

south dakota

STARS

Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System

connections

Resources available for interpreting the Accountability Report Card

Districts will have several resources available to help navigate the report card. The calculation guide within the report card can be found by clicking on the "View Calculation Guide" link in the upper right corner. The calculation guide, which is specific to each report card year, explains the indicators contained within the report card. It also explains the School Performance Index (SPI) points as well as the school classification. The calculation guide can also be found in the Training Center within SD-STARS.

Also available in the Training Center are videos and PDFs for each page of the report card. The best way to use these resources is to open up another tab in the web browser, so they can be viewed side-by-side with the report card. The videos talk users through the various pages of the report card. The PDFs are static versions of the videos. Resources for the 2015-16 report card will be available in late August.

If districts have any issues navigating the report card, please contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Changes to the 2015-16 Accountability Report Card

With the upcoming release of the 2015-16 report card, districts need to know about changes from previous years. Laura Scheibe, administrator for accountability and accreditation, says, "Districts should be aware of the new elements incorporated into this year's report card. The addition of Academic Growth, basing Student Achievement on multiple years, a separate measure for Career Readiness and the inclusion of Accuplacer in College Readiness results will provide a more comprehensive view of school and district performance."

Academic Growth

The addition of the Academic Growth performance indicator for middle and elementary schools will be worth up to 40 School Performance Index (SPI) points. The 40 possible SPI points are split between English language arts and math. The 20 possible SPI points per subject are further divided between the percentage of all students who reach the growth standard and the percentage of students in the lowest quartile who reach the growth standard.

Student Achievement

SPI points for Student Achievement will be awarded based on multiple years. For 2015-16, results from the 2014-15 assessments and the 2015-16 assessments will be added together. Scheibe says, "This change will help to even out the swings that may occur in smaller schools when looking at single-year data." Participation will continue to look at current-year results only. Schools will also still be able to view current-year student achievement performance on the report card.

Career Readiness

With the addition of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) test, there is a distinct measure for Career Readiness as part of the College and Career Readiness performance indicator. This means schools can now earn up to 30 points for College and Career Readiness.

Ten points are possible for Career Readiness, and 20 points are possible for College Readiness, split evenly between English and math readiness.

If a student takes the NCRC test multiple times, the best score is counted. For schools that did not administer the NCRC to 2015 graduates, all 30 points of the College and Career Readiness performance indicator will come from the College Readiness measures.

Accuplacer for College Readiness

How College Readiness is calculated has changed as well. When a student doesn't meet the Board of Regents college readiness cut scores on the ACT (at least an 18 on English and 20 on math), the student has an option to complete remedial coursework through an online program called MyFoundationsLab, provided by the South Dakota Department of Education. Upon completion of the online coursework, students take an exit Accuplacer exam.

The results of the Accuplacer exam are incorporated into the College Readiness calculation – if a student shows college readiness on either the ACT or the Accuplacer, the student is considered college ready. This performance indicator only considers 2015 graduates. The best score will be used if the student took the Accuplacer more than once.

Tentative report card timeline

Districts should be able to access the private report card in SD-STARS from Aug. 26-Sept. 2. During this time, district accountability teams are encouraged to review and validate their data. On Sept. 27, the department will provide districts with final data. Districts can share this data with key stakeholders and boards of education. The public release of the State Report Card will occur on Oct. 4. Districts have until Oct. 17 to submit a formal appeal. The department will make decisions on formal appeals by Oct. 31.



About Us:

South Dakota STARS Connections is a bi-monthly publication for South Dakota administrators and teachers, produced by the South Dakota Department of Education. This publication is intended to communicate news and events regarding the South Dakota Student Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (SD-STARS), our Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

To view an online edition of this newsletter, go to doe.sd.gov/publications.aspx.

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STARS Accountability Reports & Tab To Be Taken Down

Districts may notice several reports under the Accountability section of the Reports tab missing. SPI Detail Panorama, Proficiency by Grade, AMO Performance Trends, Public AMO Report, and Historical Indicator Performance have all been temporarily removed and will be released with the private report card in late August. This allows the Department of Education to work on updating

the reports to reflect the changes in the 2015-16 report card.

In early August, the Accountability tab will also be removed for a short time while the department works to verify data in the accountability report card. The tab will appear again once the report card is ready for districts to review their data prior to the public release of the State Report Card.

SD-STARS Welcomes New Support Lead



The South Dakota Department of Education is pleased to welcome Brad Steckelberg to the SD-STARS team. Brad will serve as the Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Support Lead. He has experience in training users on software and is currently working towards a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in hospitality through Johnson and Wales University in Denver, Colo.

Brad is excited to join the SD-STARS team and ready to help districts with any questions they may have related to SD-STARS!

Intern Reflection on SD-STARS: By Sara Boocock

I am going to be a junior at the University of South Dakota, majoring in Elementary Education. I didn't always want to be a teacher. However, during my junior year of high school I discovered teaching was my dream job. I have spent countless hours in classrooms, sometimes teaching my own lesson plans, other times just helping out.

Stepping into this internship was a scary, yet exciting experience for me. On my first day I walked in with an open mind, ready to learn. I didn't know about all the work that went on behind the scenes until I started my internship with the Department of Education. Prior to this internship, I knew little about SD-STARS. So far this summer, I have worked mainly with the reports within SD-STARS. This will help boost my knowledge of data and the importance behind making data-driven decisions. I will carry this knowledge with me long after this internship is over.

It took me a while to get used to navigating SD-STARS, but as time went on, I got the hang of it. What I found most interesting about SD-STARS, is how different each of the reports are.

There is process behind the making of each report. Each report provides its own valuable information that educators can use on a daily basis. This information can be used to make everyday decisions in classrooms. Educators can look at these reports to help determine where their students are and to target areas for improvement. Being able to know where students are academically is a vital part of ensuring students are prepared for college and future careers.

I am very eager to have my own classroom one day, and I am thankful to have had this internship. As a future teacher, I have set goals for myself as to the kind of teacher I would like to be. One of those goals is to make sure that each of my students is provided an equal opportunity to learn. I am glad that I know there are resources to help me with this endeavor. I will use the reports and other resources within SD-STARS to help me improve my students' learning opportunities. Overall, this internship was a great experience for me, and I will hold onto everything I have learned here.



Changes to SD-EDGG, STARS Advisory Group Formed

The South Dakota Education Data Governance Group is being integrated into an existing interdepartmental work group within the Department of Education.

Since its inception, SD-EDGG has brought together individuals from South Dakota school districts and the Department of Education to recommend policies and procedures governing the quality, availability, use and security of educational data. However, this work often overlapped with the work of an existing interdepartmental group. By integrating data governance into the interdepartmental group, the department can streamline

the work and infuse data governance into department routines.

Due to the transition, the SD-STARS team will bring together a STARS Advisory Group this fall. This group will give district representatives and SD-STARS users the opportunity to provide feedback on system development, operations and more. This group will function like the Infinite Campus Advisory Group and other district-involved groups at the department. More details will follow. If you are interested in being a part of the STARS Advisory Group, email STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

ASK THE EXPERTS

Where do I go to access the public report card?

The 2015-16 report card is tentatively scheduled to be released on Oct. 4. and will be available here: <http://doe.sd.gov/>. Towards the bottom of the homepage is a link titled "State Report Card," which will take website users to the public State Report Card.

It is important to note that only public report cards should be shared with outside parties (i.e. school boards). The internal report cards in SD-STARS contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and unsuppressed data, making them inappropriate to share with the public.

Why can't I see the accountability report card?

If you are having trouble accessing the accountability report card, you may not have the correct permissions. First contact your STARS Account Manager (SAM.) If you are unsure who your SAM is, contact STARSHelp@state.sd.us. Someone will contact you and help you get the correct permissions to access the report card within SD-STARS.

Why can't I find the District Access Tracker spreadsheet in the Training Center?

With the release of the SD-STARS District Access Tracker report, the Excel version has been retired and removed from SD-STARS. STARS Account Managers (SAMs) should now use this report to help manage permissions for accounts in SD-STARS. The report can be found in the

Other Reports section under the Reports tab in SD-STARS. For more information about this report, see the June 2016 SD-STARS newsletter or check out the Report DIG in the Training Center.

When will 2016 state assessment results be available in SD-STARS?

Good news! SD-STARS now contains 2016 state assessment data, including Smarter Balanced, DSTEP Science, and ACCESS. Districts can see the data when they run assessment reports in SD-STARS. The reports are downloadable, which is the easiest way to use them to analyze the data.

Can I compare how my students did on last year's state assessments and this year's state assessments?

Under the Reports tab within SD-STARS, look under the Assessment Reports heading and click on AS.007.01-A-Assessment Feedback Report. From there, select a school year, district, school, test name, subject and a tested grade. On the Student List sub-report, users can see the results of students from the selected year. Scale score, raw score (DSTEP assessments only), and claim/indicator level results are displayed. To see aggregate results over several years, click on the Indicators and Proficiency links at the top of the report.



SD-STARs Team Participates In Trainings

The SD-STARs team is keeping busy by attending several trainings for different groups the Department of Education works with.

In July, the team attended several trainings focusing on what SD-STARs can do to help support School Support Teams (SST) in the work they do with Focus and Priority schools. Hosted by the Division of Educational Services and Support, this training focused on how to lead an effective data retreat. Other areas of the department also provided resources that SSTs can refer to in their work with schools.

The team also presented at the Title I Conference, "Engaging and Supporting All Learners," which was held Aug. 1-2. The presentation focused on reports within SD-STARs that educators can use to help them in their day-to-day activities as they apply to Title services.

A training later this month will be conducted for Department of Education Special Education Programs

and State Performance Plan (SPP) coordinators. The training will explore what SD-STARs has to offer state and district special education staff.

The Division of Career and Technical Education coordinates professional development for school counselors. In order to determine where SD-STARs can assist school counselors, the SD-STARs team will give trainers an overview of the system as well as an in-depth look at the Early Warning Report, which was released earlier this summer. Once trainers have some background, they can incorporate SD-STARs into future training for school counselors.

The SD-STARs team is always happy to attend trainings. If you have any ideas your district would like to see for future trainings, please contact us at STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

SD-STARs Login To Change This Fall

The most common problem users experience with SD-STARs is forgotten passwords. It is easy to forget passwords when educators use many different websites with different login information. The SD-STARs team has been working with the K12 Data Center to come up with a solution.

Late this fall, the SD-STARs login process will change for most users. Users with an @k12.sd.us email address will go to the SD-STARs page as normal and type in their email address as their username. However, the password will no longer be SD-STARs specific. Instead, it will be the same password used to log in to email

and other K12 Data Center resources. "By making the logins the same, we hope to reduce the most common frustration for users," said Sara Kock, a project manager with SD-STARs. For those users without an @k12.sd.us email address, the login process will remain the same.

The switchover will occur sometime in October or November. Once the switchover occurs, forgotten passwords will need to be resolved by the district Technology Coordinator and the K12 Data Center.

More information about this change will be available in the October SD-STARs newsletter.

Certified STARs trainers available to districts

STARs Certified Trainers are available to provide trainings to districts. Trainers have been trained by DOE staff on the SD-STARs system and are kept up-to-date on system developments and new reports. Districts can contact the trainer directly to request a training either at a cost to the district or as a part of their state-supported professional development.

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