

south dakota



STARS

Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System

connections

New Security Available For Special Education Staff

SD-STARS can now link special education staff members with the individual students in their caseload.

Users with the teacher permission are only able to see the students with whom they work. In the past, this only worked for teachers who had students in courses, proving problematic for special education teachers connected to students through caseloads. Therefore, these users either needed access to all students in a school or no students at all. With this change in security, special education teachers can be given the teacher permission to allow them to see students in their caseloads as well as courses.

Contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us to have your special education job titles connected with the teacher permission. STARS staff can make this change automatic using the Org Role Updater.

INSIDE:

SAM Corner 2

Ask the Experts..... 3

New Accountability Reports Released.... 4

SD-STARS Making National Headlines

The word is getting out about the good work happening in South Dakota! Over the past year, SD-STARS has made headlines. From data use to data security, South Dakota is being recognized.

Dr. Jenny Grant Rankin writes a blog called Over the Counter Data. In a blog entry last May, she walked readers through the importance of helping users understand data and highlighted the Report Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs) from SD-STARS. Read the blog entry in its entirety at <http://overthecounterdata.com/blog/sddoe>. Dr. Rankin also included SD-STARS in her recent TED talk available at <http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Why-data-should-be-over-the-cou>.

Dr. Rankin reached out to the SD-STARS team again to include an example of a DIG in her upcoming book "Standards for Reporting Data to Educators: What Educational Leaders Should Know and Demand." This book provides a synthesis of research and best practices for presenting data to educators in order to optimize effective data use.

SD-STARS was recently included in Student Privacy and Data Security: A State Education

Agency Discussion Framework, a resource developed by the Privacy and Security workgroup of the Council of Chief State School Officers Education Information Management Advisory Consortium.

The document reinforces the importance of the communication and understanding of data, data security and confidentiality. The SD-STARS newsletter was used as an example of effective communication used to help districts understand data policies and practices.

The resource also recognizes SD-STARS for its District STARS Account Managers (SAMs) and Data STARS trainings. Read the entire resource at <http://www.ccsso.org/documents/2015/1/PrivacyDiscussionToolforChiefs111815.pdf>.

Finally, South Dakota was invited to give a presentation about SD-STARS to other states during a webinar in April. The webinar focused on providing supports to local educators to ensure they can effectively use data from states' longitudinal data systems, like SD-STARS.

Summer 2016 Data Courses

The South Dakota Department of Education is offering data use courses for educators this summer. Two courses will be available. This will be the fourth year for the fundamentals course and the second year for the advanced course.

The Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators course provides educators with the skills they need to analyze and use data in order to answer important questions. Scheduled from July 5-August 19th, this course requires online work and meets in-person for one day, 9 a.m-5 p.m. local time.

- July 18, Rapid City
- July 20, Aberdeen
- July 21, Mitchell

The second course, Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators, provides educators with the opportunity to use skills learned in the fundamentals class by having them complete a data project. Scheduled from May 30-July 13, the course is conducted entirely online, only available to those who completed the fundamentals class, and requires participants to purchase a book.

Teachers and administrators can register at <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com>. Participation is free, but graduate credits are available through the University of South Dakota for \$40 per credit. One credit is available for the fundamentals course, and two credits are available for the advanced course. Those signed up for credit will also need to register with USD and will receive an A-F grade.



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.

Contact Us:



South Dakota
Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Project Manager:
Sara Kock
Sara.Kock@state.sd.us
(605) 773-6158

Project Manager:
Kim Carlson
Kim.Carlson@state.sd.us
(605) 773-8062

Support Lead:
Jameson Berreth
Jameson.Berreth@state.sd.us
(605) 773-4463

doe.sd.gov/ofm/lds.aspx

SAM Corner: Preparing For The End Of The Year

The end of a school year is always busy, so now is a great time for STARS Account Managers (SAMs) to look over their district's accounts in SD-STARS to ensure every account has the appropriate access and security. Here are some tips and things to look for.

AUTOMATE ACCOUNTS THROUGH INFINITE CAMPUS

It can be challenging to keep track of staff changes. Since SD-STARS uses information from Infinite Campus, SAMs don't have to keep track of these changes in both systems. Simply make sure the email address, employment record and district assignments with job titles are entered correctly in IC, and accounts in SD-STARS will be automatically created. The SAM will need to approve these new accounts before the user has access to SD-STARS. As long as the information is updated in IC as staff members change positions and leave the district, their SD-STARS accounts will be automatically maintained and ended.

CHANGING STAFF MEMBERS

With some staff members leaving a district, others entering and still others moving from one role to another within a district, it is important to maintain secure accounts. When accounts are automated through Infinite Campus, these changes can be easy. For individuals leaving the district, entering the end date on the employment record and assignments will remove access to SD-STARS once this date passes. If someone changes jobs within the district, enter an end date on the old assignment and create a new

assignment for the new position. This will allow the individual to seamlessly flow from the access needed for the old position to that needed for the new one. For new staff, information can be added to Infinite Campus anytime. Once the start date passes, SD-STARS will use the email, district employment record and district assignment with job title to create an account that will be waiting for approval at the beginning of the school year.

CHECK THE ORG ROLE UPDATER

SD-STARS provides the necessary access to every employee by using the job titles found on district assignments in Infinite Campus. The Org Role Updater report located in SD-STARS tracks what access is given to every job title. Email STARSHelp@state.sd.us if you have questions about the Org Role Updater or wish to change the access on any job title. Once the SD-STARS team changes a job title's access, the change will be reflected in the system within 30 minutes.

HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

There are various resources available to SAMs in the Training Center of SD-STARS. These include the STARS Manual, PDF and video tutorials of each SAM responsibility and tutorials outlining the connection between SD-STARS and Infinite Campus.

Even if the correct information is entered in Infinite Campus, problems may still occur. Email STARSHelp@state.sd.us with any questions or concerns. The STARS Team is happy to help!

Certified STARS trainers available to districts

STARS Certified Trainers are available to provide trainings to districts. Trainers have been trained by DOE staff on the SD-STARS system and are kept up-to-date on system developments and new reports. Districts can contact the trainer directly to request a training either at a cost to the district or as a part of their state-supported professional development.

Sara Fridley	sara.fridley@k12.sd.us
Crystal Mengenhause	cmengenhause@gmail.com
Janeen Outka	joutka@edec.org
Lisa Reinhiller	lisa.reinhiller@k12.sd.us
Holly Schumacher	holly.schumacher@k12.sd.us
Jennifer Tschetter	jtschetter@tie.net



PTAC Shares Example of District Data Policies

The Privacy Technical Assistance Center provides districts resources on student data privacy, confidentiality and security practices. Recently, PTAC released a set of new resources to help districts create a student data privacy program.

A privacy program is a set of policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities designed to help districts meet the legal and ethical requirements for protecting personally identifiable information in student education records. A privacy program seeks to protect the district and students from harm if data are stolen or misused as well as improve communication and transparency with parents. From required trainings for staff members on relevant policies and procedures to consequences for non-compliance, the privacy program serves to protect student records.

Most districts already have parts of a privacy program in place. For example,

many districts have a data use policy that outlines what is and is not appropriate when staff use student data. Districts also have policies that explain the proper use of online educational services, especially when student data are involved. Shared by PTAC at the request of South Dakota districts, an example of a data use policy can be found at <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/DataPrivac.pdf>.

Once districts identify policies and procedures that are already in place, the privacy program encourages districts to fill in the gaps when needed.

PTAC has many resources on this topic, including a privacy program video and checklist as well as a document that outlines data use policies. The website also has model annual notification of FERPA rights and notifications of directory information. All resources are linked at the PTAC website, www.ptac.ed.gov.

US Dept. of Education impressed with SD-STARS

In January, the U.S. Department of Education visited South Dakota to review the work and status of SD-STARS. This on-site review gave South Dakota a chance to boast about what we do well and learn what we can do better.

During the review, the federal visitors met with district representatives from Harrisburg, Andes Central, Belle Fourche, Brandon Valley and Vermillion. Districts shared their experiences with SD-STARS and provided feedback on the system. The federal visitors found these districts to be very involved and supportive of SD-STARS, using the system for different needs including special education reporting and data retreats. The visitors were impressed with efforts the South Dakota Department of Education makes to engage districts, from proactively communicating to responding to district requests.

Kudos were given to South Dakota as being “on the forefront” of data use. South Dakota is a leader in the national effort to identify the knowledge, skills and behaviors educators need in order to effectively use

data. The SD-STARS team also dedicates significant thought and time to creating support resources for users – from Report Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs) to video tutorials. The federal visitors also found the team to be very transparent about its work and how data are protected.

The site visit also identified areas for improvement. One area is to increase engagement with department program staff, especially those who work with and support districts. Another area is to highlight what districts are doing with the system, providing concrete examples other districts can use. Given this feedback, the SD-STARS team will start to showcase what the system can do to support educators during a given data event, such as parent-teacher conferences or special education reporting.

Overall, the federal visitors believe SD-STARS made great strides in four years. The site visit was one of the final requirements to wrap up the federal FY12 SLDS grant, which supported the creation and implementation of SD-STARS.

Ask the experts

How can my district receive SD-STARS training?

Districts can receive training from STARS Certified Trainers. Contact a trainer directly (see list on page 2) to schedule a training. Additionally, the Department of Education offers trainings throughout the year. These opportunities allow participants to take what they learn back to their district to share with others. It is also possible for SD-STARS staff to work directly with a district to provide training and resources. Anyone interested in training can contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us for more information and assistance.

How do I get access to the local assessment reports?

SD-STARS now has seven Local Assessment reports. However, districts must first give permission for the Department of Education to access and load the data into SD-STARS. To do so, fill out the appropriate form in the District Resources section of the Training Center in SD-STARS and email it to STARSHelp@state.sd.us. Currently, only data from AIMSweb, DIBELS.net and DIBELS University of Oregon can be loaded.

When will new ACT data be loaded?

Updated ACT data are loaded into SD-STARS five times per year – January, February, April, June and August. Therefore, ACT scores from the 2015-16 school year are already available in SD-STARS. Note that the ACT Stoplight report in SD-STARS uses a different cohort of students than many of the official Department of Education numbers or ACT reports. Therefore, numbers will differ at the aggregate level.



New Accountability Reports Released

Districts now have access to five SD-STARS reports that display accountability data. They are located under the Accountability Reports heading in the Reports menu. These reports use the same data found in the Accountability Report Card, but display them in different ways, facilitating easy analysis for users. These reports will provide districts a concise way of reviewing their accountability data.

- **SPI Detail Panorama:** Sorts all indicators calculated for accountability by school
- **Proficiency by Grade:** Provides student proficiency by grade and looks at proficiency status, proficiency levels, specific grades, specific school/district, subgroups and if Full Academic Year (FAY) should be applied
- **AMO Performance Trends:** Displays the base Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) and the annual increase for accountability subgroups
- **Public AMO Report:** Provides a breakdown of AMOs for all subgroups. AMOs for subgroups less than 10 are suppressed
- **Historical Indicator Performance:** Shows school performance for all accountability indicators over three years.

Report Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs) will be released as they are finished. If districts have any questions on these reports, please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

National STARS: West Virginia

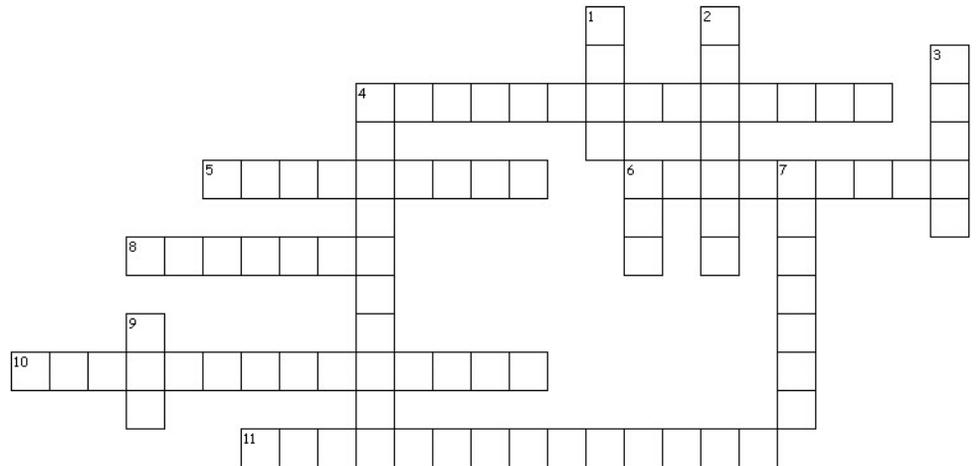
One state doing great work with data is West Virginia, which launched its Statewide Longitudinal Data System in 2014. Called ZoomWV, the system helps drive educational initiatives to improve instruction and student performance in part by making information available in easy-to-understand reports. Even with these benefits, some stakeholders were skeptical about the system and expressed concerns about student data privacy.

In response, the West Virginia Department of Education created a multifaceted marketing strategy to raise awareness about ZoomWV and the privacy protections employed to keep information safe. They used different media methods to communicate to educators, parents, and the public what ZoomWV is, why it

is important, and how information is kept safe. ZoomWV also produces an annual report explaining activities related to data security, privacy incidents and violations, and the results of security audits. The department provides data privacy trainings to districts upon request and produces a Data Squad newsletter that contains data security news and tips educators should follow to respect and protect student privacy.

Through all of these efforts, it is evident that West Virginia wants parents and educators alike to know that the new system provides high quality information that is accurate, can be used to make informed decisions and protects students' privacy.

SD-STARS Crossword



Across

- A system of annual reporting and classification of schools.
- Individuals in each district knowledgeable in SD-STARS who can provide training to others.
- If users have questions or concerns, they can email _____@state.sd.us.
- Tools used to analyze data.
- A menu in SD-STARS that lists resources and tutorials.
- A searchable area containing all resources in SD-STARS.

Down

- Facts and statistics that should be used to make decisions.
- An individual's right to have his or her personal information kept secure.
- A federal law that protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents certain rights to those records.
- Includes Smarter Balanced, ACT, AIMSweb, and DIBELS.
- An acronym that refers to a person in each district who manages accounts.
- South Dakota's system that links educational data across different sources and over time.
- An acronym for a report walkthrough resource.