Frequently Asked Questions

Please contact us at DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us with questions and additional information.

Navigation

Q1: How do I navigate to previous year's report cards and other reports?
A: At the top-right of the School Finder page, there is an option for past years report cards called "Years".

Q2: Where can I find the Interactive Analysis Dashboards?
A: Each indicator page in the report card has a "View Details" (green button) that opens to a dashboard where you can filter a variety of data to create charts and tables.

Q3: Where can I find Attendance?
A: Attendance indicator is unique to elementary and middle school report cards. Attendance data can be found in the School Environment tab for elementary and middle schools. Attendance is not an indicator at the high school level. Note: No Attendance or Chronic Absenteeism data are available in the 2019-20 due to covid-19

Q4: What if I get a blank page when I open the report card?
A: Go into your browser settings (i.e., Chrome users go to "More tools") and click on "clear browsing data". If that does not work contact us at DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us.

Accountability Report Card

Q1: Why are there no data for Student Performance, Student Progress, Attendance or School Performance Index (SPI) points in the 2019-20 report card?
A: In a normal year, School Performance Index (SPI) points for each accountability indicator are calculated. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state assessments were not administered and therefore data for student performance, student progress and school environment are not available for the 2019-2020 school year. Based upon South Dakota's waiver approved by U.S. Department of Education, the overall score (SPI) also was not calculated for schools for the 2019-2020 report cards, and the school support status is based upon school performance results from the 2018-2019 academic year.

Q2: For the English Learners Progress (ELP) indicator when will a school be assigned district data?
A: If a school has fewer than ten English learner students in the academic year, and the district has 10 or more students, then the school's ELP page will report the district data for this indicator. SPI points will be calculated based on the district data for any school that has fewer than 10 students.

Q3: For the English Learners Progress (ELP) indicator, why is the number in the 'English Learner Students' box on the left hand side of the report card greater than the total number of students in the 'View Details' table?

A: The value on the left hand side of the report card includes students who took the assessment for the first time this year and did not exit. The total from the 'View Details' table only includes students who are counted in the EL progress calculations. Students who took the ELP Assessment for the first time and did not exit within their first year of services are given a progress trajectory but are not included in the progress calculations until the second year of identification when progress towards growth can be calculated.

Q4: When and how are SPI points redistributed?

A: When there are no English Learner students at a school then the 10 SPI points for English Learners Progress (ELP) indicator are redistributed to other academic indicators. Note: No SPI points will be calculated or reported in the 2019-20 report cards due to covid-19.

Q5: Why is the Number of Students in the Overall Score Details (Interactive Analysis Dashboard) for Student Performance larger than my school's N-size for this report card year?

A: The SPI points are calculated using three years of data; the numbers of students for each of the three years are summed for the four performance levels. Note: As noted in the above Q1 details, no SPI points will be calculated in 2019-20 due to covid-19.

Q6: What data are used to calculate Student Progress?

A: Student Progress data include students that have taken the state assessments for two consecutive years. Note: As noted in the above Q1 details, no Student Progress data are available in the 2019-20 due to covid-19.

Q7: What data are used to calculate English Learners Progress?

A: The calculation for ELP indicator includes only those students who took the South Dakota-English Language Proficiency Assessment for two consecutive years.

Q8: Can I export a chart or table from Interactive Analysis dashboards?

A: Yes. On the top right side of the chart or table are three dots; click that and export options will show.

Q9: Are Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism considered one measure?

A: No. Attendance measure uses counts of students attending school for 90% or more enrolled days during the full academic year. Chronic Absenteeism measure uses counts of students who attended more than 10 days and who also missed 10% or more of enrolled days within the school year. Note: No Attendance or Chronic Absenteeism data are available in the 2019-20 due to covid-19

Q10: Instead of numbers all I see are asterisks in the report card. Why?

A: The asterisks represent suppression of data in the report card based on FERPA laws that protect student personal identification. You will see asterisks when the subgroup rate is below

7% or when there are fewer than 10 students in a subgroup. You'll also see messages throughout the report card pages indicating where data are suppressed. <u>Note: As noted in the above Q1 details, several report card pages will display a covid-19 message in the 2019-20 due to covid-19.</u>

Q11: Where can I find more information about the Office of Civil Rights Data Collection?
A: Go to this URL to access data by school and district that is reported in the annual report card: https://ocrdata.ed.gov/. Note: The most recent OCR data is from 2017-18.

Q12: Where can I find more information on the National Student Clearinghouse?
A: Go to this URL to learn about the Clearinghouse: https://studentclearinghouse.org/educational-organizations/studenttracker-for-educational-organizations/.

Educator Qualifications

Q1: Can I use the 2017-18 data for Educator Qualifications to compare with the 2018-19 Educator Qualifications data?
A: No. There are several data elements that were modified in 2018-19 including: removing non-teaching staff (Librarians) from the teacher data; updating the definition of Out-of-Field to include teachers who are non-Certified; and modifying the calculation to include staff who are teaching both content and special education and English as Second Language).

Q2: Who is eligible for a provisional certificate?
A: A provisional certificate is granted when an educator moves to South Dakota from another state and is requesting certification based on reciprocity. The provisional certificate is a one-year certificate which allows the applicant time to complete South Dakota Indian Studies. Applicants may renew this certificate one time.

Q3: Who is eligible for a temporary certificate?
A: A temporary certificate is granted to an educator whose certificate has become invalid. When this occurs, the individual may apply for a one-year temporary certificate in order to complete the increased renewal requirements resulting from their certificate becoming invalid. A temporary certificate cannot be renewed.

College and Career Readiness

Q1: What assessments are eligible for the Assessment Readiness measure?
A: Assessments for English and Math subjects are Accuplacer/Next Gen, ACT, state assessments and the NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate). Students must be proficient on any one of these four assessments to be counted in the numerator for Assessment Readiness (see Calculation Guide for more details).

Q2: What coursework are eligible for the Coursework Readiness measure?

A: Coursework includes: CTE Concentrator courses (career clusters), Dual Credit courses (only state-sponsored) and AP exams. Students must earn a C or better grade in one of the coursework types: Dual Credit courses and/or Advanced Placement exams and earn two credits within one career cluster to be counted in the numerator for Coursework Readiness.

Q3: What is the College and Career Readiness (CCR) measure?
A: Students who are both Coursework and Assessment Ready are counted in the numerator for the CCR measure.

Compare Schools

Q1: What is the Compare link on the report card?
A: The Compare link takes you to a comparison page with key indicator data for up to three schools.

Options Menu

Q1: Where can I find additional reports?
A: The red Options icon provides links to additional reports including printable report card, FAQs, Calculation Guide, Long-Term Goals (state only), School Improvement, School and Educator Equity (state only), Report Card Navigation Guide, Accountability Manual; and links to prior year report cards, district and state report cards and Data Downloads. Note: Data Download reports available for 2019-20 are: Subgroup Results-High School Completion; Subgroup Results-College & Career Readiness and Staffing Results-Educator Qualifications. However, NO State Assessment Results or School Results will be available for 2019-20 due to covid-19.

Q2: How do I export the Long Term Goals chart or table from the Interactive Analysis dashboard?
A: Find the "three dots" on the top right side of the table or chart; click the dots and choose an export option (Excel, PDF or Data). Note: This report is in the state report card options menu.

Q3: How do I access report card tables that consist of SPI points and indicator data for every public school in the state?
A: The red Options icon provides a Data Download link to statewide public school data including school results, subgroup results and state assessment results. Note: NO State Assessment Results or School Results will be available for 2019-20 due to covid-19; Only the Subgroup Results for High School Completion and College and Career Readiness reports are available for 2019-20.

NAEP Assessment Report

Q1: How are schools and students selected to participate in NAEP?
A: NAEP measures the academic performance of the nation's students at grades 4, 8, and 12 by assessing a representative sample of the nation's students. To ensure that a representative sample of students is assessed, NAEP is given in a sample of schools whose students reflect the

varying demographics of a specific jurisdiction, be it the nation, a state, or a district. Within each selected school and grade to be assessed, students are chosen at random to participate in NAEP. Every student has the same chance of being chosen—regardless of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, status as an English language learner, or any other factors.

Q2: How are students with disabilities and English language learners included in the assessment?
A: Accommodations in the testing environment or administration procedures are available for SD and ELL students. Some accommodations have built-in features or Universal Design Elements that are embedded in the digitally based assessments that are available to all students. Other accommodations are available upon request. Every jurisdiction decides what accommodations their students are eligible to receive.

Q3: Are results for individual students and schools reported?
A: No. By design, information is not available at the individual student or school levels. Reports traditionally disclose state, regional, and national results. In 2002, NAEP began to report (on a trial basis) results from several large urban districts (Trial Urban District Assessments) after the release of state and national results. Because NAEP is a large-group assessment, each student takes only a small part of the overall assessment. In most schools, only a small portion of the total grade enrollment is selected to take the assessment, and these students may not reliably or validly represent their total school population. Only when the student scores are aggregated at the state or national level are the data considered reliable and valid estimates of what students know and can do in the content area.