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South Dakota high school students on track to earn more than 4,000 reduced-cost dual credits

The South Dakota Board of Education heard a report today regarding enrollment in the state's new, reduced-cost dual credit program. To date, almost 780 high school juniors and seniors have enrolled in the reduced-cost courses and are on track to earn more than 4,000 dual credits at South Dakota public universities and technical institutes.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed and the 2014 Legislature approved funding to make select dual credit courses available at the reduced cost of \$40 per credit hour. South Dakota high school juniors and seniors qualify for the cost savings.

Dual credit is an opportunity for high school students who meet admissions standards to enroll in public postsecondary institutions in South Dakota and simultaneously earn credits towards both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate.

"These enrollment numbers are very exciting," said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. "Reduced-cost dual credit courses are a great way for students to get a jump start on their postsecondary education, and connecting young people to our in-state institutions may help in the long run to keep them in the state. I'm grateful to schools for their hard work spreading the word to their students about this opportunity."

The board also heard an update on efforts related to college readiness coursework. Free or low-cost online college readiness coursework is available to students whose ACT scores in math and English do not meet certain benchmarks set for students entering the state's public universities. Students who successfully complete the college readiness coursework can avoid taking remedial, non-credit bearing courses at the postsecondary level and enter directly into credit-bearing courses. Several schools across the state are now offering students face-to-face support alongside this online option. The face-to-face setting allows the school to provide students with additional support and may facilitate successful completion of the coursework.

More information on these resources is available at <http://www.sdmylife.com>.