

Spearfish School District Assessment Information 2017-2018

DIBELS Next (Reading)

DIBELS is an assessment used to measure the acquisition of early literacy skills. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, and is comprised of six measures that function as indicators of the essential skills that every child must master to become a proficient reader. The DIBELS® measures are brief (most take one minute to administer), and are used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. DIBELS was designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in the acquisition of basic early literacy skills, in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties.

NWEA Map Growth (ELA and Math)

MAP® Growth™ measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next. By dynamically adjusting to each student's performance, MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance—whether a student performs on, above, or below grade level. Timely, easy-to-use reports help teachers teach, students learn, and administrators lead. MAP Growth tests begin with a question appropriate for the student's grade level, then dynamically adapt throughout the test in response to student performance. This progressive refinement allows MAP Growth to challenge top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.

STAR (Reading & Math)

The STAR assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Reading and STAR Math™ assessments help determine reading and math achievement levels in order to place students into the Accelerated Reader™ and Accelerated Math™ programs. STAR Early Literacy assessments help educators monitor students' growing literacy skills and students' progress toward becoming independent readers. STAR™ assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of state standards, and predict students' performance on the state test. In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

South Dakota is part of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, or SBAC. The SBAC is a consortium of states that have been working collaboratively to develop a student assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math. South Dakota is one of 21 governing states, which allows the state decision-making participation. The remaining six are advisory states.

The SBAC focus is on assessing students annually in grades 3-8 and 11. The system includes both summative and interim assessments and will use computer adaptive testing technologies to the greatest extent possible to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that teachers and other educators can use to help students succeed.

South Dakota Science Assessment

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.

South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment

The SDSA-Alt is available for students who have a significant cognitive disability. These students are working with the Core Content Connectors and their IEP's indicate alternate assessment for statewide testing.

ACCESS for ELLs

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0® stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners. This large-scale test addresses the academic English language proficiency (ELP) standards at the core of the WIDA Consortium's approach to instructing and evaluating the progress of English learners. ACCESS for ELLs is taken annually by identified English learners to measure their English proficiency. The South Dakota Department of Education requires ELs in Grades 1-12 be administered the online version except in cases where online testing is not allowed.

MSAA (South Dakota Alternate Assessment)

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.

PSAT

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT is a primer for the SAT, and even the ACT, but it's more than just a trial run. PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships.

PreACT

PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects: English, math, reading and science. Results predict future success on the ACT test, and provide both current achievement and projected future ACT test scores on the familiar 1-36 ACT score scale.

NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate)

The ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT WorkKeys NCRC®) is an assessment-based credential issued at four levels. The NCRC measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations.