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Preliminary state assessment results show gains

PIERRE, S.D. – Preliminary results on the 2016 statewide assessment in English language arts and math show gains in student performance in both content areas and in all but one tested grade level. The assessment is administered each spring to just under 70,000 South Dakota public school students in grades 3-8 and 11.

“We are pleased with these results,” Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp told the South Dakota Legislature’s planning committee earlier today. “We gained in nearly every grade and saw growth overall for our Native American students. It takes about 100 students to show a 1 percent increase in proficiency at each grade level, so we are talking about 300 to 600 more students testing proficient in many grade levels, which is significant progress.”

State officials credit the gains to students’ increased familiarity with both the state content standards being tested and the online format of the statewide assessment. “These improved results are evidence that we must stay the course on this important work,” said Secretary Schopp. “The content standards that this test measures push students to think critically and apply their knowledge. I applaud our state’s teachers for their dedication to helping ensure more and more of our students meet this higher bar of expectations.”

It is important to note that these are preliminary results. These results will differ from final data used for accountability purposes. Official finalized assessment data will be released in conjunction with the state Report Card later this year.

“The statewide assessment is only one measure of student success, but it helps us see the big picture of how our students are doing as a whole,” said Secretary Schopp. She also told the committee that a recent lawsuit against the state of South Dakota for its participation in a multi-state testing consortium was dismissed. As part of the consortium, South Dakota benefits from the shared expertise of member states and the lower costs available through a cooperative effort.

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Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Test

% of students at or above Level 3*

English Language Arts

	2016 State SBAC (preliminary)	2015 State SBAC (final)
Grade 3	50.57%	47.65%
Grade 4	50.24%	44.44%
Grade 5	50.2%	47.77%
Grade 6	51.38%	44.51%
Grade 7	52.39%	48.44%
Grade 8	53.09%	47.33%
Grade 11	60.3%	59.71%
All Grades	52.36%	48.19%

Mathematics

	2016 State SBAC (preliminary)	2015 State SBAC (final)
Grade 3	54.03%	50.23%
Grade 4	48.5%	44.47%
Grade 5	38.18%	36.18%
Grade 6	40.97%	33.79%
Grade 7	42.63%	38.59%
Grade 8	41.95%	38.12%
Grade 11	37.87%	38.77%
All Grades	43.63%	40.13%

*Levels 3 and 4 considered on track for college/career readiness