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

Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, 605-773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

South Dakota NAEP scores hold steady

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota’s math and reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress remain at or above the national average. The scores for 2017 were mostly steady compared to 2015, the last time the NAEP was administered. Nationwide, scores held mostly steady in 2017 as well.

“The NAEP is a single snapshot in time, and though the assessment does not measure against our state standards, it does provide valuable information regarding student performance over a period of time,” said Secretary of Education Don Kirkegaard. The NAEP was first administered in South Dakota in 2003.

South Dakota’s average scale scores for 2017 are as follows:

Math

- Fourth grade: 242 vs. 239 national average
- Eighth grade: 286 vs. 282 national average

Reading

- Fourth grade: 222 vs. 221 national average
- Eighth grade: 267 vs. 265 national average

In addition to looking at average scale score, state officials also consider the percentage of students scoring above and below the proficient mark on the NAEP.

In 2017, 43 percent of the state’s fourth-grade students performed at or above the proficient level in math, compared to 40 percent in 2015 and 34 percent in 2003. The percentage of eighth-grade students who performed at or above the proficient level in math in 2017 was 38 percent, compared to 34 percent in 2015 and 35 percent in 2003.

In reading, 36 percent of fourth-grade students performed at or above the proficient level, compared to 36 percent in 2015 and 33 percent in 2003. The percentage of eighth-grade students who performed at or above the proficient level in reading in 2017 was 36 percent, compared to 34 percent in 2015 and 39 percent in 2003.

“As we continue to dig into our data, we know that we have some pretty significant challenges in terms of raising achievement levels for certain groups of students, including our students with disabilities, our economically disadvantaged students and some of our minority student groups,” Kirkegaard said. “That data parallels what we see in our state test scores, and it needs to be a focal point.”

NAEP scores are based on a scale of 0 to 500. A representative sample of students in grades four and eight in all 50 states and the District of Columbia take this test every other year. Find more information at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.