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August 2, 2011

David Harmon
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Av
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Harmon:

Thank you for the guidance provided during our conference call with your co-workers on July 29th. That conversation focused on the South Dakota Department of Education's amendment request dated July 22, 2011 pertaining to our State graduation target rate for AYP accountability purposes. As per that discussion, South Dakota will amend our accountability workbook as follows:

Other Academic Indicators

Adequate Yearly Progress for the Other Academic Indicators is determined for each school and district grade span for its student group of all students.

For accountability purposes, a school or district grade span that includes grade 12 will be expected to meet or exceed the State's graduation rate target of 80% or show progress of at least two percentage points. This target rate will increase at a rate of 1.5% per year until reaching the State's graduation rate goal of 85%. A school or district grade span that does not enroll students in grade 12 must have an average daily attendance rate that will meet or exceed the state's minimum attendance rate expectation of 94% or show progress.

Another conference call was conducted today (August 2, 2011). During that phone conversation, South Dakota's proposed AMOs for reading were approved. Your suggestions are reflected in the chart below:

Annual measurable objectives for each grade span and subject area:

	K-8	9-12
School Year	Reading	Reading
2002-2003	65%	50%
2003-2004	65%	50%
2004-2005	78%	66%
2005-2006	78%	66%
2006-2007	82%	72%
2007-2008	82%	72%
2008-2009	69%	62%
2009-2010	69%	62%
2010-2011	69%	62%
2011-2012	79%	75%
2012-2013	89%	88%
2013-2014	100%	100%

As per discussions surrounding South Dakota's AMOs for math, South Dakota plans to file a request for a waiver concerning those objectives.

Thanks so much for all the assistance provided. If you have questions or concerns regarding our workbook, please contact Janet Ricketts, director of our Office of Educational Services and Support, at (605) 773-4689 or janet.ricketts@state.sd.us

Sincerely,



Dr. Melody Schopp
Secretary