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Fred Assam Elementary honored as National Title I Distinguished School

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp visited Fred Assam Elementary in the Brandon Valley School District today to celebrate the school being honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for excellence in serving a special population of students (English learners).

“Educators at Fred Assam Elementary have dedicated themselves to improving student literacy skills,” Schopp said. “One way they do this is through what they call their Walk to Read program, which hones in very specifically on each learner’s needs and keeps him or her moving forward.”

National Title I Distinguished Schools are selected by their state education agency and must qualify in one of three categories: exceptional student performance for two consecutive years; closing the achievement gap between student groups; or excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.).

State education agencies can nominate two schools each year. Wall Elementary is South Dakota’s other National Title I Distinguished School this year and is recognized for exceptional student performance for two consecutive years.