



Webinar for districts

Mark your calendars! The department is holding a webinar to share with districts important SD-STARS updates, including new reports and added resources.

WHEN: April 29, 3-4 p.m. CDT

WHO: District staff, especially STARS Account Managers and Data STARS

Register at <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com>. Once you register, a Lync meeting invitation will be sent to your email. The webinar will be recorded and posted in the SD-STARS Content Library.

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SD-STARS keeps getting better

“SD-STARS Begins Roll Out,” declared this newsletter’s April 2013 banner headline. “It was a very exciting time. We were excited for districts to see SD-STARS, but we were even more excited to hear the feedback from districts to make the system better,” says Sara Kock, one of the SD-STARS project managers.

In recent years, districts have been busy implementing new state content standards in English language arts and math, learning about the state’s new educator effectiveness systems and working with changes in accountability. “We didn’t want districts to see SD-STARS as ‘just one more thing,’ so, we focus on how SD-STARS supports these initiatives, how everything works together,” Kock says.

Another lesson learned is the importance of data privacy. SD-STARS relies on districts to approve accounts, assign permissions and remove users. Because these actions impact what data users see, districts must consider district policies, state and federal law, especially the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Kock says, “Districts expressed a need for knowledge about FERPA. With help from the Privacy Technical Assistance Center, we offered four different in-person trainings and a series of follow-up webinars.” The department continues to share data privacy resources in this newsletter and within the SD-STARS.

Almost from the beginning, SD-STARS users have wanted more – more reports, more dashboards and more types of data. The department continues to develop reports for districts. In just the last few months, four new reports have been released:

- Assessment Feedback
- Student Longitudinal Achievement
- Student Achievement Roster
- CTE Biennial Review reports

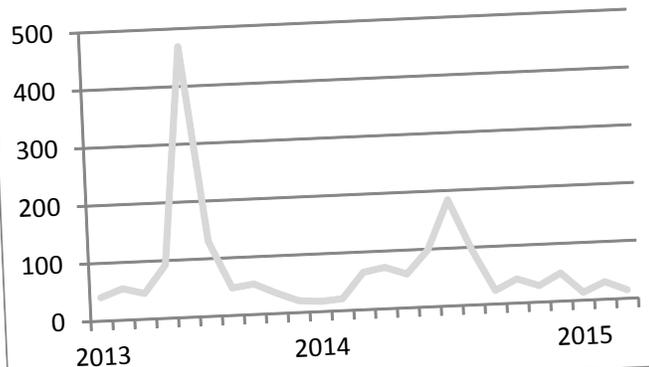
A webinar about these new reports is scheduled for April 29, 3-4 p.m. CDT.

SD-STARS has expanded to include local assessments. Districts who gave permission to do this should see DIBELS and AIMSweb results in SD-STARS by August 2015.

What is the biggest lesson learned? “Data access alone is not enough. It has to be paired with data use skills,” says Kock. Some educators are data savvy; some are novices; others fall somewhere in between. To help, the department sponsors professional development opportunities to build the data use skills of educators. In addition, the department is focused on identifying the knowledge, skills and professional behaviors educators need in order to use data effectively. The hope is that by identifying these things, professional development can be better aligned to educator needs.

Over the past three years, SD-STARS has averaged 72 log-ins per month, with peak usage in July and August. The accountability report card becomes available in July, and in August, a number of districts conduct SD-STARS trainings in preparation for the coming school year. Since 2013, the number of users has grown from zero to over 3,700, with 70 percent of users identified as teachers.

Number of Log-Ins to SD-STARS, from March 2013-March 2015





About Us:

South Dakota STARS Connections is a bi-monthly publication for South Dakota administrators and teachers, produced by the South Dakota Department of Education. This publication is intended to communicate news and events regarding the South Dakota Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (SD-STARS), our Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

To view an online edition of this newsletter, go to doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx.

Email story ideas or questions to STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

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doe.sd.gov/ofm/lds.aspx

Protecting student privacy while using online educational services

The Privacy Technical Assistance Center recently released guidance to help schools and districts protect student privacy while using online educational services and mobile applications. The Model Terms of Service guidance can be found at http://ptac.ed.gov/sites/default/files/TOS_Guidance_Jan%202015_0.pdf. The guidance contains examples of Terms of Service provisions, warning signs, recommendations and a checklist for evaluating Terms of Service agreements.

Districts need to use caution when accepting Terms of Service. Terms of Service should always be read thoroughly. If the language contains too much legal detail, districts should check with their attorney. In addition, districts should have a policy in place for using online educational services and mobile applications.

Some of the recommendations include the following:

- **Marketing and Advertising:** Terms of Service agreements should make clear that data may not be used to create user profiles for the purposes of targeting students or their parents for advertising and marketing, which could violate privacy laws.
- **Data Collection:** Agreements should include a provision that limits data to only what is necessary to fulfill the terms.

• **Data Use:** Schools and districts should restrict data use to only the purposes outlined in the agreement.

• **Data Sharing:** While providers can use subcontractors, schools and districts should be made aware of these arrangements, and subcontractors should be bound by the limitations in the Terms of Service.

• **Access:** Federal student records laws require schools and districts to make education records accessible to parents. A good contract will acknowledge the need to share student information with the school upon request in order to satisfy FERPA's parental access requirements.

• **Security Controls:** Failure to provide adequate security could lead to a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects student education records.

PTAC also created a training video. The video, intended for use during teacher in-service days or professional development meetings, offers a short summary of the issue and provides some examples to help educators identify which online educational services and applications are privacy-friendly and protect student data from improper use and disclosure. You can view the video at <http://ptac.ed.gov/document/protecting-student-privacy-while-using-online-educational-services-training-video>.

Summer 2015 data courses

The SD Department of Education is again offering data use courses for educators. Two courses will take place this summer.

The Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators provides educators with the skills they need to analyze and use data in order to answer important questions. This course requires a face-to-face meeting. The meetings will take place Aug. 3 in Aberdeen, Aug. 4 in Chamberlain and Aug. 5 in Brookings.

Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators provides educators with the opportunity to use their skills learned in the fundamentals

class by having them complete a data project. In order to take this course, participants must have previously completed the fundamentals class. The course does require a book, but the first 30 participants will receive the book for free.

Teachers and administrators can register at <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com>. Participation is free, and graduate credits are available through the University of South Dakota for \$40/credit. One credit is available for the fundamentals course, and two credits are available for the advanced course.



Ask the experts

Where can I find resources on FERPA and other data privacy issues?

The South Dakota Department of Education worked with the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center to offer in-person training and follow-up webinars for districts. Resources from these trainings, including recordings of the webinars, can be found on the department's FERPA website (<http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sims-ferpa.aspx>) and within the SD-STARS Content Library.

The PTAC has a website full of useful resources (<http://ptac.ed.gov/>). You can also subscribe to PTAC email updates on new resources.

The U.S. Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office also has a website and resources about FERPA. The Student Privacy Resource Center, Consortium for School Networking and the Data Quality Campaign also offer resources.

Or, bookmark <http://studentdataprinciples.org/>. This website contains links to all of the resources mentioned above.

When will I be able to see DIBELS or AIMSweb data in SD-STARS?

Users should start to see AIMSweb and DIBELS data by August 2015. SD-STARS will only include data for those districts that give permission to do so. Districts that do not give permissions will not have the data loaded into SD-STARS.

How does the department match students in local assessments to students in SD-STARS?

To load local assessment data into SD-STARS, the department must match these students to students in Infinite Campus. This is most easily accomplished with a State Student ID. For districts that enter State Student IDs into the local assessment data (usually in a field called "Student ID" or "Secondary ID"), nothing else is needed.

If districts have not entered State Student IDs in the local assessment data, SD-STARS must match students based primarily on first name and last name. When names don't match information in Infinite Campus (ex: Bob vs. Robert), the department must contact districts to obtain the State Student ID of unmatched students.

What DIBELS goals are you using for SD-STARS?

For districts that use the University of Oregon, there are two types of goals available. SD-STARS is using "Former Goals," which is based on research conducted by the authors of DIBELS Next, for two reasons. Doing so establishes consistent goals across the DIBELS reporting service, including DIBELS.net. It also ensures SD-STARS is consistent with other department initiatives, such as RtI and MTSS.

Is there a way to stay informed on SD-STARS?

In addition to reading this newsletter, you can join listservs available via the K12 Data Center. There are two listservs available, Data STARS listserv and STARS Account Managers listserv. To sign up for either of these listservs, go to <http://www.k12.sd.us/MailingList/>

When will Smarter Balanced test results be available in SD-STARS?

There will be two places where SD-STARS users will access Smarter Balanced test results. The first is in STARS Reports and Dashboards. Smarter Balanced data should be available in STARS Reports and Dashboards by fall 2015.

The second place is in the Accountability Report Card. Districts should see preliminary accountability results as early as August 10 and formal results September 18.

I understand the federal funding that supported SD-STARS is ending in June. Will SD-STARS go away?

No. Even as the federal grant ends, the department's commitment to SD-STARS continues. The department uses SD-STARS for the Accountability Report card and to help in federal reporting requirements. Other projects, such as the data governance and the loading of local assessments, will be ongoing. State funding will support SD-STARS, at the same time the department pursue new grant opportunities.



SD-STARS welcomes new project manager



The South Dakota Department of Education welcomes Kim Carlson to the SD-STARS team! Kim replaces Marcus Bevier as an SD-STARS project manager.

Kim was previously employed with the department as the EdFacts coordinator. She also helped with the department's accountability efforts. Before accepting this position with SD-STARS, Kim was employed at the South Dakota Department of Health, where she worked with school districts in administering the Youth Risk Behaviors Survey as the YRBS coordinator.

Kim is excited to be back and ready to help districts with all things SD-STARS!

Data governance turns one

This April marks one year since the formation of the South Dakota Education Data Governance Group. The group is made up of volunteers from 12 school districts and employees of the South Dakota Department of Education. Meetings are held every other month either in-person or via teleconference. The group recommends policies and procedures to govern the quality, availability, use and security of educational data.

The group has five goals:

- 1) Streamline the department's data collections
- 2) Establish rules that improve the quality of data entered in the system

3) Ensure the security and confidentiality of all educational data

4) Define appropriate levels of data ownership, access and related support services for the department, districts and other constituencies

5) Support the use of data by communicating with and providing professional development opportunities for educators

The group also helps guide the work and development of SD-STARS.

For more information, go to <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/edgg.aspx>.

Group members

Jim Block, Webster Area	Shawn Behrends, State Library
Karen Byrd, Kadoka	Daria Bossman, State Library
JoNell DeHaan, Andes Central	Tami Darnall, Finance and Management
Becky Guffin, Aberdeen	Steve Fiechtner, Delivery Unit
Marge Hauser, Brandon Valley	Ann Larsen, Educational Services & Support
Cora Petersen, Eagle Butte	Carla Leingang, Assessment & Accountability
Gay Pickner, Huron	Jan Martin, Assessment & Accountability
Joel Price, Faulkton	Judy Merriman, Finance and Management
Ryan Speed, Shannon County	Becky Nelson, Learning and Instruction
Daniel Swartos, McCook	Tiffany Sanderson, Career & Technical Education
Troy Wiebe, Pierre	Mary Stadick Smith, Office of the Secretary
Karen Wagner, Belle Fourche	Linda Turner, Educational Services & Support

ESA DATA STARS

Every ESA has representatives who have been trained in SD-STARS. They are ready and willing to answer your questions. If you don't know your ESA assignment, see <http://doe.sd.gov/octe/sdesa.aspx>.

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