

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016

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2016 South Dakota Report Card available

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2016 South Dakota Report Card, a review of schools' performance based on multiple indicators, is now available online.

Student performance on the state assessment shows that the percentage of students scoring proficient (at or above Level 3) has increased from 49.5 percent to 52.6 percent in English language arts and from 41.3 percent to 44.3 percent in math. The state assessment is administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11.

"One of the benefits of our state accountability system is that it looks at schools through multiple lenses, so it's about more than test scores," said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp.

Academic growth is a new indicator for elementary and middle schools that measures how a student compares to his or her peers with a similar score history and projects how the student is likely to perform in the future.

"The academic growth indicator allows us to start asking some important questions beyond just whether or not students are scoring at the proficient level," said Schopp. "For instance, even if a student isn't yet scoring at the proficient level, is he or she showing appropriate growth? And for our high fliers, are we challenging them enough so that they also continue to grow?"

Attendance is another indicator on the Report Card for elementary and middle schools. Research indicates a strong tie between consistent school attendance and student achievement. The percentage of South Dakota students attending 94 percent or more of enrolled days has improved slightly over last year, from 79.7 percent to 80.2 percent.

For high schools, graduation rate remains an important measurement. South Dakota's graduation rate was 84.1 percent for 2016, compared to 83.9 percent last year.

To access the 2016 Report Card, visit www.doe.sd.gov and click on the "2016 Report Card" banner.