

From: Admin and Rules [mailto:DOEAdminRules@state.sd.us]

Sent: Thursday, May 3, 2018 7:00 AM

To: DOE Admin Rules <DOEAdminRules@state.sd.us>

Subject: Comment on: South Dakota Board of Education Standards Chapter 24:43:02 (State Accreditation and Approval System) and Article 24:55 (Public School Accountability System)

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Comment: I am very disappointed by the new proposed graduation requirements. I know the state is saying they are adding flexibility but what you are doing is allowing students to get out of important and worthwhile classes. I am telling you that if the highest level math class a student has to take is Algebra I, we are not preparing them for a successful future or career. Math teaches students how to think, reason, and problem solve. These skills are only in their beginning stages in Algebra I. They need higher level math to really develop these skills. With the big push for STEM, STEAM, and knowing these are the areas where jobs are available, we are taking a huge step in the wrong direction. You are asking students at around age 14 to decided if they are going to go on to higher education or not. If they decided to take the advanced career path as a freshman as a junior it is already to late to change your mind. This reminds me of a young man who was set on going back to the family farm, but halfway through his senior year decided he would go to a tech school because making it in farming is getting hard. Had he been on the career path he would be in big trouble right now. Luckily he took Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and will have no problem at tech school. I am so surprised that the state wants to graduate unprepared students. You are doing a huge disservice to the students of South Dakota and the future job force. Please do not pass these new graduation requirement. They are bad for students and the state of South Dakota