PLEASE NOTE: This letter must be personalized by the school. Please review carefully before using.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child participated in the South Dakota Science Alternate Assessment (SDSAA); an assessment developed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a summary of your child’s results on the SDSAA.

The SDSAA is based on alternate achievement standards which have been derived from and are connected to the state’s achievement standards. The overall goal of the SDSAA is to make sure that all students achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-high school options such as college, career, and community participation. While designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities, the SDSAA reflects the higher expectations for achievement contained in the alternate achievement standards.

Here's what you need to know about the SDSAA Reports:

* The report consists of the performance level your student received over the alternate achievement standards assessed. This score is shown along a color-coded continuum showing all 4 performance levels.
* Comparison scores are included so you can see how your student did compared to other students in their school, as well as all students in their district, as well as statewide who were assessed. If there is only one school in the district, then scores will be the same. If the School average is listed as N/A, that means that there are less than 10 students in the school who took the assessment. The scores give you an idea of how your student is performing within a larger context.
* The report also lists the SDSAA Performance Level Descriptors and highlights your student’s level. The Performance Level Descriptors describe, in general, what students know in that level .

The annual state assessment is just one piece of the puzzle we look at in helping to prepare students for a successful academic experience and whatever lies beyond for them. Thank you for the privilege of educating your child, and please contact us if you have any questions about the reports.

Sincerely,