

MEMORANDUM

To: Public School Superintendents and Principals

From: Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary of Education

Date: May 3, 2013

Re: Opportunity to participate in 2013-14 Principal Effectiveness Pilot Project

South Dakota school districts and schools are invited to participate in the South Dakota Principal Effectiveness Pilot for the 2013-14 school year. Pilot participants will further their district's understanding of processes and procedures related to principal evaluation and provide valuable feedback to school leaders across the state. **The deadline to apply is May 17.**

For this pilot, the South Dakota Department of Education is accepting both district-level and school-level applications. School-level applications may only be submitted by individual schools that have separately applied for inclusion in the 2013-14 Teacher Effectiveness Pilot.

The Department of Education has been working with a principal evaluation work group and the South Dakota Commission on Teaching and Learning to develop a model principal evaluation system that:

1. Complies with ESEA waiver requirements to establish a principal evaluation system based on both professional practice and quantitative measures of student growth; and
2. Complies with ESEA waiver requirements to develop an evaluation system that differentiates principal performance at various levels.

Pilot participants will be the first South Dakota districts to base principal evaluations on a set of recommended professional standards that define and set expectations for principal performance. The recommended evaluation system also incorporates quantitative measures of student growth as one measure of principal effectiveness. Pilot participants will experiment with the model evaluation system. Feedback from pilots will be used to make any necessary adjustments prior to 2014-15 when the model system will be available statewide and waiver requirements related to principal effectiveness kick in.

Pilot districts will receive state-paid professional development and in-district support and coaching throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Pilot districts will also participate in a formal research effort led by the University of South Dakota. This research will look at the process over a three-year period to help understand the longer term impact of the new evaluation system.

The pilot will include 12 sites, representing various sizes, regions, and administrative structures. If you are interested in joining the pilot, please follow [this link to complete the application](#).

If you have questions about the pilot process or application, please contact Carla Leingang at 605.773.4638 or Carla.Leingang@state.sd.us.

Thank you for your service and commitment to South Dakota students.