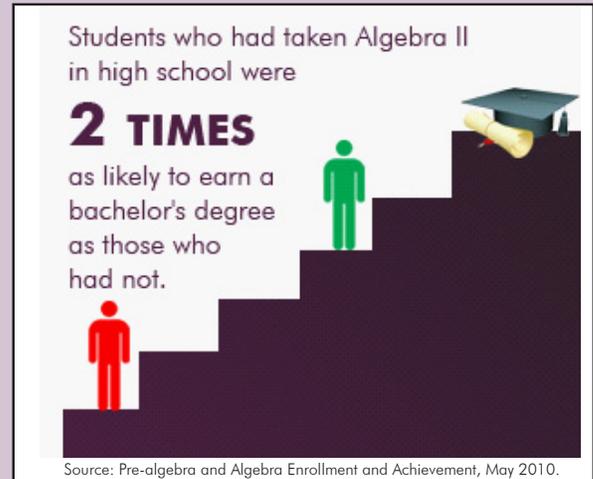


College, Career and Life Ready

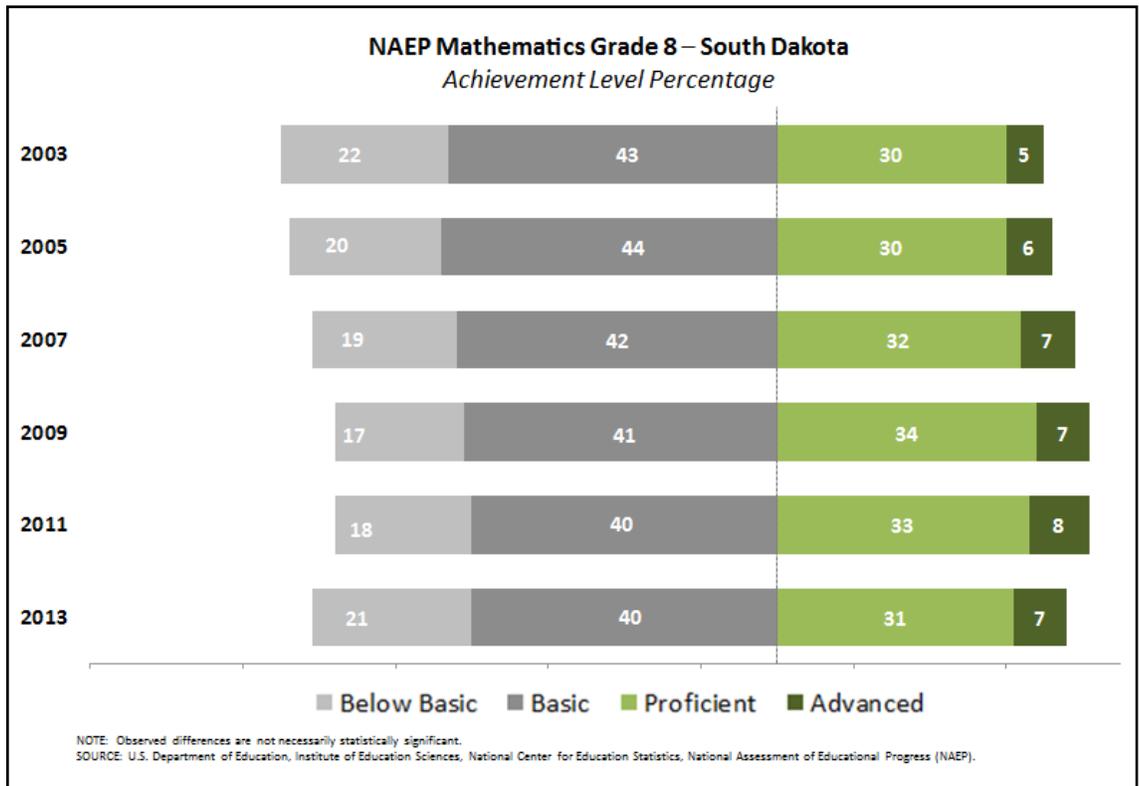
Goal: Students enter 9th grade proficient or advanced in math.

RATIONALE

A firm grasp of math is necessary throughout a student's academic career, because concepts build upon one another and become increasingly complex. Research clearly indicates a correlation between high school students who take higher-level math courses and success at the postsecondary level.



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS SOUTH DAKOTA'S 8TH GRADE MATHEMATICS PROFICIENCY RATES

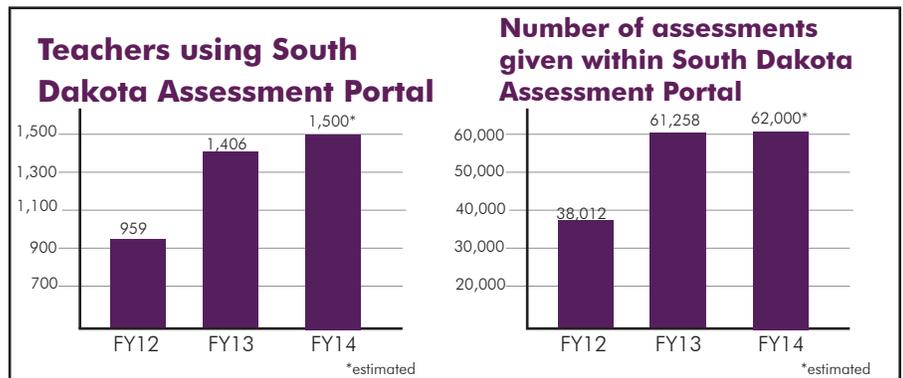


Strategy: Standards-driven curriculum, instruction and assessment

Identify and address gaps, weaknesses and trends in student math performance grades K-8, so students will be better prepared for high school and college-level math courses. This strategy involves development of a tool for schools to identify where gaps in student learning are occurring. Training and support will be provided to address these areas – for example, fractions – and to help districts align curriculum, instruction and assessment, in order to provide purposeful instruction meant to target specific areas of student need.

Strategy: Data-driven decision making

Increase educators' knowledge and use of data to make instructional decisions, so that they can implement interventions aimed at improving students' ability before they fall behind. This strategy involves providing meaningful professional development to educators on the use of data. Strategies such as screenings, diagnostic assessments and progress monitoring allow teachers to detect potential issues and provide supports to students. The result? Teachers provide high quality instruction tailored to meet the needs of individual students.



Strategy: Increase math content knowledge and pedagogy

Expand opportunities for teachers in grades 3-8 to increase their content knowledge and instructional skills through content specific trainings. Trainings will focus on specific topics such as number sense, problem solving, fractions, and geometry – allowing teachers to gain a deeper level of understanding and to identify strategies for differentiating instruction for all students. The strategy involves working with the state's colleges and universities to ensure teaching candidates are also trained to deliver high quality math instruction. The result? Teachers who are better prepared to deliver math instruction and an increase in student achievement as a result.

