



## Supporting Distance Learning Using Interim Assessments

Interim Assessments for South Dakota ELA, Math, and Science Assessments can be used in a variety of ways to support student instruction while educators plan for and conduct distance learning opportunities. Given that students may be learning at home through distance learning, the South Dakota Department of Education (SDDOE) will allow students to take Interim Assessments at home using the Cambium Secure Browser as had been required, the SecureTestBrowser iPad app, or Chrome or Firefox web browsers.

### Purpose:

This resource describes recommended uses and considerations for the incorporation of the Interim Assessments during distance learning. These assessments can support instruction aligned to the South Dakota Standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy and the Science with elementary, middle, and high school students.

Teachers can use Interim Assessments to “check-in” on student progress. Using the Reporting System, teachers can examine evidence of student understanding and enhance lesson development.

### Recommended Use:

Teachers and school administrators should **purposely** plan how the Interim Assessments will be used and how results will be interpreted prior to use. Interim Assessments should be used with students who are familiar with taking ELA, Math, or Science Interims. Furthermore, students should know how to access tools and supports (and accommodations, if applicable), and independently navigate the Test Delivery System.

Teachers can use the Interim Assessments **informally** by browsing items from the Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) by grade and content area (math, English language arts, and science) to meet specific learning purposes and goals. Items can be presented to students in a live lesson as a “Do Now” activity or items can be used to model a particular concept. Items can be used as a pre- or post-activity to gauge student knowledge. Teachers can access the Interim answer keys on the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) by choosing Interim Assessment Materials under the General Resources drop-down menu from the [South Dakota Gateway](#).

Additionally, teachers can **formally** administer Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) or the Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIAB). See the *Quick Guide to Administering South Dakota ELA, Math, and Science Interim Assessments Remotely* on the [SD Gateway](#) to do this while students are at home. *Note:* Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) should only be administered as part of distance learning as a baseline for student performance as the duration is comparable to the administration of a full summative assessment. IABs and FIABs are strongly encouraged in place of ICAs.

As teachers plan for the use of Interim Assessments, items and blocks should be selected based on their alignment with the teacher’s instruction. Interim Assessments can be used out-of-grade level to support specific student needs such as pre- and post-activities, remediation, or enrichment. For example, an above grade-level assessment might be used by a teacher to assess students who are receiving instruction with curriculum aligned to above grade-level standards. A below grade-level assessment might be used by a teacher who wants to assess students who are struggling with grade-level content to identify areas of weakness in prior learning. When using Interim Assessments for this purpose, careful interpretation and use of student results should be clearly defined prior to test administration. Judgments about student performance must be based on the conditions of this test administration.

## Security:

Interim Assessments should only be accessed by the student, and an effort should be made by the teacher and student to maintain test security procedures. This means that students should not disclose test content. Proctors (PRs) must communicate with students to provide a Session ID and provide support for students through the log in process, including helping them **securely** locate their State Student ID (SSID). ***It is important that the SSID is communicated using a secure method, such as a classroom management system, as opposed to a non-secure method such as private text messages or emails.***

Interim Assessments must not be publicly displayed or distributed outside the “learning environment” to ensure use of these assessments as intended. Only authorized local educational agency staff and students should have access to the Interim Assessments. Parents and guardians should not be assisting students in taking the assessments with the exception of helping a student login to the test. In addition, students should not be using additional resources such as websites and resource books to help answer items on the assessments. The interim assessment is used to inform teachers on what students do and do not know and are used only for instructional purposes. Finally, Interim Assessment items must not be copied into third-party systems without the permission of Smarter Balanced or Cambium Assessment, Inc. Without permission, such activity is a copyright violation.

## Considerations for Students with Disabilities and English Learners:

Embedded designated supports and accommodations are available for eligible students using Interim Assessments remotely through distance learning assuming the supports are identified in the student’s TIDE profile. Prior to the administration of the test, teachers should verify the activation of supports (and accommodations for eligible students) in TIDE Test Settings. Refer to the *Test Information Distribution Engine User Guide* and/or the *Tools, Supports, and Accommodations guidelines* on the [SD Gateway](#) for details about setting supports and accommodations in TIDE.

As a reminder, designated supports are available to all students with an identified need based on educator decision, while accommodations are **only** available to students with an active IEP or a 504 Plan. Refer to the [Tools, Supports, and Accommodations Guide](#) for more information.

## Do’s and Don’ts for the Interim Assessments

### Do’s

- Know the purpose for administering the Interim Assessment (or an item). For example, what new information do you need about your students’ skills?
- Choose which Interim Assessment will provide the best information or whether presenting an Interim item during instruction will best meet your needs.
- Match the conditions with the purpose including:
  - the student’s environment (access to external information);
  - accessibility resources; and
  - timing based on when instruction was provided.
- Use the results to inform next steps in instruction.
- Follow all test security protocols outlined in the first two “Don’t” bullet points on the next tab prior to Interim testing.

### Don’ts

- Do not post the test items on the internet or a public page
- Do not email Interim test items
- Do not email or text students’ personal or confidential information (SASID)—even to parents. Use a secure method provided by your district.

## Other Resources:

A variety of resources are available on the [South Dakota Gateway](#). For quick access, key resources are listed below:

Resource	Description
Quick Guide to Administer Interim Assessments Remotely	This user guide provides critical steps to set up Interim Assessments for remote use to support distance learning.
2020-21 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Overview	<a href="#">The Interim Assessments Overview</a> provides the features of available Interim Assessments and information to support formal and informal use of these tools.
Test Delivery System User Guide	This user guide provides instructions and support for users viewing student Interim Assessment performance reports in the Centralized Reporting System.
Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) User Guide	This user guide provides an overview of how to access and use the Assessment Viewing Application that allows teachers to view items on the South Dakota ELA, Math, and Science Interim Assessments for administrative or instructional purposes.
Reporting System User Guide	This user guide provides instructions and support for users viewing student Interim Assessment performance reports in the Centralized Reporting System.
<a href="#">Smarter Balanced Remote Learning Website</a>	This Smarter Balanced site provides additional guidance and resources for administering Interim Assessments for remote use to support distance learning.

## User Support:

Contact the South Dakota CAI Assessments Help Desk by [email](#) or phone at 1-855-838-8378.