

American Rescue Plan/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Reporting for School Year 2020-21

Updated: June 16, 2021

As a condition of receiving American Rescue Plan/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds, the South Dakota Department of Education is required to make certain information about the state’s public schools available.

1 – Modes of Instruction

The tables below provide information about the modes of instruction used by public schools during the 2020-21 school year. South Dakota defines modes of instruction as follows:

Virtual learning – Virtual learning is a long-term distance learning arrangement (i.e., a quarter, a semester, or a full school year) that utilizes either the South Dakota Virtual School or an online curriculum purchased specifically for learners participating in this method (i.e. Edgenuity, Odysseyware, k12.com, Acellus, etc.). The online curriculum is different from the curriculum that would have been used in the classroom.

Remote learning – Remote learning can be a short- or long-term distance learning arrangement that utilizes district curriculum materials. It seeks to re-create the traditional classroom environment through use of technology and/or take-home packets.

Hybrid learning – Hybrid learning takes place when learning is done in a combination of in-person and remote learning.

In-person learning – In-person learning takes place when students and teachers can be physically present in a traditional learning environment.

Table 1

The table below shows the number of public schools that offered a full-time virtual option for each instructional level. Time period: Spring semester (SY 2020-21)

School type	# of schools	# of schools that offered virtual learning
All	679	422
Elementary	329	186
Middle	155	110
High	188	124

Tables 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e

The tables below indicate the number of schools that had at least some students participate in remote, hybrid, or in-person learning. Time period: May 2021 (SY 2020-21)

Table 2a – All Schools (#679)

Mode of instruction	# of schools that had students participate
Remote	330
Hybrid	101
In-person	645

Table 2b – Elementary Schools (#329)

Mode of instruction	# of schools that had students participate
Remote	157
Hybrid	40
In-person	315

Table 2c – Middle Schools (#155)

Mode of instruction	# of schools that had students participate
Remote	77
Hybrid	22
In-person	149

Table 2d – High Schools (#188)

Mode of instruction	# of schools that had students participate
Remote	94
Hybrid	39
In-person	177

Table 2e – Other (#7)

Mode of instruction	# of schools that had students participate
Remote	2
Hybrid	0
In-person	4

2 – Student Enrollment

The Department of Education collects student enrollment data annually. This count of students may vary from state aid fall enrollment, which is calculated in a slightly different manner. Enrollment numbers for racial and ethnic groups, English learners and students from low-income families come from the fall enrollment census taken on the last Friday in September. The numbers for children with disabilities come from the December 1st Child Count. The foster care data are from Oct. 10, 2020. The data include grades K-12.

Table 3 shows fall 2020 enrollment disaggregated by sub-group. Additional student enrollment data is available at: <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/enrollment.aspx>.

Table 3

Students	Enrollment SY 2020-21
All students	135,960
Students from low-income families	48,668

Students	Enrollment SY 2020-21
White, not Hispanic	97,911
Black or African American, not Hispanic	4,429
Hispanic, of any race	9,617
Asian, not Hispanic	2,320
American Indian or Alaskan Native, not Hispanic	14,521
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, not Hispanic	164
Two or more races, not Hispanic	6,998
English learners	6,547
Children with disabilities	19,775
Students experiencing homelessness	*
Children and youth in foster care	1,052
Migratory students	*

*Data for 2020-21 school year are not yet available.

Enrollment Changes from SY 2019-20 to SY 2020-21

A review of public school [fall enrollment data](#) shared with the South Dakota Legislature in January 2021 compares growth in enrollment for fall of 2020 to a three-year average growth rate. The resulting picture is one of wide swings at the school district level, with statewide growth at a negligible -0.17 percent from fall 2019 to fall 2020.

Further, an internal analysis of fall 2020 enrollments compared to trend predictions showed the following: a drop in the number of students enrolled in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools; a drop in the number of students with disabilities in public schools; and an increase in the number of students opting out of formal instruction and receiving “alternative instruction” (i.e., homeschool). According to the data, alternative instruction enrollments increased by approximately 25 percent, representing the largest significant difference between enrollments and predictions. Whether this move to alternative instruction becomes something more permanent has yet to be seen. All

these differences will require ongoing attention and may be helpful in determining where to target resources.

3 – Attendance

Attendance data is published each year in the South Dakota Report Card available at <https://doe.sd.gov> (follow the Report Card link). Data for the 2020-21 school year will be available in the fall of 2021. It will be available at the school, district and state levels and disaggregated by students from low-income families, students from each racial and ethnic group, gender, English learners, children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.