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Partnership will help struggling college-bound students catch up

PIERRE, S.D. – A collaborative effort between the Department of Education and the South Dakota Board of Regents will help the state’s college-bound juniors and seniors who may need some assistance to get up to speed before hitting campus for the first time.

The Board of Regents requires students whose ACT sub-scores fall below 20 in math and 18 in English to take remedial courses prior to entry into college-level courses. This partnership will allow students to complete remedial coursework prior to entering one of the Board of Regents’ institutions.

“We’re excited about this partnership and the opportunity it creates for students,” South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp said. “This initiative supports our core mission of ensuring students are college-, career- and life-ready when they exit K12.”

The new program, available through the South Dakota Virtual School, uses a diagnostic assessment to generate online coursework tailored specifically to each student’s needs. The Board of Regents will honor successful completion of the tailored coursework, allowing students who successfully complete the coursework to enter directly into college-level courses.

The Board of Regents estimates that about 28 percent of incoming freshmen require remediation in at least one subject prior to beginning college-level courses.

“Research shows that students who graduate from high school ready for college-level work are more likely to be retained and to successfully graduate from college,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “Not only is this a win for the state, it’s also a win for students and their parents, who save time and several hundred dollars in costs if the student can avoid remedial classes.”

The online remedial courses are scheduled to be available to students beginning in January 2013, and will be offered in both 10-week and 12-month options. Students must register for the courses through their local school district, similar to other online courses offered through the South Dakota Virtual School.

For more information, visit www.sdvs.k12.sd.us.