Frequently Asked Questions

Please contact DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us with any questions or if additional information is needed.

Navigation

A report card navigation guide is available in the red Options menu button at the top-right of the page in the public version of the report card.

Q1: How do I navigate to previous year's report cards and other reports?

A: At the top-right of the School Finder page, there is an option for past years report cards called "Years". This can also be found under Prior Years Report Cards on the Options menu.

Q2: Where can I find the Interactive Analysis Dashboards?

A: Each indicator page in the report card has a "View Details" (green button) that opens to a dashboard where you can filter a variety of data to create charts and tables.

Q3: Where can I find Attendance?

A: The Attendance indicator is unique to elementary and middle school report cards. Attendance data can be found in the School Environment tab for elementary and middle schools. Attendance is not an indicator at the high school level.

Q4: What if I get a blank page when I open the report card?

A: Go into your browser settings (i.e., Chrome users go to "More tools") and click on "clear browsing data". If that does not work, please email us at DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us.

Accountability Report Card

Q1: For the English Learners Progress (ELP) indicator, when will a school be assigned district data?

A: If a school has fewer than ten English learner students in the academic year and the district has 10 or more students, the school's ELP page will report the district data for this indicator. SPI points will be calculated based on the district data for any school that has between 1 and 9 students.

Q2: When and how are SPI points redistributed for English Learners Progress (ELP)?

A: When there are no English Learner students at a school then the 10 SPI points for English Learners Progress (ELP) indicator are redistributed to other academic indicators

Q3: What data are used to calculate Student Progress?

A: Student Progress data include current year FAY students that have taken the state assessments for two consecutive years.

Q4: What data are used to calculate English Learners Progress (ELP)?

A: The calculation for ELP indicator includes only those students who took the South Dakota-English Language Proficiency assessment for two consecutive years.

Q5: Can I export a chart or table from Interactive Analysis dashboards?

A: Yes. Click on "View Expanded." A new tab will open with the expanded data. Then, on the top-right side of the chart or table are three dots; click that and export options will show.

Q6: Are Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism considered one measure?

A: No. The Attendance measure uses counts of students who attended the full academic year and who also attended school for 90% or more enrolled days. The Chronic Absenteeism measure uses counts of students who attended more than 10 days and who also missed more than 10% of enrolled days within the school year.

Q7: Instead of numbers, all I see are asterisks in the report card. Why?

A: The asterisks represent suppression of data in the report card based on FERPA laws that protect student personal identification. You will see asterisks when the subgroup rate is below 7% (Chronic Absenteeism data are suppressed when the subgroup rate is higher than 93%) or when there are fewer than 10 students in a subgroup. You'll also see messages throughout the report card pages indicating where data are suppressed.

Q8: Where can I find more information about the Office of Civil Rights Data Collection?

A: Go to this URL to access data by school and district that is reported in the annual report card: https://ocrdata.ed.gov/.

Q9: Where can I find more information on the National Student Clearinghouse?

A: Go to this URL to learn about the Clearinghouse: https://studentclearinghouse.org/educational-organizations/studenttracker-for-educational-organizations/.

Educator Qualifications

Q1: Who is eligible for a provisional certificate?

A: A provisional certificate is granted when an educator moves to South Dakota from another state and is requesting certification based on reciprocity. The provisional certificate is a one-year certificate which allows the applicant time to complete South Dakota Indian Studies. Applicants may renew this certificate one time.

Q2: Who is eligible for a temporary certificate?

A: A temporary certificate is granted to an educator whose certificate has become invalid. When this occurs, the individual may apply for a one-year temporary certificate in order to complete the renewal requirements. A temporary certificate cannot be renewed.

College and Career Readiness

Q1: What assessments are eligible for the Assessment Readiness measure?

A: Assessments for English and mathematics subjects are Accuplacer-Next Gen, ACT, South Dakota English Language Arts assessment, and the South Dakota Mathematics assessment. Students must meet the bar on any one of these three assessments, in both English and math, to be counted in the numerator for Assessment Readiness. Additionally, students can be Assessment Ready if they achieved a Silver or higher on the and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). (See Calculation Guide for more details).

Q2: How are High School Graduation Advanced Endorsements included in the Coursework Readiness measure?

A: Students who completed at least one Advanced Endorsement in addition to a basic high school diploma are considered coursework ready. These are: The Advanced Endorsement, The Advanced Career Endorsement, and/or The Advanced Honors Endorsement (see graduation requirements for more info: https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements/documents/1118-Infographic.pdf). This distinction must be selected in Infinite campus and added to a student's transcript.

Q3: What is the College and Career Readiness (CCR) measure?

A: Students who are both Coursework and Assessment Ready are counted in the numerator for the CCR measure. All data used in the College and Career Readiness measures are based on the previous school year's completer roster.

Compare Schools

Q1: What is the Compare link on the report card?

A: The Compare link takes you to a comparison page with key indicator data for up to three schools.

Options Menu

Q1: Where can I find additional reports?

A: The red Options icon provides links to additional reports in the public report card, including FAQs, Prior Year Report Cards, Calculation Guide, School Improvement (district and state only), Access to Qualified Teachers (state only), NAEP Report (state only), Report Card Navigation Guide, Accountability Tech Manual, School Support List, and Data Download (state only).

Q2: How do I export the Long Term Goals chart or table from the Interactive Analysis dashboard?

A: Find the "three dots" on the top right side of the table or chart; click the dots and choose an export option (Excel, PDF or Data). This report is in the state report card options menu.

Q3: How do I access report card tables that consist of SPI points and indicator data for every public school in the state?

A: The Data Download links to statewide public school data including school results, subgroup results and state assessment results. Data Download reports available include: School Results (Elementary and Middle, High School, Small and Special Schools, and English Learner Progress), Subgroup Results (High School Completion, College and Career Readiness, Student Progress, Student Performance, School Environment), State Assessment Results (All Students, Full Academic Year Students), School Expenditures- Per Pupil Spending, Staffing Results- Educator Qualifications.

NAEP Assessment Report

The National Assessment of Educational Progress began assessing what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects across nation, states, and some urban districts in 1969. The NAEP reports data every two years. Find out more about NAEP at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/.

Q1: How are schools and students selected to participate in NAEP?

A: NAEP measures the academic performance of the nation's students at grades 4, 8, and sometimes 12 by assessing a representative sample of the nation's students. To ensure that a representative sample of students is assessed, NAEP is given in a sample of schools whose students reflect the varying demographics of a specific jurisdiction, be it the nation, a state, or a district. Within each selected school and grade to be assessed, students are chosen at random to participate in NAEP. Every student has the same chance of being chosen—regardless of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, status as an English language learner, or any other factors.

Q2: How are students with disabilities and English language learners included in the NAEP?

A: Accommodations in the testing environment or administration procedures are available for SD and ELL students. Some accommodations have built-in features or Universal Design Elements that are embedded in the digitally based assessments that are available to all students. Other accommodations are available upon request. Every state/jurisdiction decides what accommodations their students are eligible to receive.

Q3: Are results for individual students and schools reported?

A: No. By design, information is not available at the individual student or school levels. Reports traditionally disclose state, regional, and national results. In 2002, NAEP began to report (on a trial basis) results from several large urban districts (Trial Urban District Assessments) after the release of state and national results. Because NAEP is a large-group assessment, each student takes only a small part of the overall assessment. In most schools, only a small portion of the total grade enrollment is selected to take the assessment, and these students may not reliably or validly represent their total school population. Only when the student scores are aggregated at the state or national level are the data considered reliable and valid estimates of what students know and can do in the content area.