

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Assessment Coordinators
District Accountability Coordinators

FROM: Wyatt Cothran
Deputy CIO, Office of Information Technology

Kristi Austin
Director, Office of Assessment & Standards

DATE: August 25, 2026

RE: Formative Assessment Information and Data Collection for School Year 2026–27

In accordance with South Carolina Code § 59-18-310(D), districts must assess students using a state-approved formative (interim) assessment each fall, winter, and spring and report results by grade and school to the South Carolina Department of Education. Data must be uploaded to the state system within five business days after each testing window closes.

The SCDE will monitor reporting for grades K–8. Districts are required to report assessment data for at least 85 percent of students during each assessment window, based on the 45th-day headcount. For the 2026-2027 school year headcounts for grades 1-8 will be used. Districts that fail to provide the required data will have 10 percent of their State Aid to Classrooms funding withheld until the data is submitted.

Approved Formative Assessments for 2026-2027

i-READY Diagnostic published by Curriculum Associates, LLC
Istation's Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP), Grades K-2, published by Amira Learning
MAP Growth published by Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)
Mastery View Predictive Assessments published by Instructure
STAR Reading and STAR Mathematics published by Renaissance Learning (RL)
DRC BEACON published by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)

Again this year, districts will receive partial reimbursement for the administration of one of the approved formative assessments. The reimbursement formula will be applied based on the number of unique students with valid assessment submissions as evidenced by the data collection process. By using this process, districts will not be required to submit invoices. DRC BEACON is available as a no-cost option for districts and schools to use; it may be used as the sole requirement or may be used in conjunction with another approved formative. Reimbursement will not be provided for assessments that are not on the approved list.

Please have one person from the district submit the approved formative assessment(s) being utilized by the district and/or schools by September 9. [2026 - 27 Needs Assessment - Adoption List of “Formative” \(Interim\) Assessments - Intellistack](#)

Formative Assessment Data Collection for Students Instructed on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards

For students with significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards, the student’s Individualized Education Program team will determine the formative assessment used to meet this requirement. If none of the approved reading and mathematics assessments are appropriate for the student, even with appropriate accommodations, a rubric showing the student’s progress toward reading and mathematics IEP goals will meet the requirement. The alternative formative assessment data form includes grades 1–8 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Teachers must submit data points no later than the close of business on the following dates using the accompanying links:

- Fall: October 23, 2026 https://SCOSES.formstack.com/forms/fall_faosp
- Winter: January 15, 2027 https://SCOSES.formstack.com/forms/winter_faosp
- Spring: April 2, 2027 https://SCOSES.formstack.com/forms/spring_faosp

Questions?

Assessment funding, administration, and qualification criteria: Kayce Prince-Harvey, Office of Assessment and Standards, klprinceharvey@ed.sc.gov.

Data collection and reporting: Melwin Varghese, Information Technology, mpvarghese@ed.sc.gov.

Formative assessment based on alternate standards: Roberta Turner, Office of Assessment and Standards, returmer@ed.sc.gov.

Alternative assessment Formstack: Kim Watkins, Office of Special Education Services, kawatkins@ed.sc.gov.