

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

### **SD English Language Arts & SD Math** Grades 3-8 and 11. Testing window March 25-May 3, 2024

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 11-April 26, 2024

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 25-May 3, 2024

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 22-February 23, 2024

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 – January 31, 2024 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at De Smet Middle School

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 De Smet 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:**

**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 29, 2023). 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.

**Pre-ACT** offers 10th graders an early experience with ACT test items, provides a predicted ACT test score, and offers a wealth of information to help students get the start they need to be college ready. Anchored on the ACT college and career readiness standards, PreACT assessments help educators, students, and parents, identify areas of academic strength and opportunity. Students may opt to have their information shared with colleges and scholarship agencies when they take PreACT 8/9, PreACT, or PreACT Secure, providing greater opportunities for recruitment and scholarship awards. Elkton 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the Pre-ACT during the spring semester and results will be shared with students/parents when they are returned from the testing company (approximately 2 weeks following testing).

## **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 1, 2023.

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.

**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>