


The purpose of SD-STARS is to *aid, measure, inform*. Educators will have the ability to access and use high quality data to *aid* in informing instruction and decision-making. Data will be displayed in an easily understood format, and educators will be trained so they are able to identify trends and conduct thorough analyses. Through SD-STARS, student outcomes will be *measured* so educators can identify at-risk students, examine achievement gaps, evaluate programs, recognize strengths, and address areas for improvement. Ultimately, stakeholders will develop a more holistic view of our education system and use that picture to *inform* systemic change.

www.doe.sd.gov



Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System

SD-STARS



doe.sd.gov/ofm/lfs.aspx



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Good data is critical to assess and improve education in South Dakota. The Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (SD-STARS) is a statewide longitudinal data system that pulls already available data from different sources, dumps data into a centralized system, and links data together. The power of the system comes from its ability to link student data at multiple levels (classroom, school, district) and over multiple years. It is as if SD-STARS uses the snapshots of data currently available to make a video as a student advances from grade to grade. In the end, SD-STARS will allow for deeper and richer analysis and increase data availability for all stakeholders, from teachers to policy-makers. SD-STARS will drive the state's educational initiatives to improve instruction and student performance.

BENEFITS FOR EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS

From prior performance to attendance to program participation, SD-STARS will bring together historical and current data about every student in the state to benefit educators. Teachers will have a depth of data needed to inform instruction available at their fingertips. Questions like, "How did this student perform in prior grades?" or "In what areas does a student need extra help?" could be answered with SD-STARS.

SD-STARS will also increase data availability for schools and districts, so administrators can make informed, data-driven decisions. Administrators will have the data to answer questions like, "Which students are at risk for dropping out?" or "Did this program or teacher impact student success?" In addition, SD-STARS should help ease reporting requirements for districts.

With timely and accurate data, many questions posed by parents, researchers, and policymakers could also be answered using SD-STARS. For example, the South Dakota Board of Regents could use data in SD-STARS to evaluate teacher preparation. With the focus on improving student learning and outcomes, as well as to facilitate research to increase student achievement, SD-STARS will shed light on the nuts and bolts of what it takes to educate South Dakota's students.

VARIETY OF DATA

SD-STARS will extract data from sources available to the Department of Education. These sources include, but are not limited to:

- Infinite Campus
- School Directory
- Assessments
- Personnel Record Form
- Teacher Certification
- MIS2000
- CTE data
- Financial Reports

WHAT TO EXPECT

SD-STARS is a multi-year commitment to improving the quality and access to educational data. At first, SD-STARS will offer basic reports and tools, but the project will expand as a result of better data and feedback from stakeholders.

The Department of Education will use a train-the-trainer model in rolling the system out to the field. Representatives from ESAs and districts will be trained first. These representatives will then bring this training back to districts. Stay informed about trainings in your area by visiting the SD-STARS website or reading the STARS Connection newsletter.

4 KEY COMPONENTS

Data Warehouse - Repository that stores student, teacher and school data from various sources over many years

Portal - Secure place where users can access and interact with data from the warehouse

Reports - Tools that allow users to look at and analyze key data

Training - Opportunities to learn about how to use SD-STARS for informing practice/decisions