

## CHAPTER 24:43:02

### STATE ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL SYSTEM

#### Section

- 24:43:02:01 Public school districts required to maintain state accreditation.
- 24:43:02:02 State accreditation system defined.
- 24:43:02:03 Eligibility for state accreditation -- Compliance with regulations and district improvement plan.
- 24:43:02:04 Approval of district improvement plan.
- 24:43:02:05 Five-year accreditation cycle.
- 24:43:02:06 Accreditation review.
- 24:43:02:07 Amended improvement plan.
- 24:43:02:08 Plan of Intent.

**24:43:02:05. Five-year accreditation cycle.** Public school district accreditation and nonpublic school accreditation is conducted by the Department of Education in a five-year cycle. The five-year accreditation cycle shall be reset beginning with the 2018-2019 school year in order to equitably distribute the number of accreditation reviews conducted each year. Transitional reviews shall be scheduled by the Department in consultation with the accredited schools or districts. Transitional reviews of accredited schools or districts shall occur from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2022-2023 school year, and be prioritized according to data analysis and criteria set by the Department and made available on the Department's publicly available website. Transitional reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of chapter 24:43:02

A regular five-year accreditation cycle shall be established by the 2022-2023 school year.

**Source:** 31 SDR 178, adopted May 24, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; 33 SDR 55, effective October 2, 2006.

**General Authority:** SDCL 13-1-12.1, 13-3-1.4, 13-3-47, 13-13-18.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 13-1-12.1.

***Justification:***

*State Accreditation reviews for public school districts, non-public schools and BIE schools began during the 2007-2008 school year. During this 'pilot year' 16 schools/districts hosted an onsite review.*

*One department FTE conducted the reviews. The reviewer soon realized that it was not feasible to expect one FTE could complete all reviews. As a result, the DOE contracted with (2 or 3) specialists in the education field. Additionally, a current employee's duties were reassigned to help with the reviews. During the 2008-2009 school year, many reviews were conducted (70+), with the help of the additional staff. Without realizing it at the time, this set the department up for the dilemma we find ourselves in today.*

*Currently, the Division of Accountability Systems has two FTE conducting reviews. Sixteen reviews were conducted during the 2016-2017 school year. There are 71 reviews scheduled this year. Next school year there are 95 up for review. During 2019-2020 there will be 29, and in 2020-2021 there will be 5 reviews.*

*There are currently 216 schools/districts that are state accredited in South Dakota. The goal in changing ARSD is so the department can begin the process of redistributing the number of reviews so that each school year there is roughly the same amount (40-45). Keep in mind that ARSD should allow reviews be conducted more often than every 5-years as determined by the SDDOE.*

- Ex. Newly accredited school being 'placed' on review cycle for a second review 1-3 years after initial accreditation is granted, so as to keep the number of reviews per year evenly distributed.*
- Ex. In the event concerning information is brought to the department's attention that constitutes a review prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> year since the last review at a given school/district.*