

Groton Area School District 06-6 2015 Report Card

Submitted by Joe Schwan, Superintendent
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Since the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act, the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) has collected and reported information about the performance of South Dakota schools, including information from standardized assessments. Recently, the adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics prompted the adoption of a new assessment, the Smarter Balance Assessment, which was administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11 during the spring of 2015.

Additional information on school performance is gathered from the American College Test (ACT) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and other locally administered assessments. The ACT is paid for and taken by the majority of Groton Area’s junior and senior students and is considered as a primary component of the admission requirements for our state’s post-secondary college institutions.

This letter is intended to serve as a brief overview of our District’s scores. The reports can be viewed in their entirety online and are available in print in the Groton Area School District Office, Groton Area MS/HS Principal’s Office, Elementary Principal’s Office, MS/HS Library, Elementary Library, and Groton City Hall.

Attendance

A recent change to how the South Dakota Department of Education tracks school attendance was approved by the State Board of Education. The change requires districts to track the number of students who were in attendance for 94% or more of the days that the student was enrolled in school. Groton Area Elementary had an attendance rate of 83.03% compared to the state attendance rate of 81.08%. Groton Area Middle School had an attendance rate of 74.07% compared to the state attendance rate of 76.47%

State Assessment Reports

The information in the following chart reflects the percentage of students tested that achieved at levels three or four in the content areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Each content area shows the percentages of students for Groton Area compared to the same grade-level students across South Dakota.

Percentage of Students Scoring at Levels 3 or 4

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Groton Area	State	Groton Area	State
Grade 3	83%	48.6%	74%	51.4%
Grade 4	85%	45.4%	63%	45.6%
Grade 5	81%	48.9%	49%	37.2%
Grade 6	55%	45.3%	41%	34.5%
Grade 7	64%	49.3%	52%	39.4%
Grade 8	78%	48.1%	49%	39.0%
Grade 11	66%	59.3%	54%	38.5%

Graduation and High School Completion

The high school completion indicator includes a calculation of those students who graduated “on-time” with their four-year cohort as well as those that were able to complete the graduation requirements but that required more than four years to do so. Groton Area High School earned a completion rate of 98.18% compared to the state average of 90.06%

College and Career Readiness

Groton Area students continue to be prepared for college or career after graduating high school. The most accepted measure of college readiness in our geographic area is the ACT test.

Average ACT Scores Trends

Grad Year	Total Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2007	31	6,975	21.7	21.3	22.3	21.7	21.7	22.1	22.0	21.9	22.1	21.9
2008	39	6,959	20.7	21.2	23.1	21.9	22.7	22.3	22.3	22.0	22.3	22.0
2009	41	6,676	22.3	21.2	23.5	21.8	23.8	22.3	23.7	22.0	23.5	22.0
2010	35	6,871	22.5	21.1	22.7	21.6	23.6	22.0	23.2	21.9	23.1	21.8
2011	41	6,983	21.9	21.0	22.7	21.8	23.2	22.0	22.9	22.1	22.8	21.8
2012	48	9,878	23.2	21.0	24.4	21.8	24.0	22.1	23.7	22.0	24.0	21.8
2013	32	6,723	21.5	20.9	22.7	21.8	23.3	22.1	22.3	22.1	22.6	21.9
2014	31	6,724	21.2	21.0	23.2	21.8	22.9	22.3	22.6	22.1	22.6	21.9
2015	45	6,615	21.7	21.0	23.8	21.7	22.6	22.4	22.3	22.1	22.6	21.9

School Performance Index (SPI) Ratings

The school performance index is a 100 point rating systems used to measure and report school performance based on specific, predetermined criteria. There are two distinct indices used, one for elementary and middle schools and one for high schools. The 100 points are divided into subcategories of student achievement (80.00 points) and attendance (20.00 points) for the elementary and middle schools and the subcategories of student achievement (50.00 points), high school completion (25.00 points) and college and career readiness (25.00 points) for the high schools.

Groton Area Elementary earned 57.89 points for academic achievement and 16.61 points for attendance for a total combined school performance index rating of 74.50. **We are pleased to report that Groton Area Elementary has earned the designation of a South Dakota Exemplary School awarded to only the top 5% of elementary schools in the state.**

Groton Area Middle School earned 45.36 points for academic achievement and 14.81 points for attendance for a total combined school performance index rating of 60.17.

Groton Area High School earned 29.60 points for academic achievement, 24.77 points for high school completion, and 20.56 points for college and career readiness for a total combined school performance index rating of 74.93.

The district will provide full print copies of the accountability report and report card in the Superintendent’s office, the Principals’ offices, school libraries, and Groton City Hall.

This information and more is publicly available online at <http://www.doe.sd.gov>. Click the state report card link.