The South Dakota Department of Education encourages districts to send requests for new reports in SD-STARS or submit enhancements of current SD-STARS reports.

Simply submit a request by logging into SD-STARS and using the “Request for SD-STARS Report” in the District Resources section of the Training Center. Download the Word document and fill it out. Email the completed form or any questions you may have to STARSHelp@state.sd.us. After the form is received, the SD-STARS team reviews the form and determines whether to accept it.

Report Development—One Example

Once a report has been accepted, the request proceeds through 10 development steps. A member of the SD-STARS team will work with you throughout this process to make sure the request is developed to fit district needs. The steps that typically include requestors are requirement gathering and requestor feedback. Our STARS Advisory Group (SAG), which includes representatives from various districts, provides further feedback during the “request approved” and “district feedback” steps.

Nicole Hansen, from the Sioux Falls School District, has submitted several requests over the years. One was for an enhancement to add the student’s state ID number and school name to reports. Nicole’s original request was to change a particular report. When the SD-STARS team saw the value in the requested enhancement, they expanded the enhancement to other reports.

Recently, Hansen submitted a request for the development of a new report that would track the current English Learner population and their English learner accountability data. This report is called ACCESS Targets for English learners and is currently in development. Nicole saw a need for districts to be able to proactively monitor English learners prior to seeing the snapshot of how these students did once the Report Card is released.

Hansen said this of the request process, “We have submitted several requests for report updates or the creation of a new report. The process has been straightforward, and the SD-STARS staff have been wonderful to work with. From a simple update request of adding a field to a more complex request of a new report, the SD-STARS staff have been responsive to hearing the needs of their end users.”

Districts should not hesitate to submit a request for an enhancement or a report idea! The SD-STARS team loves to hear about what can be done to help districts find value in, and use, SD-STARS.

Interested in new reports? We have a form for that!

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Regional SD-STARS trainings available this fall

The SD-STARS team will provide trainings soon for district users of SD-STARS. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered in three locations throughout the state. Find more information and register at GoSignMeUp. Questions? Please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Registration links: Regional SD-STARS trainings

SD-STARS training for SAMs

- Tues. Oct. 29, 8:30am to 12pm MT – Rapid City, SD—WDT, Pennington Co. Room
  https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12682
- Tues. Nov. 5, 8:30am to 12pm CT – SD-STARS training for SAMs
  Aberdeen, SD—NSU, Gerber 203
  https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12685
- Thurs. Nov. 7, 8:30am to 12pm CT – SD-STARS training for SAMs
  Sioux Falls, SD—STI, MC 101

SD-STARS training for district users

- Tues. Oct. 29, 1 to 4pm MT
  Rapid City, SD—WDT, Pennington Co. Room
  https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12683
- Tues. Nov. 5, 1 to 4pm CT – Aberdeen, SD—NSU, Gerber 203
  https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12686
- Thurs. Nov. 7, 1 to 4pm CT – SD-STARS training for district users
  Sioux Falls, SD—STI, MC 101

Upcoming webinar and past recordings

The SD-STARS team provides webinars throughout the school year on a variety of interesting topics. Please join our next webinar as we discover reports and enhancements that are NEW in SD-STARS! This webinar is for anyone in public schools or districts who wants to learn more about SD-STARS.

Recordings and notes from past topical webinars can be found by logging in to SD-STARS and selecting “Training Center.” We keep most recordings and resources for two years.

Upcoming webinar

Nov. 19 webinar, 10:00 a.m. CT

Interactive joint webinar
- SD-STARS reports
- PLD (Principal Leadership)
- Assessments: summative and interim assessments

Participants will engage via shared Google docs.

Registration:

Recordings of past webinars

September 2019 webinar

Topics
- Including SDSA in Assessment Reports
- New report: Dual Credit Student List
- Enhancements in McKinney Vento report, SPED statewide student list and Early Warning report

August 2019 webinar

Topic
- Introduction to SD-STARS
The South Dakota Department of Education is updating the names of statewide assessments in English language arts, math, and science as noted below. The goal is to create clarity and consistency, so that assessment names are not tied to vendor or consortium names (i.e. AIR, MSAA, Smarter Balanced Consortium), which can change over time.

- South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment (SD-ELA)
  - South Dakota English Language Arts Alternate Assessment (SD-ELA Alt)
- South Dakota Math Assessment (SD-MATH)
  - South Dakota Math Alternate Assessment (SD-MATH Alt)
- South Dakota Science Assessment (SD-SCI)
  - South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment (SD-SCI Alt)

We are asking that districts implement this name change as well. We are also communicating directly with assessment directors about this name change.

South Dakota will continue to use ELA and math assessment items from the Smarter Balanced Consortium. Science assessment items will come from an item bank developed by South Dakota educators and educators from a pool of several other states.

As a reminder, AIR has been announced as the selected vendor to administer South Dakota’s state assessments beginning in spring 2020 for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 in English language arts and math and grades 5, 8 and 11 in science and science alternate. AIR is the state’s current vendor for ELA and math (since 2014-15), but additionally, AIR will now also administer the science and science alternate assessments.

What does this mean for SD-STARS? Over the next year, users will start to see the new assessment names appearing in prompts and labels found in SD-STARS reports. The department will also update Report DIGs and other documents to reflect these new assessment names.

Data load updates in SD-STARS

New ACT data were recently received and loaded into SD-STARS. ACT data is received five times a year. The most recent file contains tests taken up to June 2019. The updated ACT results can be accessed by running the ACT Stoplight report.

Users may be asking why the spring and summer dual credit data for school year 2018-19 are not showing in the dual credit reports. This is because the SD-STARS team received multiple requests from the Legislative Research Council on dual credit data. The rule of thumb is to not load new data when completing a data request for the same data. Since the dual credit data does not change for past years, it is important to load the data after requests are done. The SD-STARS team then monitors the data after the load to ensure accuracy. As soon as the dual credit data requests are finished, the spring and summer dual credit data will be loaded.

Important Announcement
Changes to statewide assessment names

STARS Certified Trainers ready to assist districts

The following STARS Certified Trainers participated in training activities by Department of Education staff on SD-STARS and are kept up-to-date on system developments and new reports. Districts can contact trainers to request training at the district’s cost.

- Julie Erickson: jerickson@tie.net
- Michelle Glodt: miglodt@gmail.com
- Sandra Henry: sandyhenry2010@gmail.com
- Bobbi Maher: Bobbi.Maher@outlook.com
- MaryLou McGirr: MaryLouConsulting@gmail.com
- Becky Mohr: BeckyMohr93@yahoo.com
- Diane Olson: Diana.M.Olson@k12.sd.us
- Janeen Outka: janean.outka@teachwell.org
- Marge Stoterau: MargeStoterau@gmail.com
- Dianna Tyler: dianna.tyler@k12.sd.us
SD-STARS report assists DOE initiatives

Proactive admissions and college readiness coursework

The South Dakota Department of Education will again use SD-STARS for two initiatives: proactive admissions and college readiness coursework.

**Proactive admissions**
Qualifying South Dakota public high school seniors will receive a letter from the department alerting them that they met criteria for guaranteed general acceptance into the state’s six public universities and four technical institutes. The criteria require a student to score Level 3 or 4 on the English language arts and math portions of the 11th grade Smarter Balanced test and/or an ACT composite score of 18 or higher. General acceptance means a student is accepted into the university or technical institute, though some majors and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology may have additional conditions.

Eligible students should receive the letters at their primary home addresses in mid-October. Students who qualify for proactive admissions must still complete their application for admission, pay the application fee and submit their official high school transcript to the school(s) of their choice by Dec. 1. After Dec. 1, students may still apply, but their acceptance is no longer guaranteed.

Students are encouraged to ask their school counselor or principal if their high school is participating in College Application Week, a special week each fall during which application fees are waived. This year, College Application Week is November 4-8.

**College Readiness coursework**
South Dakota Board of Regents requirements for students to enroll in college-level coursework are as follows:

- 11th grade Smarter Balanced test scores at Level 3 or 4 in English language arts and math

- ACT English subscore of 18 or higher; math subscore of 20 or higher

Students who do not meet these criteria must take what the Board of Regents calls “remedial” coursework, for which they receive no credit and must pay full cost. However, South Dakota students have a unique opportunity to avoid this remedial coursework at the college level by completing it while still in high school. The South Dakota Department of Education offers college readiness coursework at low cost to those who are eligible.

Students who score at a Level 2 on the 11th grade Smarter Balanced test in English language arts and/or math or have an ACT English subscore below 18 and/or math subscore below 20 will receive a letter at their primary home address in mid-October indicating that they may access the college readiness coursework.

**SD-STARS report for districts**
To help districts identify which students received the proactive admissions and/or college readiness coursework letters, there is a report in SD-STARS called S0.002.00-A – Proactive Admission and Remedial Coursework. The report provides a list of students who were considered and those who qualified for proactive admissions and/or college readiness coursework. The report helps users answer questions like, "Which students qualify for proactive admissions?" or "Which students qualify for college readiness coursework?" This report will be updated for the 2019-20 school year in mid-October, about the time the letters are sent.

**STARS Advisory Group**
The STARS Advisory Group gives districts a voice in discussions on possible changes to, and the future of, SD-STARS. This group positively impacts SD-STARS and works to improve the partnership and communication among the department's SD-STARS team, other department staff and districts. Areas of discussion include new data sources, new reports, enhancements to current reports, changes to the SD-STARS portal and district training and support. For more information, please contact the SD-STARS team at STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

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In SD-STARS, district preferences are key to determining who has access to their data. Access to student data under FERPA is limited to only those who have a legitimate educational interest. Since not all individuals who are contracted as a vendor for the state need access to student data, access to SD-STARS is a district decision.

Some third-party contractors work with student data, so it could make sense that this person would need to see your district's data. However, from the SD-STARS perspective, if you don't think the contractor has a legitimate educational interest to access your district's data via SD-STARS, you don't need to complete the permissions form.

In many cases a contractor will need access to multiple districts. When a person has one account across multiple districts, the SD-STARS team needs to manage accounts. When this is the case, districts complete the SD-STARS Access form, found in the Training Center. The form gives us the "okay" from your district for the contracted worker to access your district's data. You can set a start and end date to their access. When the end date approaches, the SD-STARS team will reach out to you to see if you want to extend the access or not. If you tell us they no longer need access, we remove it.

**Question:** What is the difference between the private and public report card?

**Public Report Card**

This is the report card that educators use when sharing Accountability data at the public level (public gatherings, school boards, media requests, etc.). You can find the public Report Card and print directly from [https://sdschools.sd.gov/](https://sdschools.sd.gov/) (Figure 1.) Every effort is made in the public Report Card to comply with FERPA regulations to avoid displaying anything that would be considered personally identifiable information about any student. For example, student names do not appear in the public Report Card, and subgroup results with an N-size fewer than 10 students are suppressed.

**Private Report Card**

This is the report card that educators use for internal purposes, such as school improvement or data validation. In order to view the private Report Card, the SD-STARS user must log in to [https://doestars.sd.gov/](https://doestars.sd.gov/) (Figure 2.) The user must be someone who has been granted the Accountability permission level by their district. The private Report Card is not meant to be printed or viewed by the public, as it includes student names, and it does not suppress results for subgroups with an N-size less than 10. Tables that are available within the private Report Card can be downloaded to Excel for further analysis.

If you have questions about navigating to the private Report Card or about receiving permissions in SD-STARS, each district has a STARS Account Manager (SAM) who can answer most questions. If you have further questions, you can reach the SD-STARS team at STARSHelp@state.sd.us. For questions about the Accountability Report Card and the data presented within the private or public Report Cards, please contact the Accountability team at DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us.