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Attendance connected to proficiency in math and English language arts

PIERRE, S.D. – As Attendance Awareness Month comes to a close in South Dakota, state officials report a strong connection between attendance and proficiency on the state test in math and English language arts.

“With the release of the 2017 State Report Card last week, we are digging into the data and finding clear trends indicating that when students attend school consistently, they are much more likely to be proficient in math and English language arts,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. “It’s common sense, and the data reinforces the message--when students miss school, they miss out on vital learning opportunities.”

During school year 2016-17, students in elementary and middle school with attendance rates of 90 percent or higher were much more likely to score proficient (at or above Level 3) on the Smarter Balanced test in English language arts and math than were those students with lower attendance rates. The trend is consistent over the past three school years.

	Proficiency on the SBAC test (at or above Level 3)					
	2016-17		2015-16		2014-15	
	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA
Students with attendance rates >90%	48.3%	52.2%	46.4%	52.7%	42.8%	49.2%
Students with attendance rates 80-90%	25.2%	31.1%	22.9%	31.1%	20.2%	28.0%
Students with attendance rates <80%	11.1%	16.5%	8.9%	16%	8.6%	16.4%