SD-STARS released new EL report
English Learner Targets - Projected

There is a new report available to SD-STARS users called English Learner Targets – Projected. Yutzil Becker with the Title III program says, "I think teachers will find this report a useful resource as it allows them to see their current English learner students and if they are on track to exit the English learner program."

The report contains data which is like that available in the English learner roster for the Accountability Report Card, but it is different in some important ways. The first difference is who has access. Access to the Accountability Report Card usually is reserved for a few people in the district or school and does not include teachers. This report is available to more users, including teachers. The second difference is which students show. The Accountability Report Card looks at students a user had the previous year. This report looks at students a user has in the current year and their historical results. If a student enrolls in the school today, their ACCESS scores (if they have any) will appear on this report tomorrow. Third, this report has minimal business rules. The Accountability Report Card has complex rules about calculations and which students count or don't count for various indicators. This report simply

looks at a user's current students, their ACCESS scores, and their targets over the years. Therefore, users should be aware that the data are projections and should not be considered final data that will appear in the future Accountability Report Card.

The report is a list of students, with different categories of data for each student. Demographic data such as race, gender, disability, and migrant status are included in the report. The students' home language and whether they are a long-term (more than five years) English learner is included as well. ACCESS test results are also included in the report for the year the user selects in the "Assessment Year" parameter and for the prior assessment year.

Data used to determine the targets for each student are likely the most useful category of data. The student's first ACCESS 2.0 score is displayed along with what school year would be considered their base year. Columns display the projected exit date from the English learner program, the number of years the student has to attain proficiency, the number of years the student is into the cycle, and the targets the student needs to meet each year in order to exit the program. A student may exit the program early by meeting their target for the year.

A flag indicates whether the student met their target for the year: green if they did; red if they didn't.

Users should be aware of a few things with this report. First, it will only display ACCESS 2.0 results. Therefore, users will notice the first assessment year that is available is school year 2016-17. This also means that the first possible base year for any student in the report would be school year 2016-17. Second, ACCESS Alternate students are not included in the report since they currently do not have exit criteria for the English learner program. Third, a report data interpretation guide (DIG) is being created and will be available by clicking on the link at the bottom of the report called "Link to Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)." It will also be available in the Content Library and Training Center in SD-STARS.

Any questions or comments on the report should be sent to STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Inside this issue

Department to offer summer data use courses for educators

The South Dakota Department of Education is offering two data use courses for educators this summer.

The Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators course provides educators with the skills they need to analyze and use data to answer important questions to drive positive change in their school, district, or classroom. Participants for the Fundamentals course are eligible to receive one graduate credit at a discounted rate, provided they attend the entire one-day workshop and submit a data project. This course does not require a textbook. Participants who do not wish to earn graduate credit may take the course free of charge.

The second course, Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators, is provided online over a seven-week period. In this course, participants will engage in discussions with others taking the course and will study an in-depth textbook on the use of data as it relates to school improvement. This advanced course is especially useful to school or district staff who have access to multiple measures of data in their organization. In order to take this course, participants must have previously completed the Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators course. The course is worth two graduate credits. Credit-seeking participants must purchase a textbook and finish assignments on time.

Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators

Redfield
Friday, June 12 - SD Developmental Center, Administration Building (Auditorium)
Registration: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12847

Vermillion
(Tentative date) Tuesday, June 16 – USD (Building and Room TBD)
Registration: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12848

Rapid City
Thursday, June 18 - Western Dakota Tech, Pennington Co. Community Rm (Library)
Registration: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12846

Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators

Online (7-week course)
June 29 through August 16
Registration: https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12849

Stay up to date - Attend this webinar!

Join the SD-STARS team for our March topical webinar as we discuss the new SD-STARS: AC.031.00-X – Subgroup Longitudinal Performance report. We will also discuss another new report: CT.008.00-A – Dual Credit – Student Level List. Other changes and enhancements will be discussed too.

- Who: SD-STARS users at the school and district levels

- What: Webinar topics include new reports and recent enhancements in SD-STARS

- When: March 25, 2:30 p.m. CT

Registration:
https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=12657

Education technology companies and student privacy

Think back to the last app you installed on your smart phone… Do you remember agreeing to the apps "terms of use" or "privacy policy?" Most people don't take the time to read it. Now think of the technology educators use in the classroom. Education technology companies likely also require your students or schools to agree to "terms of use" and a "privacy policy." Ask yourself, do you know what that education technology company is doing with students' data?

This question is especially important because students' educational records are protected under many federal and state laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). From online tutoring and teaching websites to cafeteria account services to productivity applications (ex: emails, calendars, document collaboration), schools need to be aware of how student data are shared and used.

Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization that advocates for safe technology and media for children, released their 2019 State of EdTech Privacy Report. This report looked at privacy policies for the most popular education applications. The organization also evaluated the applications' privacy policies with regard to privacy and security best practices. Common Sense found that education technology companies are doing better with their privacy statements, but most are lacking in terms of their transparency on how the companies collect, share, sell, track, and safeguard the data. Even if they are transparent in their privacy statements, the report also indicates that companies are moving away from direct monetization to indirect monetization. What does that mean? In the past, companies targeted ads to students within the technology. Now companies are collecting data from users to create data profiles that track students within and outside the technology. Then students get targeted advertisements on other devices, applications, and services across the internet.

The U.S. Department of Education Privacy Technology Assistance Center (PTAC) released several resources to help schools evaluate requirements and implement best practices for protecting student privacy while using education technology companies. There is a guidance document, a model terms of service, and a recorded webinar. You can search for these resources at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov.

- https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protecting-student-privacy-while-using-online-educational-services-requirements-and-best
- https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protecting-student-privacy-while-using-online-educational-services-model-terms-service
- https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/training/protecting-student-privacy-while-using-online-educational-services-march-2014

State offices closed

The SD-STARS team will not be available on the following day, due to state offices being closed for Presidents Day:

Monday, February 17, 2020

We will be back in the office to answer questions and assist users Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

SD-STARS Help Desk

SD-STARS staff are a great resource. We want to support users in your district. Let us know your questions, comments and concerns by emailing us at STARSHelp@state.sd.us. We are happy to help!

SD-STARS reports, data and documents go through important changes

Users should be aware of several changes made in SD-STARS.

Report Name Changes

Two reports under the Accountability Reports section of the Reports tab were renamed:

- AC.017.01-A – First Year in Country was renamed to AC.017.01-A – First Year in Country – Projected.

- AC.022.00-A – Student Level Report - Projected FAY was renamed to AC.022.00-A – Student FAY List - Projected.

This was done to clarify that while these reports display accountability data, the reports are a projection and not to be considered final accountability data. A note was also added to the top of the reports stating this.

No more private report cards for 2016-17 and prior years

Older versions of the private Accountability Report Card, prior to school year 2017-18, are no longer available in SD-STARS. School year 2017-18 was the first year the Report Card was created using a different software than had been used previously. Since the department switched software, it was no longer feasible to support both formats. Users are still able to view past public report cards by going to the DOE website.

No more local assessment reports

SD-STARS stopped loading local assessment data in June 2019, but left the reports "on," in case districts still needed to access them. As of Dec 31, the reports have officially been removed from SD-STARS. Users who used to see these reports will notice the Local Assessment section of the Reports tab is no longer available.

Updated Data Sources and Reports

The Data Sources and Reports document has been updated to reflect the above changes as well as data source updates. Users can view it via the Content Library or Training Center in SD-STARS. It is also available on the SD-STARS website (https://doe.sd.gov/SDSTARS/) by clicking on the "Data Sources and Reports" button.

New ACT Data

New ACT results were recently received and loaded into SD-STARS. The ACT file is received five times a year. The most recent file contains tests from September and October 2019. The updated ACT results can be accessed by viewing the ACT Stoplight report located under the Reports tab in the Assessment Reports section.

STARS Certified Trainers

STARS Certified Trainers (SCTs) are kept up-to-date by DOE staff on SD-STARS reports and system developments. Districts can request trainings from SCTs directly, at a cost to the district.

Julie Erickson—jerickson@tie.net

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Becky Mohr—beckymohr93@yahoo.com

Diane Olson—Diane.M.Olson@k12.sd.us

Janeen Outka—janeen.outka@teachwell.org

Marge Stoterau—margestoterau@gmail.com

Dianna Tyler—Dianna.tyler@k12.sd.us

Want to become an SCT?
Contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us!

SAM Corner: SD-STARS update means changes for SAMs

In some ways, the SD-STARS portal is like your family car. It's reliable and it gets the job done, but sometimes it needs a tune-up or even some new tires. The time has come to update the SD-STARS portal, which will bring some positive changes for users.

Once upgraded to the newest version, most users will not see any difference in the look and feel of SD-STARS. However, for STARS Account Managers (SAMs), the admin menu will look and feel very different. The SD-STARS team will create new resources and offer online trainings to help SAMs manage users when staff enter or leave a school or district. These materials will be posted in the training center in SD-STARS. Our goal is to have these resources/trainings available before the end-of-year checklist is due, so that SAMs will have time to do the necessary work of updating permissions for staff whose permission levels change for Accountability. SAMS can also stay up-to-date about the portal update by reading future editions of this newsletter or by looking out for future emails.

If you have any questions about the coming change, please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Top 10 SD-STARS reports accessed

The following SD-STARS reports have been accessed the most by users in schools and districts, from July 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2019.

Report Name	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019		July 1-Dec 31, 2019	
	Ranking	Hit Count	Ranking	Hit Count
AS.003.02-A – Assessment Detail Results	#1	555	#2	281
AS.005.01-A – Student Longitudinal Achievement	#2	467	#3	268
AS.006.01-A – Student Achievement Report	#3	433	#1	421
AS.001.01-A – Achievement Cut Score	#4	355	#5	190
AS.002.01-A – ACT Stoplight	#5	286	#6	141
AS.007.01-A – Assessment Feedback Report	#6	260	#4	216
EN.001.00-X – Enrollment Demographics	#7	225	#7	134
EW.001.00-A – Early Warning	#8	188	#10	71
AT.002.00-A – Student Attendance List	#9	144	#8 (tie)	77
AT.001.00-X – Attendance Demographics	(NA)	113	#8 (tie)	77
EN.009.00-X – Special Education Trend	#10	137	#9	74

EL participants joined SD-STARS webinar
District staff explored EL data in SD-STARS reports

On Jan. 22, the SD-STARS and Title III teams joined forces and provided a webinar for English learner professionals in South Dakota. The webinar was then offered a second time on Jan. 29. Attendees explored three SD-STARS reports related to English learners:

♥ AS.008.00-A – ACCESS Test Takers: Participants discovered how this report displays ACCESS scores and state assessment scores (SD-ELA, SD-Math, etc.) side-by-side, for comparison purposes.

♥ First Year in Country – Projected: EL teachers and coordinators found this report helpful to identify which students may need to take the state assessment and to verify the recorded date they entered school is accurate to their First Year in Country status.

♥ English Learners Targets – Projected: This new report gave participants a peek into ways to see if their students are hitting targets to exit EL services by their target year.

When asked how they could use these SD-STARS reports, one participant said the reports would "save time on figuring progress for ACCESS test-takers – whether they are on track to exit (EL services) on time."

A PDF of training materials and a recording of the webinar are available in SD-STARS, by selecting Training Center. Scroll down to SD-STARS Resources for Trained Users. The SD-STARS team keeps PDF files and recordings for topical webinars for users to learn about a variety of useful features within SD-STARS. For more information about EL reports or any of our topical webinars from the past, contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Happy Valentine's Day!

ASK ME …if you are ever in need of help! Contact us at STARSHelp@state.sd.us!

SPICE IT UP …by using one of the new reports in SD-STARS! We've been busy making enhancements and reports that districts want!

SHINE BRIGHT …in your district by using the Data Sources and Reports document located at http://doe.sd.gov/SDSTARS/ (underneath the "login" image.)