



south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Learning. Leadership. Service.



2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Secretary of Education


Everything we do in the education field comes down to one thing: student achievement. If students are learning, we can be proud of our work. In South Dakota, we have many things to be proud of: Our students consistently outperform their peers on national assessments. We have a high graduation rate, and we rank among the top states in the nation for students going on to postsecondary.

Credit for these achievements goes to our local school districts. At the state level, we seek to implement strategies that provide schools with direction and support based on current research and best practices. These solutions provide a solid base from which to grow – whether it's setting the bar for graduation, funding online assessment to measure student comprehension, providing training for educators to enhance their skills, or offering students resources for career planning.

Read on to find out how the Department of Education is impacting student learning across the state.

/s/ Sincerely,

Thomas J. Oster
Secretary of Education



All students must take
Algebra I, Algebra II
and Geometry.*

* With approval, a student may substitute
another math course for Algebra II or
Geometry, but not both.

U.S. manufacturing leads the world in global innovation, but it is essential to inspire a continuing pipeline of students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers to sustain our technological edge and compete in the global economy.

--National Association of Manufacturers

All students must take Biology, a Physical Science, and Chemistry or Physics.*

* With approval, a student may substitute another lab science for the Chemistry/Physics requirement.

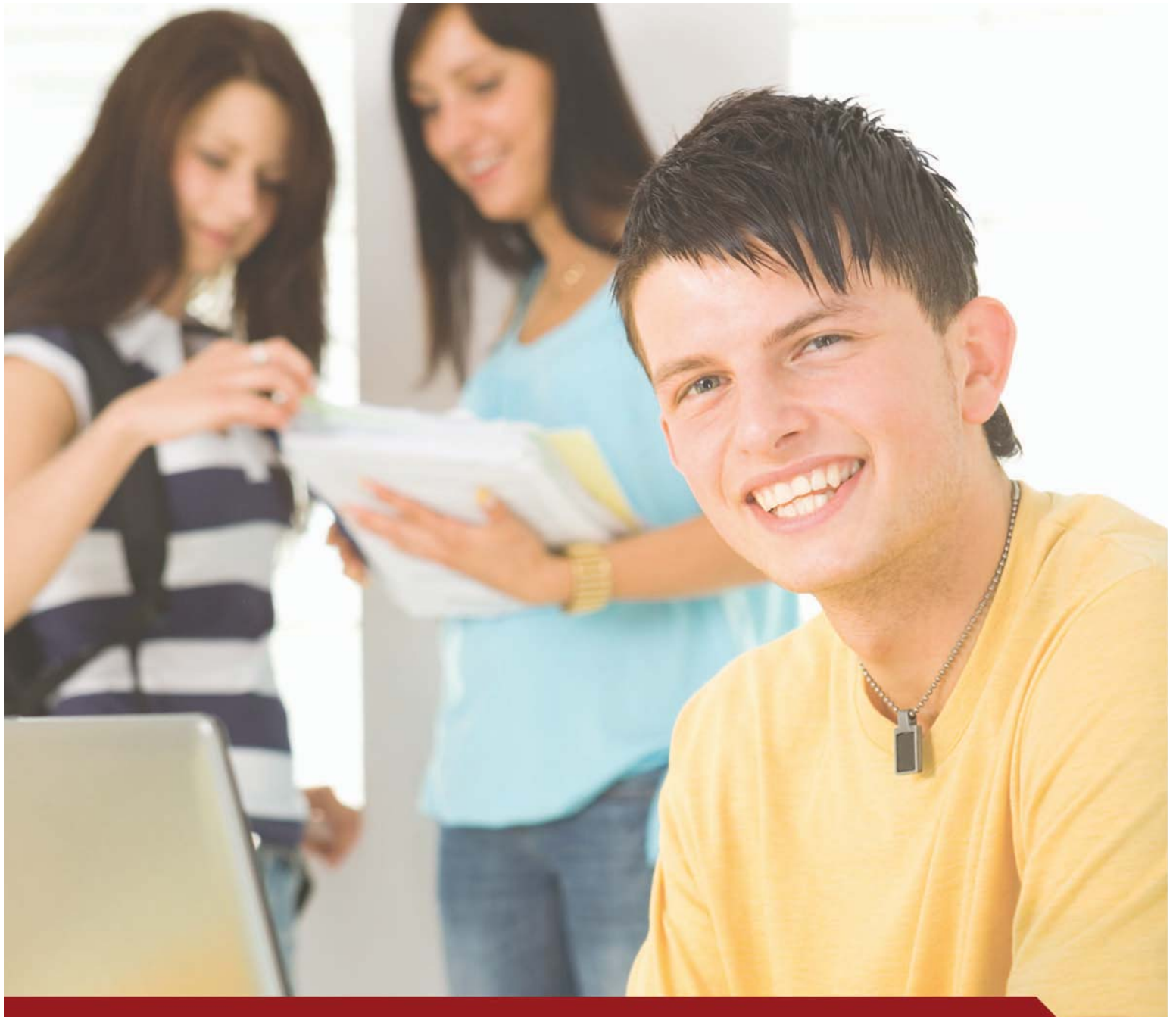
Raising the bar for grads

High school students will be taking more math and science courses under new graduation requirements established by the South Dakota Board of Education. Students also will have more flexibility to choose courses appropriate to their individual academic and career goals.

The department devoted much of the 2009-10 school year to developing the new requirements, which will take effect with students entering 9th grade in 2010.

Under the new requirements, each student must create a Personal Learning Plan. The purpose of the plan is to help students make the connection between the courses they take today and the careers they will have tomorrow. A future architect may elect to take a CTE course such as computer-aided design in high school, while a future sales rep for a multi-national corporation might opt to take foreign language.

Average ACT score			
	South Dakota	National	% of SD grads tested
2009	22.0	21.1	74%
2008	22.0	21.1	77%
2007	21.9	21.2	76%
2006	21.8	21.1	75%
2005	21.5	20.9	76%



The number of students in South Dakota's public university system requiring remedial work in math has dropped by 8 percent since the Opportunity Scholarship program started in 2004. English remediation also has declined by 3 percent in those years.

--South Dakota Board of Regents

Expanding learning opportunities in CTE

In partnership with South Dakota EPSCoR, the department was able to award \$200,000 in grants to eight schools to enhance, expand and develop new initiatives in secondary career cluster programs. The emphasis of these projects is in four career clusters: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Information Technology; Health Science; and Agriculture Science.

Grants funded a variety of projects, ranging from creating dual-credit opportunities in Information Technology to supporting cutting-edge courses in pre-engineering and biosciences.

South Dakota EPSCoR's mission is to strengthen research and education in STEM areas in order to drive science-based economic development in the state. The organization's support came at a much-needed time, when state funding for career and technical education efforts had run out.

LEARN MORE:

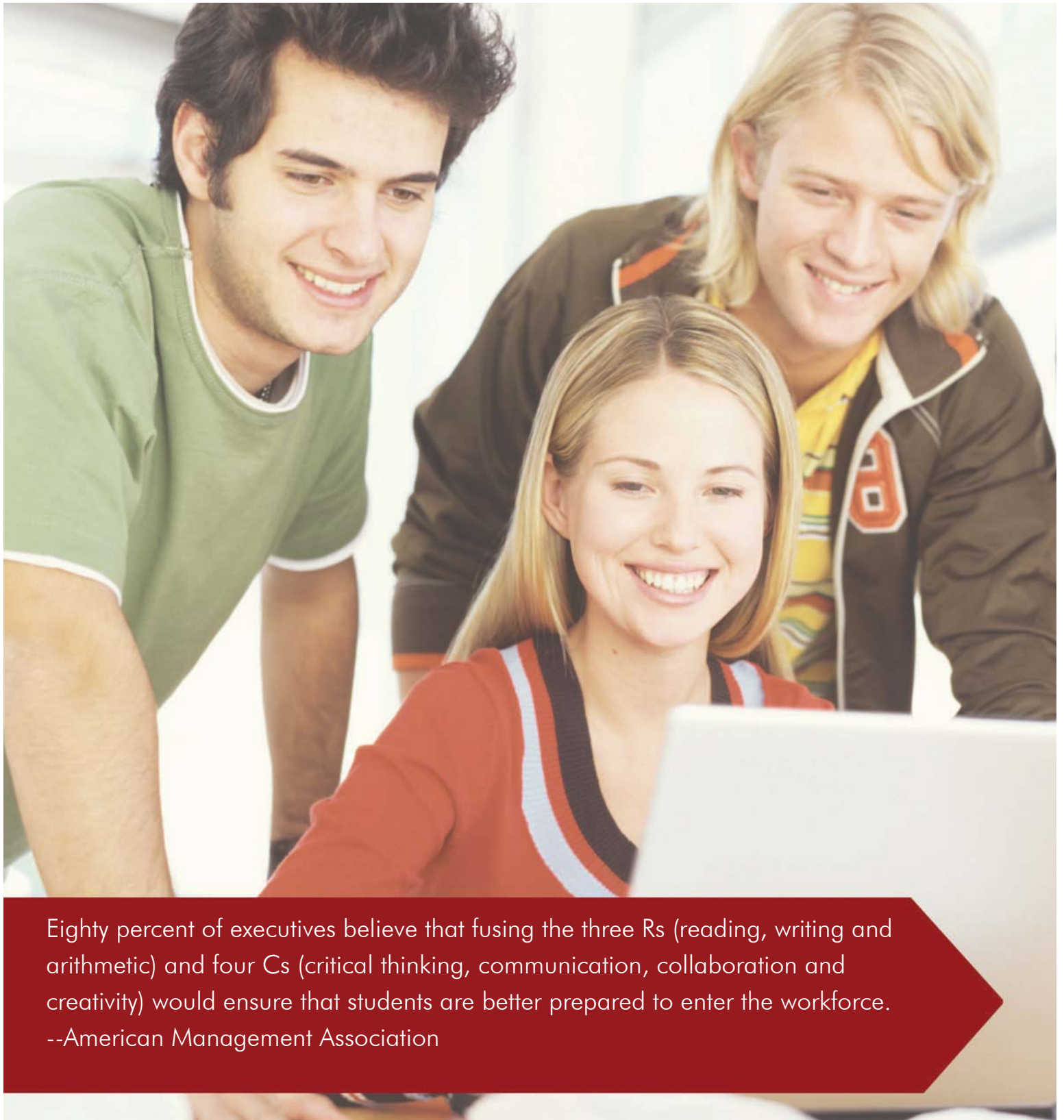
www.sdepscor.org

Taking students deep into world of science

Over the past three summers, the state's Davis-Bahcall Scholarship has paid for 22 students to spend five weeks of their summer digging deep into the world of underground science at the Sanford Lab at Homestake in Lead, Gran Sasso National Underground Laboratory in Italy, and Princeton University in New Jersey. It's a chance-of-a-lifetime for these talented young South Dakotans to interact with distinguished scientists from across the world. The program is made possible by the financial support of 3M.

LEARN MORE:

www.doe.sd.gov



Eighty percent of executives believe that fusing the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) and four Cs (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity) would ensure that students are better prepared to enter the workforce.

--American Management Association



This isn't your grandma's high school

Schools across the state have begun to adopt elements of High School 2025, an initiative launched by the Department of Education in 2009.

High School 2025 provides a framework of key practices to prepare students for success in today's highly competitive global economy. These practices go beyond what we think of as "traditional" education. They also focus on building 21st century skills and making connections between high school, higher education and the workforce.

What does this mean for students?

Under High School 2025, students engage in learning experiences that are both rigorous and meaningful. Learning experiences are hands-on and project-based. They challenge students to become critical thinkers, good communicators and adept at collaborating to find solutions.

LEARN MORE:

www.highschool2025.com

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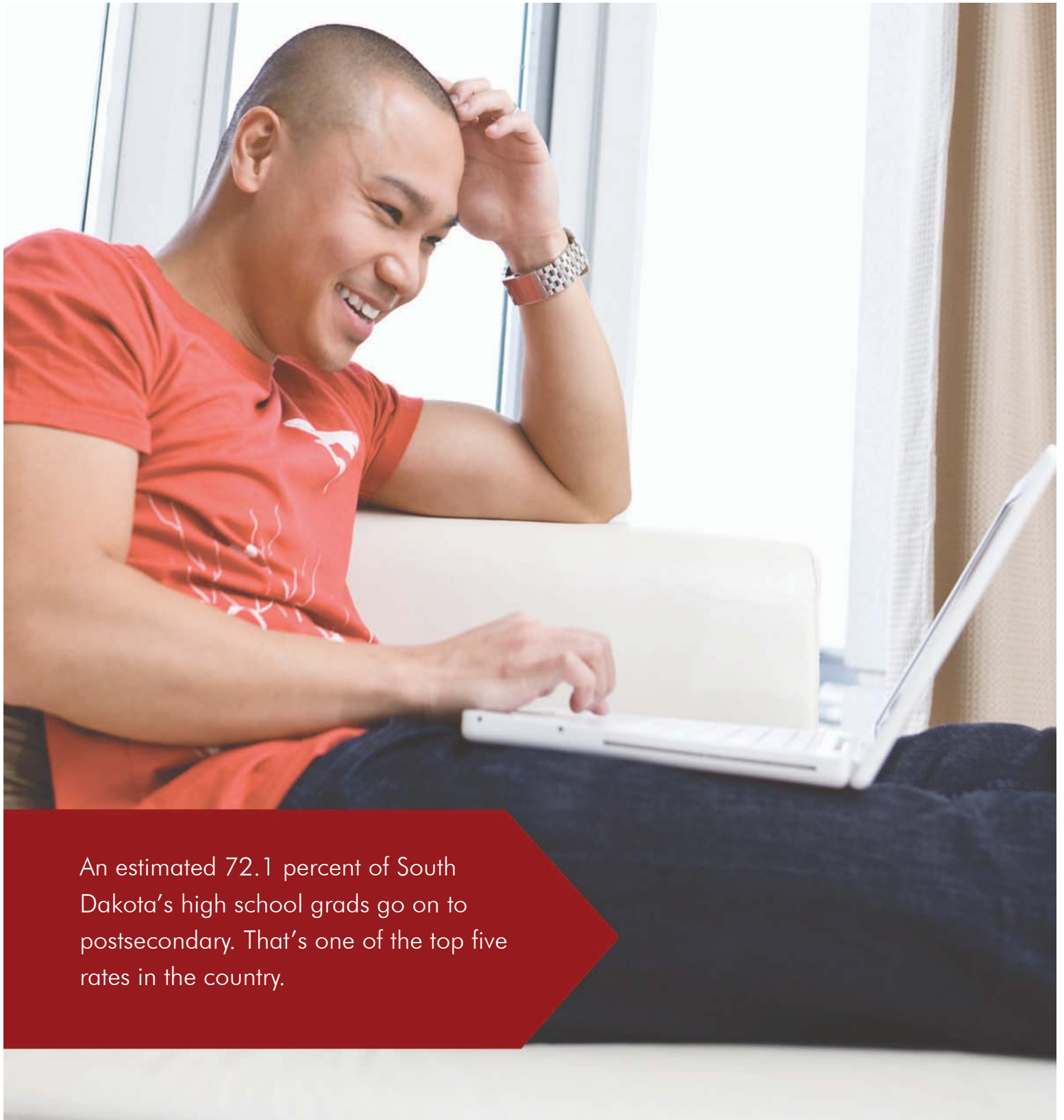
**Districts offering
Senior Experience**

44

**Districts using
Teachers as Advisors**

125

**Districts with students using
South Dakota Virtual School**



An estimated 72.1 percent of South Dakota's high school grads go on to postsecondary. That's one of the top five rates in the country.



LEARN MORE:

www.SDMyLife.com

Making the most of MyLife

Career development for middle and high school students took a giant leap forward as schools began to fully utilize the SDMyLife website. The online academic and career planning tool is provided free to schools by the Department of Education and its partner the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation.

What does this mean for students?

Students use SDMyLife to research careers and determine what's a good fit based on their interests and abilities. They also can get South Dakota specific information about postsecondary opportunities, scholarships and the job market.

What does this mean for schools?

Schools use the system to administer the mandatory 8th grade interest inventory and 10th grade skills assessment. They also can use it to meet the new requirement that all students develop a Personal Learning Plan.

To complement the website, the department produced a career planning magazine, which targets high school students and features South Dakota professionals.



Course numbering 101

The department laid the groundwork for a common course numbering system to be used statewide. Under the new system, course numbers will be standard from one district to the next. The result: a common understanding of the content of courses and consistency in student transcripts across South Dakota.

Moving to consistent standards

Work on the Common Core State Standards continued throughout 2009-10, with the final product unveiled in June. South Dakota was one of 49 states and U.S. territories to join the initiative. Now, it's up to states to determine whether they will adopt these standards as their own. As of July 1, 2010, 23 states have adopted the Common Core academic standards.

The Common Core standards are designed to provide a clear and consistent understanding of expectations for student learning – whether you're in South Dakota or South Carolina. An initial review of the standards reveals that they offer the necessary rigor and align well with South Dakota's current standards in English language arts and to math standards that were being developed prior to the initiative's launch.

Moving forward, the South Dakota Board of Education will make the final decision as to whether the state will adopt the Common Core standards.

Improving writing skills

State law requires that 5th, 7th and 10th grade students are tested on their writing skills. Feedback from the field told us that the current writing assessment was not effective. In the spring of 2010, the department initiated the WriteToLearn pilot.

WriteToLearn is an online, formative assessment. The system provides teachers with immediate feedback so they can modify instruction based on students' needs.

Thanks to the successful pilot, the department plans to implement WriteToLearn statewide in 2010-11. Not only does the system provide timely, valuable feedback, it also saves the state money in comparison to the old paper-and-pencil method.

What does this mean for students?

With a more efficient evaluation tool in place, teachers will have an immediate understanding of student comprehension and skill (test will be administered three times throughout the year), and can modify their instruction accordingly. Better instruction should lead to better student performance.

Seventy-five percent of students scored proficient or advanced on the 2009 Dakota STEP reading test.



Across the United States, research has shown that students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without libraries.

--School Libraries Work! 2008

SWIM to support student learning

Finding qualified school librarians can be especially challenging in rural areas. That's why the South Dakota State Library teamed up with its counterparts in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana to apply for a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The SWIM collaborative received the grant, which is funding 80 percent of the tuition for 14 South Dakotans to continue their education. Eight will pursue master's degrees in library science, and six will pursue a K-12 school library media endorsement.

Following completion of the program, scholarship recipients are required to work at least two years in professional library positions in one of the four states.

Elevating the teaching profession

During the 2010 legislative session, the Department of Education worked hand-in-hand with the South Dakota Education Association to craft a law that calls for development of teaching standards for South Dakota.

The standards are expected to provide a clear expectation of the knowledge and skills necessary for teachers to be effective.

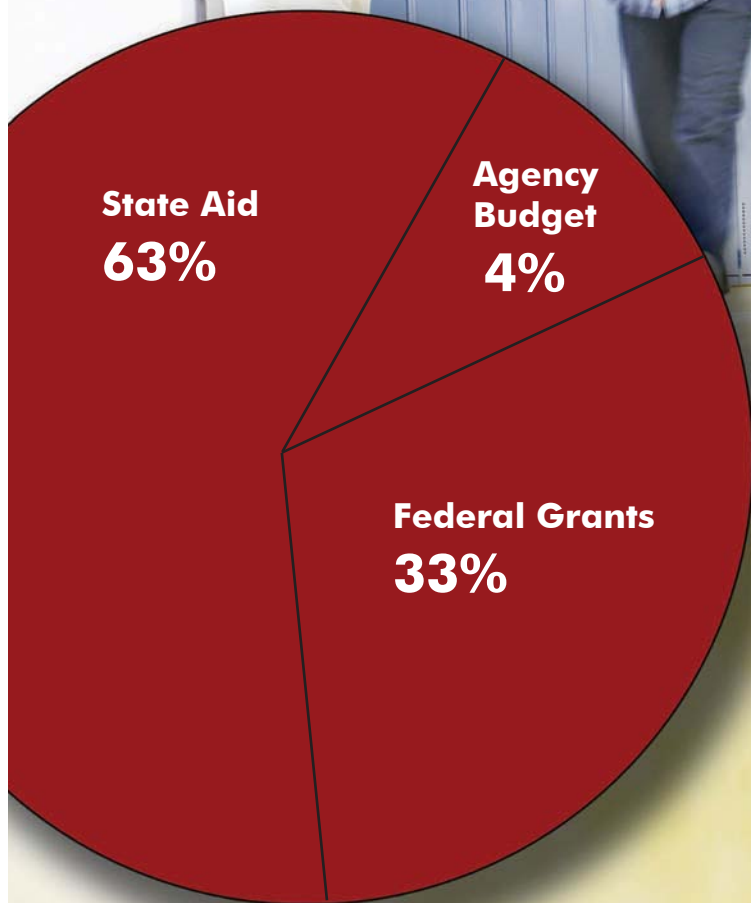
A group of education professionals and parents has begun the work of developing standards. Once that work is completed, the group will tackle development of a model evaluation tool for schools to use.

A second part of the law requires that districts evaluate teacher performance annually for teachers who have been on the job for one to three years, and every other year for those in their 4th year of teaching and beyond.

Teacher certification became a paperless process in 2009-10, resulting in a \$10,000 annual savings to the department.



Composition of FY 10 Budget



Per-Student Allocation

FY 2010	\$4,804.60
FY 2009	\$4,664.66*
FY 2008	\$4,528.80
FY 2007	\$4,364.85**
FY 2006	\$4,237.72

*or \$4,642.02 if a district fails to increase teacher salaries and benefits by 3 percent

**plus one-time allocation of \$53.85 per student based on district making AYP

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helps schools go green

Fourteen South Dakota school districts received \$1.7 million in grant funds to purchase “greener” school buses or retrofit older models with devices that reduce toxic emissions. The result? Reduced exposure to pollution for school children.

Funding K-12 education

The Department of Education’s budget for FY 10 was \$678,114,193, which includes the special appropriations for sparsity and consolidation incentives. Each year, the budget consists primarily of funds that flow through the department to local school districts in the form of state aid or federal grants. State aid accounts for the largest share of the budget.

Department of Education Budget Breakdown (FY 10)

State Aid

State Aid to General Education	\$348,613,560
State Aid to Special Education	\$46,795,542
Technology in Schools	\$9,289,169
State Aid to Postsecondary Institutes	\$19,767,425
TOTAL STATE AID	\$424,465,696

Grants (Distributed by DOE)

General Administration	\$4,542,947
Career and Technical Education	\$8,226,763
Curriculum, Technology & Assessment	\$8,578,816
Accreditation and Teacher Quality	\$15,633,994
Educational Services and Support	\$188,912,033
State Library	\$271,570
TOTAL GRANTS	\$226,166,123

Operational Budget \$27,482,374

GRAND TOTAL **\$678,114,193**

Department of Education Management Team

Thomas J. Oster, Secretary
Dr. Melody Schopp, Deputy Secretary
Deborah Barnett, Director, Accreditation and Teacher Quality
Tamara Darnall, Director, Finance and Management
Dr. Wade Pogany, Director, Assessment and Technology Systems
Janet Ricketts, Director, Educational Services and Support
Dan Siebersma, Director, State Library
Mary Stadick Smith, Communications Director
LuAnn Werdell, Director, Indian Education
Mark Wilson, Director, Curriculum, Career and Technical Education

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Donald Kirkegaard, Vice President, Britton
Glenna Fouberg, Aberdeen
Dr. Richard Gowen, Rapid City
Phyllis Heineman, Sioux Falls
Marilyn Hoyt, Huron
Stacy Phelps, Rapid City
Terry Sabers, Mitchell
Patricia Simmons, Sioux Falls

State Library Board Members

Linda Whitney, Chair, Forestburg
Sam Gingerich, Permanent member, Pierre (representing Board of Regents)
Monte Loos, Rapid City
Diane Olson, Mitchell
Carol Rosenthal, Sioux Falls
Judy Trzynka, Watertown
Lesta Turchen, Hill City

