



# DIBELS and AIMSweb data available

Districts that have requested the information can access school year 2014-15 and fall 2015 AIMSweb and DIBELS data in SD-STARs. "Over the last year, we learned a lot about DIBELS and AIMSweb assessments and how districts use the data to guide instruction and make decisions," says Sara Kock, a project manager for SD-STARs. Kock explains that the department's goal is not to replace or replicate current reports available to districts in AIMSweb or DIBELS. Rather, the goal is to connect local assessment data to other sources of data found in SD-STARs – like student demographics, Smarter Balanced results and attendance rates.

For districts considering having their local assessment data loaded in SD-STARs, it's important to note that local assessment data often contains nicknames or last names that differ from Infinite Campus. "We learned that adding the student's state ID into AIMSweb or DIBELS aids in the

matching process," Kock says.

Another lesson learned affects the timeline for loading the benchmark period. The Department of Education receives local assessment data three times a year – fall, winter and spring. However, because districts have different calendars, the department has to wait until all districts that have signed permission forms complete their benchmark tests. This can be frustrating for districts that want the data in SD-STARs sooner. Therefore, the department has set a timeline for when data will be pulled (see chart above).

What does this mean for users of SD-STARs? The next time users in these districts log in, they will see two new reports specific to local assessments. One report (LA.001.00-A – Subtest Student List) allows users to compare student results on the local assessment subtest to student demographics, attendance rates and a

Timeline		
Benchmark Period	Data Pulled	Available in SD-STARs
Fall	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
Winter	Jan. 20	Jan. 27
Spring	May 20	May 27

selected Smarter Balanced claim. The second report (LA.002.00-A – Student Longitudinal Overall) shows how a student performs on a subtest from one benchmark period to the next and from one year to the next. Kock says there are more local assessment reports to come.

The department is currently following up with districts that granted permission last year to make sure permission is still given for this year. If your district is interested in having local assessment data loaded in SD-STARs but has not signed the permission form, contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

## Upcoming SD-STARs trainings for districts

The Department of Education will be crisscrossing the state hosting trainings for STARs Account Managers (SAMs) and Data STARs this October and November. Trainings will run from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. local time, with participants on their own for lunch. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops.

Jameson Berreth, with the Department of Education, says that individuals new to SD-STARs should find the trainings very helpful. "We want to make sure that if you have never used the portal before, you will have opportunities to learn about SD-STARs starting with the basics." Seasoned users will learn things, too. "With recent changes in the system, even the most experienced user should gain more understanding on SD-STARs from the trainings," Berreth says.

SAMs training will cover basic responsibilities in the morning. The afternoon will focus on data security in SD-STARs and what SAMs can do to ensure their students' data are handled

appropriately. Data STARs training will cover navigation of SD-STARs data and reports.

Register on GoSignMeUp: <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com>. Search for "SD-STARs."

Location		SAMs Training	Data STARs Training
<b>Pierre</b>	MacKay Building: Library Commons Area	Oct. 19	Oct. 20
<b>Rapid City</b>	Western Dakota Tech: Dakota Lecture Hall	Oct. 21	Oct. 22
<b>Sioux Falls</b>	Southeast Technical Institute: MC155 on Nov 4; MC101 on Nov 5	Nov. 4	Nov. 5
<b>Aberdeen</b>	AmericInn: Rooms TBD	Nov. 9	Nov. 10
<b>Watertown</b>	Lake Area Technical Institute: Rm 512	Nov. 12	Nov. 13



## 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](http://doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx).

Email story ideas or questions to [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

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[doe.sd.gov/ofm/lds.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/lds.aspx)

## Have a report you want to see in SD-STARS? Here's how to submit the request

Any SD-STARS user can submit a request for a new report or an enhancement of a current report. Find out more in the Report Development Process section of the SD-STARS Training Center.

### REQUEST SUBMITTED

User submits request form to [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).



### REQUEST GATHERED

If the request is accepted, the requestor, SD-STARS project managers and report developers gather requirements. An anticipated completion date and cost are then determined.



### SD-EDGG SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERS REQUEST



### REQUEST DESIGNED

If SD-EDGG approves request, SD-STARS project managers and contractors fulfill request.



### REQUEST TESTED & DATA VALIDATED



### REQUEST RELEASED TO USERS

## Certified STARS trainers available to districts

Certified Training Specialists 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.

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# Ask the experts

## **Where can I print Smarter Balanced and Dakota-STEP science results to send home to parents?**

These reports cannot be found in SD-STARS. Districts must go to the Smarter Balanced Portal for the Smarter Balanced individual student reports and to the South Dakota Assessment Portal (a.k.a. eMetric) or the Questar portal for the Dakota-STEP Science parent reports. Contact Jan Martin (jan.martin@state.sd.us) with questions.

## **How can I use the Student Profile Report, which is found in SD-STARS?**

The Student Profile Report brings a variety of information on individual students

together into one report. Charts and graphs display demographic information, enrollment history, attendance, assessment results and special education information. Some teachers find this report useful for parent-teacher conferences as the report can be printed for individual students. However, a user is not able to batch print all Student Profiles for his or her class at once.

## **Do you have a list of data sources and reports available in SD-STARS?**

Yes. The department keeps a list of sources of data for SD-STARS as well as the reports currently in the portal. The list is titled Data Sources and Reports and is located in the Training Center under Report Development Process.

## **How do I see what permissions are able to see reports?**

Users' assigned permissions determine what reports they can see. The District Access Tracker document in SD-STARS helps to manage and understand these permissions. Located in the Training Center under STARS Account Managers Resources, the District Access Tracker shows which permissions make each report available to the user. It also contains a spreadsheet that a STARS Account Manager can use to list his or her district's users and track their permissions.

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# New and updated reports in SD-STARS

Several new and updated reports are available in SD-STARS with more coming soon. Each report already has or soon will have updated Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs) and videos available in the SD-STARS Content Library and Training Center. Here are some highlights.

## **Local Assessment Reports**

A new group of reports called Local Assessment Reports connect AIMSweb and DIBELS data to other sources found in SD-STARS such as attendance rates. Currently there are two reports in SD-STARS with more to be added. Only districts that have given the Department of Education permission to load the data will be able to see these reports. These reports only go back to 2014-15, as that was the first year the department loaded local assessment data into SD-STARS.

One report (LA.001.00-A – Subtest Student List) allows users to compare student results on the local assessment

subtest to student demographics, attendance rates and a selected Smarter Balanced claim. The second report (LA.002.00-A – Student Longitudinal Overall) shows how a student performs on a subtest from one benchmark period to the next and from one year to the next.

## **Enrollment Reports**

There is also a new Enrollment Report available. This report (EN.009.00-X – Special Education Trend) provides aggregate counts of current students in Special Education. It can be sorted by demographics, grade level, LEP status, special education program, special education category and primary disability. The report shows aggregate special education data over five years, so users can see trends in special education services over time.

An updated report (EN.003.01-A – Student Profile) looks at individual students and provides the demographic information,

enrollment history and more all in one place. Users should notice a new look and improved report responsiveness. The report now also contains bar graphs of student performance on state assessments and the ACT over time and compared to the grade level average for the school, district and state. The final change is that the report now includes a student's special education record history. Teachers may find it useful to print this report and share it with parents at conferences.

## **Special Education Report**

Users will also see updates to SP.003.00-A – Special Education Exit. The report now allows the user to sort data by both the Special Education Exit Reason as well as the Enrollment Exit Reason. This report helps identify data quality concerns like if the exit code from enrollment is different from the exit codes for special education. This report can also be used to fulfill reporting requirements.



## School accountability role

SD-STARS has a new permission level available: School-Accountability. Accountability roles allow users to access the accountability report card in SD-STARS. In the past, there was only one Accountability role. This role was a district-level permission.

With the new School-Accountability role, users will be able to see the Report Card for only the school or schools to which they are assigned. This is ideal for principals who do not need access to the entire district. There is still District-Accountability which allows the user full access to the entire district just like before. Superintendents and other users who need this broad access should be assigned this role.

Accountability permissions exist only as manually assigned permissions and therefore must be manually added to each user who needs them. To assist STARS Account Managers in assigning both types of Accountability permissions, updated resources are now available in the SD-STARS Training Center under the STARS Account Manager Resources section. The resources are titled 'Responsibility #6: Assign Accountability Permissions' and are available as both a PDF and video.

## National STARS: Nashville Public School District

With help from their data warehouse, Metro Nashville Public Schools is seeing success with some innovative practices. MNPS has experienced higher achievement scores in English, math, social studies and science, as well as higher graduation rates. MNPS is concentrating on four practices: support and intervention team meetings, student data chats, parent data chats and data sharing with afterschool providers.

Support and intervention team meetings are a time for teachers, administrators and counselors to discuss student data points such as academics and attendance. When they notice a problem, they flag a student's data. If a student receives too many flags, an action plan is developed to help the student. An important part of this process is having all parties present to share knowledge on the student.

During student data chats, students meet one-on-one with teachers and principals to discuss their performance on assessments.

Another successful approach is to involve parents in data discussions. During these meetings, MNPS educators help parents understand what the data means. It is also a time for educators to hear about where parents see their child struggling.

The data sharing with afterschool partners is a partnership between MNPS and the Nashville mayor. After obtaining parental consent, the afterschool providers can access things like student report card data and attendance data. This helps the providers tailor student support.

To find out more, check out this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yO\\_vJFJOw4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yO_vJFJOw4).

Source: Data Quality Campaign, From Data to Dialogue: Supporting Student Success in Nashville

## Board of Regents dashboards: A resource for districts

The South Dakota Board of Regents (SDBOR) offers numerous data dashboards that districts may find useful. The dashboards are publically available, easy to use and updated as new information becomes available. Several dashboards and the questions they seek to answer are highlighted below.

- **High School Transition** – How well do first-year students from South Dakota high schools perform during their first year of college?

*Includes number of students enrolling in a specific university, percent of students needing remedial coursework, number of students staying for second semester*

- **College Matriculation** – What are the college-going rates of South Dakota's high school graduates, and where do they enroll?

*Includes institutions within and outside the South Dakota Board of Regents*

- **Employment Projections** – What is the long-term demand for specific occupations in South Dakota and across the nation?

*Shows which occupations are expected to experience high demands over the next decade*

- **Occupational Wages** - How do pay levels for various occupations compare between South Dakota and other states?

*Summarizes recent federal data on occupational wages in South Dakota and all other states*

*Includes detailed data on total employment, job concentration and average wages*

*Data can be summarized in two ways: all occupations for a single state or all states for a single occupation*

There are many more dashboards available at <https://www.sdbor.edu/dashboards/>.