PLEASE NOTE: This letter must be personalized by the school. Areas highlighted in yellow, in particular, will vary. Please review carefully before using.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Enclosed you will find a summary of your student’s results on the South Dakota Math and English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments.

One of the important features of the assessments is that they can help us determine whether your student is on track for college and career readiness. (IF APPLICABLE: It may seem unusual to be thinking about college and careers if your student is still in elementary school. However, because so much of a child’s education builds upon previously learned concepts, it is important to engage in this annual check-up.) Much like an annual medical check-up, the assessments allow you, and your student’s teachers, to identify any potential issues that may need addressing.

Here’s what you need to know about the SD Math and ELA Assessment reports:

* There are two separate reports: One that includes your student’s score in English-language arts, and one that includes your student’s score in math.
* Each report contains your student’s scale score, as well as an average score for the school and district for the particular test and grade. This gives you some sense of how your student is performing within a larger context.
* PLEASE NOTE: The school- and district- average scores are preliminary figures only.
* Each report contains a breakdown of how your student performed in specific areas, called “claims,” within the larger topic. With each claim, you will see a bar graph indicating whether performance was at, below, or above the standard for that grade and subject. This breakdown helps your student’s teachers, and you, to determine areas of strength, as well as areas of need.   
  + English language arts: 1) Reading, 2) Speaking/Listening, 3) Writing, 4) Research
  + Mathematics: 1) Concepts & Procedures, 2) Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis, 3) Communicating Reasoning
* The English language arts report contains information on the student’s writing based on the rubrics used to score the writing prompt. Writing is scored on Organization/Purpose, Evidence/Elaboration, and Conventions.

(IF APPLICABLE: We are also sending home simple parent guides, which provide more detailed information about the score report to help you understand what these reports mean.)

The annual state assessment is just one piece of the puzzle we look at in helping to prepare students for a successful academic experience and whatever lies beyond for them. Thank you for the privilege of educating your child, and please contact us if you have any questions about the reports.

Sincerely,