

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020

CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, 605-773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or

Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, 605-773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

2019-20 Report Card: College and career readiness rates rise

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota’s college and career readiness rates have improved, according to the 2019-20 Report Card.

“Our mission is to prepare South Dakota’s students to succeed in their lives following high school graduation,” said Secretary of Education Ben Jones. “We are improving students’ opportunities, whether they choose to go to college, pursue career and technical education, or immediately enter the workforce. Effective tools like the state-sponsored dual credit program are encouraging students to take advantage of rigorous, college-level courses while still in high school.”

Seventy-three percent of students hit the “coursework readiness” mark, compared to 68% last year. Coursework readiness reflects completion of at least one course through the state’s dual credit program; passing an Advanced Placement exam; or successful completion of at least two credits of career and technical education in one subject area.

South Dakota’s high school completion rate was 93 percent for school year 2019-20, up three percentage points from the previous year. High school completion reflects the percentage of students who have attained a high school diploma or GED. Graduation rate, which is a measure of students who completed high school in four years, stayed steady for 2019-20.

Due to COVID-19, state assessments in math, English language arts, and science were not administered in spring 2020, so 2019-20 assessment data is not reflected in the Report Card.

The 2019-20 Report Card is now available at sdschools.sd.gov. It includes reports for public schools across the state.