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### **U.S. Department of Education approves South Dakota’s statewide assessment waiver**

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Department of Education has informally approved the South Dakota Department of Education’s waiver of statewide assessment requirements, accountability, and school identification requirements for the 2019-20 school year.

Through this waiver, South Dakota will not need to administer its statewide assessments to students, to make annual accountability determinations, to identify new schools for support and improvement, or to provide certain data on state and local report cards for the 2019-20 school year.

“With the extended school closures in South Dakota related to COVID-19 concerns, our schools are suddenly facing an unprecedented challenge to meet their students’ needs in new, innovative ways,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Ben Jones. “They are meeting this challenge with unwavering fortitude, and I’m glad we can at least take statewide assessment off their plates to help ease the burden.”