**Sample District Letter for Parents Regarding South Dakota Alternate Assessment Testing Window**

*Schools may adapt this letter and print it on school letterhead*.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with more information about the South Dakota alternate state assessment, for which your child has been identified. The South Dakota alternate assessments include comprehensive assessment systems designed to promote increasing higher academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities in preparation for a broader array of post-secondary outcomes. The state alternate assessments measure grade-level academic content that is aligned to and derived from South Dakota’s content standards. They are administered one-on-one by a certified teacher and contain many built-in supports that allow students to use materials they are most familiar with and to communicate what they know and can do as independently as possible.

The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) for English Language Arts (SD ELA-Alt) and Mathematics (SD Math-Alt) is available for students who are identified per the Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 are tested in the Core Content Connectors (CCCs) aligned to South Dakota English Language Arts Standards and South Dakota Math Standards. Your child will be participating in the MSAA during this year’s testing window, which runs from (start date) through (end date).

The SD Science Assessment - Alternate (SDSA-Alt) is available for students who are identified. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 are tested in the Core Content Connectors (CCCs) aligned to South Dakota Science Standards. The test items cover grade spans from grades 3-5, 6-8, and high school. Your child will be participating in the SDSA-Alt during this year’s testing window, which runs from (start date) through (end date).

For more information regarding South Dakota alternate assessments, please visit the following website: <https://doe.sd.gov/assessment/alternate.aspx>

 If you have questions, please contact (School Contact) at (School Contact Information).

Sincerely,

[School Principal/Assessment Coordinator/SPED Coordinator]

[Contact Information]