

south dakota



# STARS

Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System

# connections

## Sign up for the SD-STARS email list

Are you a new STARS Account Manager? Do you want to be trained so you can teach others in your district about SD-STARS? If so, join the SD-STARS email lists. There is one for SAMs and another for Data STARS. Both receive important updates on SD-STARS, like trainings available to districts or new reports.

### STARS ACCOUNT MANAGER (SAM)

Assists with account management. Has the ability to create, approve, manage, and remove accounts in SD-STARS. SAMs are named in the School Directory.

Sign up at: <https://www.k12.sd.us/MailingList/StarsAccountManagers>

### DATA STARS

Using train-the-trainer model, these individuals are targeted for trainings/support that would give them the skills and resources to train users in their districts.

Sign up at: <https://www.k12.sd.us/MailingList/DataSTARS>

## Upcoming trainings to help new and experienced SAMs, Data STARS

The Department of Education will offer free trainings for STARS Account Managers (SAMs) and Data STARS this October and November. Trainings for STARS Account Managers will run from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. local time. Data STARS training will run from 1 – 4:30 p.m. Participants are on their own for lunch. Everyone is encouraged to bring a laptop.

The morning session is for STARS Account Managers (SAM). This session will include basic data security and proper handling of student data. SAMs are people in a district who assist with account management and are named in the School Directory at <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/edudir.aspx>.

SAMs have the ability to create, approve, manage and remove accounts in SD-STARS. SAMs will leave the session aware of the connections between SD-STARS and Infinite Campus. They will be able to troubleshoot common account and login problems that district users may encounter as well as gain important knowledge to make sure student data are handled appropriately.

The afternoon training for Data STARS will use a train-the-trainer model to cover navigation of the SD-STARS system and reports. Data STARS are people in a district who have the skills and resources to train users in their districts.

Many new reports, enhancements and resources have been added in the last year, so these trainings will be beneficial for both new and returning Data STARS. Data STARS will leave the session knowing how to navigate the SD-STARS portal, have an increased understanding of the reports found in SD-STARS and know how to access resources like the Data Interpretation Guides or the accountability report card tutorials.

The SD-STARS team will also introduce future changes and enhancements to the system, so SAMs and Data STARS at the district level will be informed and prepared when the changes take place.

Please register at <https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com>. Search for "SD-STARS."

CITY	LOCATION	DATE
Rapid City	Western Dakota Tech	Oct. 26
Chamberlain	Cedar Shores	Oct. 27
Sioux Falls	Southeast Technical Institute	Nov. 2
Aberdeen	Northern State University	Nov. 3



## 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).

## Contact Us:



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

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

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

Support Lead:  
Brad Steckelberg  
[Brad.Steckelberg@state.sd.us](mailto:Brad.Steckelberg@state.sd.us)  
(605) 773-4463

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

# STARS Certified Trainers Attend, Engage at Summer Workshop

In July and August, the SD-STARS team led two workshops for people who were interested in becoming STARS Certified Trainers (SCTs) and for last year's SCTs who want to continue serving in that role. Through interactive sessions, participants explored the system, dug into the reports found in SD-STARS and learned about their role as SCTs. One participant remarked, "A lot of information to absorb. I enjoyed this," while others said, "Very well done!" and "I will need to 'dig' into these reports and training vids." Overall, participants left with the desire to keep exploring SD-STARS reports and resources and were eager to make connections between their current trainings and the available resources that SD-STARS offers.

Last year, six STARS Certified Trainers were available to help districts with any STARS-related training. Thanks to the participation at this summer's workshops, we now have 13 individuals statewide who can train educators at schools or districts on SD-STARS. STARS Certified Trainers keep up-to-date on all new SD-STARS developments through monthly calls and also provide valuable feedback from schools and districts directly to the SD-STARS team throughout the school year. The following people are STARS Certified Trainers for 2016-17 and can be contacted directly or through [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

Pat Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:pat.bruinsma@k12.sd.us">pat.bruinsma@k12.sd.us</a>	Janeen Outka	<a href="mailto:janeen.outka@teachwell.org">janeen.outka@teachwell.org</a>
Julie Erickson	<a href="mailto:jerickson@tie.net">jerickson@tie.net</a>	Marjo Peters	<a href="mailto:mpeters@tie.net">mpeters@tie.net</a>
Barb Hansen	<a href="mailto:barb.hansen@teachwell.org">barb.hansen@teachwell.org</a>	Lisa Reinhiller	<a href="mailto:lisa.reinhiller@k12.sd.us">lisa.reinhiller@k12.sd.us</a>
Crystal Mengenhauen	<a href="mailto:cmengenhauen@gmail.com">cmengenhauen@gmail.com</a>	Janet Rose-Perrenoud	<a href="mailto:jrose@tie.net">jrose@tie.net</a>
Holly Mosterd	<a href="mailto:holly.mosterd@k12.sd.us">holly.mosterd@k12.sd.us</a>	Mary Stier	<a href="mailto:mary.stier@k12.sd.us">mary.stier@k12.sd.us</a>
Diane Olson	<a href="mailto:diane.m.olson@k12.sd.us">diane.m.olson@k12.sd.us</a>	Jennifer Tschetter	<a href="mailto:jtschetter@tie.net">jtschetter@tie.net</a>

## Report spotlight: Student Attendance List enhanced to highlight chronic absenteeism

Educators know that good attendance is essential to student success. Missing 10 percent or more of a school year is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates. Gov. Dennis Daugaard proclaimed September Attendance Awareness Month and the Department of Education is sharing the message with various stakeholders. SD-STARS has introduced a report enhancement to help with this effort.

SD-STARS already had a report that displayed absent days, enrolled days and attendance rate called AT.002.00-A – Student Attendance List. In August, this report was enhanced to highlight students who are considered chronically absent. Students who have missed 10 percent or more of enrolled days are flagged as "Chronic." Students who are absent 5 percent or more, but less than 10

percent of enrolled days are flagged as "Warning." Students who are absent less than 5 percent of enrolled days are flagged as "Good."

One common question about this report is, what is considered an absent day? This report counts minutes for the periods the student is marked as unexcused absence, excused absence or unknown absence.

For more information about the importance of attendance, go to [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org).

Student Name	Grade	Gender	Race / Ethnicity	LEP	Disability	Enrolled Days	Absent Days	Average Daily Attendance Rate	Attendance Status
Student Count: 4949						449,051	4,567	98.75%	
Student 1	11	Male	Hispanic	N	Y	125	16.00	87.20 %	Chronic
Student 2	12	Male	White	N	Y	174	2.00	98.85 %	Good
Student 3	11	Female	White	N	N	174	10.30	94.08 %	Warning
Student 4	09	Female	Mixed Race	N	N	174	4.00	97.70 %	Good
Student 5	09	Male	White	N	N	174	1.30	99.25 %	Good
Student 6	05	Female	White	N	N	132	14.10	89.32 %	Chronic
Student 7	06	Male	White	N	N	174	9.00	94.83 %	Warning



# ASK THE EXPERTS

## **I forgot my password. What should I do?**

The most common difficulty users have with SD-STARS is logging in to the system. If you are having problems logging in, there are several steps you can take. Users get three attempts to successfully log in before they are locked out. Once locked out, your district's STARS Account Manager can unlock the account.

If you realize you forgot your password prior to your third login attempt, select the "Forgot Password?" link on the login page. If you have set Challenge Questions in SD-STARS, this feature will give you a new temporary password, which can be changed once you get past the login page.

Every district has a designated person who is trained as a STARS Account Manager (SAM). They know your district's permissions and can help you navigate through problems that might be standing in the way of a successful login.

If difficulties arise and the STARS Account Manager (SAM) is unable to help, please email [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

Beginning this fall, the SD-STARS team hopes that forgotten passwords will be a thing of the past. SD-STARS is making a change. Users with @k12.sd.us email addresses will be able to log into SD-STARS using their K12 password. Be sure to read the article entitled 'SD-STARS Log-in Changes Coming Soon' to find out more information.

## **I'm having trouble finding answers to my data questions. Where can I find help?**

The Training Center menu has a wealth of information that may help you find the answers you need! Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs) take you through a report to understand what sorts of questions the report will answer and provide an overview of who might need the report and when it could be useful. The first page of each DIG is an at-a-glance summary. If you don't have time to read the entire DIG, the first page gives enough information to begin understanding what the report does. Each following page goes into details about the tables, graphs, audience and more.

If you can't find what you're looking for, or have any questions, the SD-STARS team is here to help! You can email [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us). We are also available by phone. You will find our direct phone lines in every edition of the STARS Connections Newsletter.

## **Why does my screen say "Report Not Found" when I try to use dropdown menus?**

Sometimes while attempting to access a dropdown menu item, you may see the main screen display a "Report Not Found" message. If this happens, try to clear the cache in your system's browser. Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox and other browsers have menus that allow you to delete or download browser history, cookies, and cached files and images. Clearing the old information in your browser will often be the only step necessary to get rid of the "Report Not Found" messages.

If you still have problems after clearing your cache, you can email [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us). We are here to help!

## **Districts provide valuable feedback at first meeting of STARS Advisory Group**

The STARS Advisory Group held its first meeting in September. This group will function much like other district-involved groups at the Department of Education. As the group continues to meet, we continue to look for new members. If you or someone you know may be a good fit for this new group, please contact us at [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us). Following is detailed information about the STARS Advisory Group.

### **Background**

The STARS Advisory Group gives districts a voice in discussions on possible changes to and the future of SD-STARS. This group will positively impact SD-STARS and improve the partnership and communication among the Department of Education's SD-STARS team, other department staff and districts. Areas of discussion could include new data sources, new reports, enhancements to current reports, changes to the SD-STARS portal or district training and support.

### **Duties and Expectations**

The STARS Advisory Group serves as a valuable resource to the department's SD-STARS team. Members should have a genuine interest in SD-STARS and support the vision of the system: to aid educators, measure outcomes and inform decisions.

Members' duties may include the following:

- Assisting in resolving data problems
- Answering data questions
- Sharing knowledge on the needs of districts
- Providing constructive feedback on systems, reports or enhancements
- Advising on possible times and formats for STARS trainings and supports
- Offering ideas for the STARS Connections newsletter and other outreach methods
- Aiding in developing resources and professional development to encourage data use

### **Time Commitment and Composition**

Members would attend one virtual meeting a month with occasional emails and ad-hoc calls or virtual meetings as needed. Most members will commit for a two-year term. The STARS Advisory Group is meant to be comprised of a mix of individuals from diverse districts across the state, as well as staff from the SD-STARS team and other interested parties within the Department of Education.

### **Interested in joining?**

If you are interested in joining the STARS Advisory Group, contact [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).



## SD-STARS login changes coming soon!

The most common problem users experience with SD-STARS is forgotten passwords. It is easy to forget passwords when educators use many different websites with different login information. The SD-STARS team has been working with the K12 Data Center to come up with a solution.

Late this fall, the SD-STARS login process will change for most users. Users with an @k12.sd.us email address will go to the SD-STARS page as normal and type in their email address as their username. However, the password will no longer be SD-STARS specific. Instead, it will be the same password used to log in to email and other K12 Data Center resources. "By making the logins the same, we hope to reduce the most common frustration for users," said Sara Kock, a project manager with SD-STARS. For those users without an @k12.sd.us email address, the login process will remain the same.

The switchover will occur sometime in late October or early November. Kock explains, "At least one week before this change takes effect, we will notify district STARS Account Managers and Data STARS using our listservs. We will also email district technology coordinators." District technology coordinators are important because once the switchover occurs, forgotten passwords will need to be resolved by the district technology coordinator and the K12 Data Center. The SD-STARS team and SAMs will no longer be able to assist with forgotten passwords.

## Have you heard about local assessments in SD-STARS?

The suite of local assessments reports continue to be popular with districts who use DIBELS.net, DIBELS University of Oregon and AIMSweb. Districts need to have given permission for the Department of Education to access and load the data in SD-STARS in order for the district to see the suite of local assessment reports. If your district is currently using one of these local assessments and would like to access these reports, please find the necessary permission form under the Resources section of the Training Center in SD-STARS and email it to STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

The data for local assessments is currently loaded three times a year - in the fall, winter and spring. Typically the data for the fall load is available by Sept. 27, winter data is available by Jan. 27 and the spring data is available on May 27.

The Department of Education has been looking into loading Voyager Sopris VPORT DIBELS Next data as well as MAP

from Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). The SD-STARS team is currently analyzing the data to see if the current reports can display this data. If that is possible, the districts who have submitted permission forms should see their data sometime this year in SD-STARS.

The SD-STARS team has also been receiving requests for STARS Renaissance to be loaded into SD-STARS. This request is moving through the process for researching and approving new data to be loaded into SD-STARS. This process typically takes over a year to complete, and if new reports need to be developed, funds will need to become available to develop the reports. Stay tuned for further news on STARS Renaissance.

If districts have any questions on the local assessment reports or how to get their data into SD-STARS please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

## National STARS: How Nashville used data in afterschool programs

Recently, Data Quality Campaign highlighted the partnership between Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) and the city-funded afterschool program for middle schoolers called Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA). NAZA has been focusing on improving reading ability by using data provided about their students' reading levels.

Improving reading abilities for individual students was made possible through these four steps.

1. A data-sharing agreement was created between MNPS and NAZA.
2. NAZA and MNPS communicate about what students need and how NAZA can supplement school learning.
3. NAZA customizes academic supports based on the data they receive on their students.

4. Effective data use and collaboration created a common goal to increase reading abilities.

NAZA also takes into account the importance of behavior and at-risk factors when working with kids. This way students receive targeted supports to help them improve academically. More and more cities are moving towards this model. In fact, school-community partnerships are highlighted in the Every Student Succeeds Act by requiring states' lowest performing schools to explore this type of partnership.

For the full article please see <http://dataqualitycampaign.org/nashville-afterschool-programs-data/>.