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2014 South Dakota Report Card available

The 2014 South Dakota Report Card highlighting school performance is now available online.

Because South Dakota students participated in a field test of the new Smarter Balanced assessment last spring, there will be no new test results included in this year's Report Card. Test results at the school, district and state levels will be reported again in the summer of 2015.

Various indicators used to measure school performance are included in the Report Card. Some of this year's highlights include:

- Almost 90 percent of eligible students completed high school, with just under 83 percent doing so in four years. These numbers are nearly steady from last year.
- Just over 67 percent of South Dakota students who took the ACT met the South Dakota Board of Regents' benchmark in math. Just over 75 percent of students met the benchmark in English. These numbers provide an indication of college readiness and are just slightly lower than last year (68.08 percent and 76.64 percent, respectively).

"It's great that so many South Dakota students pursue higher education of some kind," said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. "We're working to spread the word about free and low-cost options available to students, so that when they move on to our state's universities and technical institutes, they can hit the ground running."

For example, students whose ACT scores don't meet the BOR's benchmarks in math and English can complete online college readiness courses via the South Dakota Virtual School at low or no cost. By completing these courses while still in high school, students can avoid costly, non-credit bearing remedial coursework in college.

A new program, introduced by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and approved by the South Dakota Legislature, allows for select dual credit courses to be available at the reduced rate of \$40 per credit to South Dakota students in 11th and 12th grades. Dual credit is an opportunity for 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.

The South Dakota Virtual School also offers free "Learning Power" Advanced Placement courses online. These AP courses follow rigorous curriculum that meets college standards. Qualifying AP exam scores may earn students college credit or advanced placement.

To access the 2014 Report Card, including state-, district- and school-level data, click on the Report Card icon at doe.sd.gov.

Information about college readiness courses, dual credit and Advanced Placement is available at sdmylife.com.