testing window.

Interim Assessments (IAs) are created by the SD DOE for a variety of purposes:

1. They are a helpful tool for teachers to evaluate student understanding and inform instruction.
2. They are available in three versions to evaluate student understanding from various viewpoints ranging from comprehensive (multiple targets) to focused (concepts within a strand). This enables teachers to be flexible in their use.
3. They are scored the same as Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAs): basic (1), developing (2), proficient (3), and advanced (4). Almost all IAs are graded by the software. If any hand grading is necessary, a rubric is provided and it is likely only for one question within the assessment.
4. Teachers can provide immediate feedback to students.
  - a. Teachers can share the top five questions answered the best & the top five answered incorrectly
  - b. Teachers can view all questions & work through them with students
  - c. These reports can be viewed for any of the IAs given
5. They help build familiarity with the SBAC testing platform, such as manipulating the screen and utilizing test tools (calculator, text-to-speech, reviewing previous questions, etc.).

In math and language arts, students will complete a comprehensive interim assessment in both October and February. Teachers and students will evaluate results and use them to inform instruction and prepare for the spring SBAC tests. Other IAs may be utilized in math and language arts as deemed appropriate to evaluate proficiency in the course standards. In science, there are no comprehensive IAs to administer. Science teachers will incorporate the focused IAs into their lesson planning and administer them as deemed appropriate to evaluate proficiency in the course standards, inform instruction, and prepare for standardized testing in the spring.

Results are reviewed with students directly following assessment. Elementary results will be placed on a child's data folder that is shared with parents at conference time. Secondary results will be reviewed with students during class. Teacher-led discussions will include overall class strengths and challenges as well as time for individual reflection and clarification.

**NCRC** (National Career Readiness Certificate) Grade 12, schools work with CTE and Dept. of Labor to schedule a time for the assessment at the school (set for November 30, 2022). Testing takes approximately 2-3 hours.

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.

## Optional High School assessments:

**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 by Elkton High School, but strongly recommended. Testing takes approximately 3 hours. Set for November 2, 2022.

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 MEPS and the National Guard will explain results to students usually within a month following the assessment.

**PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is offered to high school juniors (though not required by Elkton High School) in October of each year. Prepares students to take the SAT or to qualify for the Merit Scholarship Program, which is very academically competitive! Test includes assessment of Verbal, Math, and Writing skills, which is like the SAT. The test costs about \$16.00. It is a timed assessment and takes approximately 2 hours 45 minutes. Results are usually delivered sometime in December.

**ACT** is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading and Science. Testing is timed and takes approximately 3 hours. It is administered at national testing sites on various dates throughout the school year.

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>