2019-20 Accountability Report Card

What to expect this year

The South Dakota Department of Education has been busy preparing for the 2019-20 Accountability Report Card. This work started as soon as the prior report card was published and is spearheaded by the Title and Accountability Programs Office.

"Report Card work is year-round at the department. As soon as one accountability season wraps up, we take what we learned and start making plans to improve for next year. Key to these improvements is district feedback," said Shannon Malone, Title programs administrator.

For the 2019-20 Accountability Report Card, district Accountability teams should see improvements. The most obvious changes will happen to the student rosters. Increased functionality like sorting, filtering, and freezing columns will make it easier for users to experience and navigate the student rosters. "We hope that districts know how much their feedback means when we decide what to prioritize in our work. For example, districts asked us to improve student rosters, and that became one of our top priorities this year," Malone said.

Here are some additional changes:

All Interactive Analysis pages will now have three years of data, and the Growth Rate and Long-Term Goals Interactive Analysis pages will have an added grade level.

The Equity Report page will be replaced by two sections: the first focused on school improvement and the second focused on equitable access to educators. This will be done in phases, between August and January.

The English Learners Progress page will display ESL teacher data, and the state assessment names throughout the report card will be updated (i.e. from Smarter Balanced to South Dakota Math Assessment and South Dakota English Language Arts Assessment).

The gap and non-gap groups will no longer be reported.

The department is awaiting US. Department of Education approval on some additional changes. These changes include adjusting English learner exit criteria, changing how the department calculates Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school designation, and accommodating new enrollment exit codes.

With the prevention efforts around COVID-19, there will be additional changes for the Accountability Report Card. The department submitted and was informally approved for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability, and school identification requirements for the 2019-20 school year. Through this waiver, schools do not need to administer statewide assessments to students. Additional changes are likely, but the department has not yet determined the full impact. Further communication about these additional changes will be coming from the department.

Another change involves the department's engagement with districts. Last year, as a pilot, the Title and Accountability Programs Office invited a few districts to come to Pierre to assist with the validation of the report card. "During those two days, a handful of districts were able to get a first look at their report card data while also helping the department validate the data," Malone said.

Based on positive feedback from these districts, the Title and Accountability Programs Office plans to expand this opportunity. Schedule and agenda are still to be determined.

Inside this issue

Data Use Courses Q&A

The time is drawing near for two opportunities to learn more about data analysis, all while earning graduate credits! Following are some questions and answers about this summer's offerings:

Q: What courses will be offered this summer?

A: The South Dakota Department of Education plans to offer two courses this summer.

The first course is Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators. This one-credit course gives a broad overview of the skills educators need to successfully use data in their classrooms, schools, and districts.

The second course is a two-credit course, called Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators. This course builds upon the fundamentals course. The advanced course is online and takes seven weeks to finish. Participants will complete a project in which they will use data to answer important questions to drive positive change in their district, school, or classroom.

Q: Who should attend these courses?

A: All South Dakota educators interested in analyzing student data are invited to attend the Fundamentals of Data Use course. This includes school and district administrators as well as teachers.

The advanced course is open to participants who have already taken the fundamentals course. Successful participants must think beyond the classroom to the school or district level. Therefore, the department recommends this course for administrators or lead teachers.

Q: Why take these courses?

A: These courses help educators understand and effectively use data. Doing so assists educators in making informed decisions to foster powerful improvements in student outcomes.

Q: What about COVID-19?

A: Information on the summer data use courses is based on what we know right now. This plan may change depending on COVID-19 prevention methods. Communication about these changes will be sent to enrollees as decisions are made.

Q: Do I need access to data?

A: In the fundamentals course, we will discuss many types of data. If you can access or bring data specific to your school, you will have a head start on your data project. We will explore other ways to find data, including through SD-STARS, the department's website, and the Accountability Report Card.

For the advanced course, the more data accessible to the participant, the better.

Q: Do I need a textbook?

A: Participants do not need to purchase a textbook or other material for the fundamentals course. However, the purchase of a textbook is required for the advanced course. The title and author are included in the syllabus.

Q: Do I need a computer?

A: Participants in the fundamentals course should bring a laptop to the one-day workshop. The laptop should be able to browse the internet. Spreadsheet software such as Excel and word processing software such as Microsoft Word are helpful to finish the projects assigned in class.

Because the advanced course is entirely online, participants will need access to a computer.

Workshop for new STARS Certified Trainers

During the 2019-20 school year, 10 individuals served as STARS Certified Trainers (SCTs). These individuals received regular updates on, and access to, resources about SD-STARS to better support their work with schools and districts in South Dakota. Although they typically did not provide SD-STARS-specific training sessions, they were better equipped to use SD-STARS to supplement the work they were already doing. There are two main requirements to become a new STARS Certified Trainer: attend the summer workshop and participate in monthly update calls on SD-STARS.

The SD-STARS team is now seeking SCTs for the 2020-21 school year. The new SCTs will convene during a summer workshop, to be held Monday, July 13, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT, in the Department of Education Library Commons in Pierre. However, given the COVID-19 prevention methods, this plan may change. If you or someone you know works with multiple districts and are interested in more information on becoming an SCT, email STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

SD-STARS Help Desk

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

Data Use Courses Q&A

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Q: What are the requirements for participants?

A: For the fundamentals course, participants may choose one of three locations. Onsite days are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time. Participants who wish to earn a graduate credit are expected to attend the entire day of the onsite portion of the course and to complete a final project. They will be given a week past the workshop date to finish the project.

The advanced course requires participation in a discussion board throughout the online course. Participants can also expect to finish weekly assignments and to finish a data project by the end of the course. All due dates will be available on the syllabus, and there is no penalty for finishing assignments early.

Q: Is there a cost?

A: Participation is free for all who do not wish to earn graduate credits. Graduate credits are available through the University of South Dakota at a discounted rate ($40/credit hour). Information on USD registration/payment will be communicated to all enrollees via email. Those who then register for credit through USD will receive an A-F grade.

Fundamentals of Using Data for Educators

Redfield*
Friday, June 12 - SD Developmental Center, Administration Building (Auditorium)
Registration: https://rebrand.ly/z0lrp4a

Vermillion*
Tuesday, June 16 – USD (Building and Room TBD)
Registration: https://rebrand.ly/tr0hh4f

Rapid City*
Thursday, June 18 - Western Dakota Tech, Pennington Co. Community Rm (Library)
Registration: https://rebrand.ly/d4hy3m1

Advanced Data Use Skills for Educators

Online (7-week course)
June 29 through August 16
Registration: https://rebrand.ly/2e018zt

*Notice Regarding COVID-19 Prevention Efforts

Information on the summer data use courses is based on what we know right now. The training method may change to an online delivery, depending on COVID-19 prevention developments. Communication about any changes will be sent to course enrollees as decisions are made.

Q: May I register for both courses in the same year?

A: Yes! If you intend to take the fundamentals course this summer, you are welcome to also register for the advanced course. GoSignMeUp links are provided on this page.

Q: I have more questions. Who may I contact?

A: You may contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us any time with further questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

New Report DIGs

AC.025.00-A – English Learners Targets – Projected

AC.031.00-X – Subgroup Longitudinal Performance

CT.008.00-A – Dual Credit - Student Level List

Updated Report DIGs

AC.017.01-A – First Year in Country

AC.022.00-A – Student Level Report - Projected FAY

AS.001.01-A – Achievement Cut Score

AS.003.02-A – Assessment Detail Results

AS.005.01-A – Student Longitudinal Achievement

AS.006.01-A – Student Achievement Report

AS.007.01-A – Assessment Feedback Report

AS.008.00-A – ACCESS Test Takers

AT.001.00-X – Attendance Demographics

AT.002.00-A – Student Attendance List

AT.003.00-X – Chronic Absenteeism Demographics

CT.003.00-X – Dual Credit - Course Enrollment

CT.004.00-X – Dual Credit - Student Participation

CT.005.00-X – Dual Credit - Average Credits

CT.006.00-X – Dual Credit - Pass Rate

EN.003.01-A – Student Profile

EN.008.02-A – McKinney-Vento Student Count

SP.003.01-A – Special Education Exiter

SP.004.00-A – SPED Accountability Student List

SP.005.00-X – SPED Participation Rate

SP.006.00-X – SPED Proficiency Rate

SP.007.00-X – SPED Performance Plan

SP.008.00-X – Child Outcomes Summary Form

SP.012.00-A – Children with No Assignments

SP.013.00-A – Part B Indicator 7 Child List

New, updated DIGs in Training Center

The SD-STARS team has been busy updating Report Data Interpretation Guides (DIGs). Report DIGs are documents that walk users through how to use and understand the reports available in SD-STARS. Users can find the most recent Report DIGs by selecting "Training Center" in the main navigation menu.

Users can view the Report DIGs in one of three ways:

- Search for the Report DIG in the SD-STARS Content Library
- Find the Report DIG in a list available in the SD-STARS Training Center
- Run the report, scroll to the bottom, and click on "Link to Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)"

Admin menu changes

In the February 2020 issue of the STARS Connections newsletter, the SD-STARS team informed districts of a system update that will primarily affect STARS Account Managers (SAMs.) The entire Admin menu will look and feel very different for SAMs, which will affect the way they change, add, and remove permissions for people on their Accountability teams.

New resources in the Training Center will be added around mid-April to mid-May. New instructions will be added to the STARS Account Manager Resources section of the Training Center, including a video which will walk viewers through the new Admin menu. The SD-STARS team will send notices to everyone on the SAM mailing list as these new instructions become available. If you experience difficulties managing accounts after this time, email STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

What to expect from the 2019-20 Report Card

Look for the Accountability Report Card timeline in a future edition of the department's Ed Online newsletter and other communications from the department.

What hasn't changed is the role of SD-STARS with the Accountability Report Card. There are two versions of the Accountability Report Card – public and private. The public report card is posted on the department's website. The private report card can be found in SD-STARS. Only SD-STARS users who have Accountability permissions can see the private report card, and the STARS Account Manager can control the permissions assigned to the district's users. The SD-STARS Office continues to support the Title and Accountability Programs Office as it develops, implements, and trains on the Accountability Report Card.

If you have questions about the Report Card, please email DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us.

Attendance data now to update daily

The SD-STARS reports include a suite of attendance reports, which provides valuable aggregate data as well as a student list. These reports allow the user to see, at a glance, which students are chronically absent and how entire schools or districts are doing with attendance goals throughout the year. Similarly, other reports in SD-STARS include an attendance column with the same data.

Until now, attendance data in these reports would only be accurate on days that the district would sync their district data to the state. The synchronization process is only required to be done periodically, but if a district wanted to see accurate attendance numbers in SD-STARS reports, they would have to sync their data more frequently.

Fortunately, the SD-STARS and Data Management Teams worked together to automatically update attendance numbers daily in SD-STARS. Much like daily changes in enrollment data, changes in attendance now happen as part of SD-STARS overnight processing. Districts now see fresh attendance data any day that they check SD-STARS reports.

It is important to note that this change only affects SD-STARS reports. There is no change in policy or practice regarding how districts should enter data into Infinite Campus.

New data loaded into SD-STARS

The SD-STARS team recently loaded new data into SD-STARS.

ACT Scores – Users will notice new data when they access the ACT Stoplight Report (AS.002.01-A). The February testing file was loaded and contains results from September to December. Please note that ACT has canceled the April tests to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Fall Enrollment Census Count – Fall Enrollment Census Count for the 2019-20 school year has been loaded. That means two reports in SD-STARS, Fall Enrollment Census Count – Student (EN.007.00-A) and Fall Enrollment Census Count – Aggregate (EN.007.00-X), will display 2019-20 data. The Census Count reflects the number of students enrolled on the last Friday of September. Since it is a snapshot of data, the numbers will not change. Please remember that the Fall Enrollment Census Count will not match State Aid since they follow different business rules.

Dual Credit – Dual Credit data from fall 2019 were loaded into SD-STARS. The South Dakota Department of Education receives files from the Board of Regents and technical colleges for students who participated in the state-sponsored dual credit program. Fall 2019 data appear in the reports with "Dual Credit" in their name under the CTE Reports section in SD-STARS.

Perkins Data Collection System – Perkins data for 2018-19 now appear in SD-STARS. To view the latest data, use the three reports under the CTE Reports section in SD-STARS with "CTE Biennial Review" in their title.

No newsletter in June

The STARS Connection Newsletter is taking a hiatus this summer. We will be back with a new edition in August!

State offices closed

The SD-STARS team will not be available on the following days, due to state offices being closed for the Easter holiday:

Friday, April 10, 2020
Monday, April 13, 2020

Ask the Experts

In light of school closures statewide, will schools be required to administer state assessments?

The South Dakota Department of Education submitted and was informally approved for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability, and school identification requirements for the 2019-20 school year. Through this waiver, schools do not need to administer statewide assessments to students.

The South Dakota Legislature passed two COVID-related bills – SB 188 and SB 189. SB 189 provides a waiver from the homeschool testing requirement for the 2019-2020 school year.

Where can I find information for schools, related to COVID-19?

A new webpage gives COVID-19 information for schools, as it occurs. There you may find resources for school officials, forms, higher education resources, details on waivers, tips for staying safe and more! Visit https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/.

Are there reports that can help me see data related to Special Ed Indicator 7 reporting?

The following special education reports related to Indicator 7 are now available to district users:

- SP.008.00-X – Child Outcomes Summary Form
- SP.012.00-A – Children with No Assignments
- SP.013.00-A – Part B Indicator 7 Child List

These reports were temporarily turned off in December while the state's special education staff finalized their federal reporting. Now that the reporting is finalized, these reports are available to users with the appropriate permissions.

I used to be able to look at the 2016-17 and prior years of the private report card, but now I'm not able to. Did something change?

Due to software changes, the private Report Cards found in SD-STARS for 2016-17 and prior years have been removed for all users. Private report cards for 2017-18, 2018-19 and future years are available through the SD-STARS portal. If you have questions, please contact the accountability office: DOE.Accountability@state.sd.us.

Changes to Student Profile Report

There were several changes made to the Student Profile report recently.

The first change users will notice is when they click on the State Assessment link on the navigation of the report. Now, South Dakota Science Assessment and South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment display for students who have taken the science assessments. DSTEP Science will still be available by clicking on the + next to the heading called "Expand DSTEP Science."

The second change is the removal of local assessment data. Since SD-STARS no longer loads local assessment data, such as DIBELS and AIMSweb, the local assessment page of the Student Profile report is no longer relevant. Only districts who had given the South Dakota Department of Education permission to load their local assessment data would have seen this page.

The third change is the source for cumulative GPA. The Cumulative GPA that shows on the top of the report now comes from a GPA field on the enrollment tab in Infinite Campus. Only high school students will show a GPA.

The Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG) has been updated to reflect these changes.

SAM Corner
Year-end sign off and accountability permissions

Every year, districts receive communication from the South Dakota Department of Education regarding the Year End Sign Off document. This signoff document is to ensure that all school districts have completed the necessary end-of-year tasks so that calculations used for the Accountability Report Card, federal reporting, and more can be determined and reported in an accurate and timely manner.

One of the tasks in the Year End Sign Off document is for SAMs. It asks SAMs to make sure that all district staff who are part of the district's Accountability Team have access to the report card. This means that SAMs have assigned the accountability permissions to these district staff. Visit the SD-STARS Content Library for directions on how to assign accountability permissions. Select "Download File" to print a full list of instructions.