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CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-7228,
mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us

State scores remain steady and higher than national average

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota’s 12th grade math and reading scores on the recently released 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, are above the national average and have remained steady since the test was first administered in the state in 2009.

The NAEP is based on a scale of 0 to 500 in reading and a scale of 0 to 300 in math. The state’s average reading score was 292, compared to the national average of 287. The state’s average math score was 159, compared to the national average of 152. The test was most recently administered January through March 2013.

“The NAEP is one measure of math and reading proficiency,” said South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. “Math and reading proficiency are two pieces of the bigger picture of college and career readiness. We have a number of resources available to help students at all levels achieve that readiness, from remediation to dual credit and advanced placement.”

For students whose ACT scores indicate a need for remediation in math and/or reading, free online coursework is available from the Department of Education through AccuPlacer and MyFoundationsLab. By completing remedial coursework while still in high school, students can save time and money in college.

The 2014 Legislature provided funding to make select dual credit coursework available to South Dakota students in 11th and 12th grades at the reduced rate of \$40 per credit. Dual credit is an opportunity for high school students to enroll in a public postsecondary institution in South Dakota and simultaneously earn credit towards both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate.

Free advanced placement courses are available online at the South Dakota Virtual School. Financial assistance is also available to help some students defray the cost of AP exams. AP courses follow rigorous curriculum that meets college standards. Qualifying AP Exam scores can earn students college credit or advanced placement.

Find more information on these resources at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/ready/>.