

Groton Area School District 06-6

2014 Report Card

Submitted by Joe Schwan, Superintendent
September 22, 2014

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, the Dakota STEP test. Recently, the adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics has prompted the adoption of a new assessment, the Smarter Balance Assessment, which was administered on a trial basis to students in grades 3-8 and 11 during the spring of 2014. Consequently, there is no reportable assessment data available for English Language Arts and Mathematics for 2014. Complete assessment results are expected from the assessments to be administered in 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). The ACT is paid for and taken by the majority of Groton Area's junior and senior students and is considered as a component of the admission requirements for our state's post-secondary college institutions. The NAEP is a federally funded assessment given to random grade levels and subject areas as a means for nation-wide data collection and provides a basis for us to compare South Dakota students with their counterparts in other states and for a comparison between students in the United States with their international counterparts.

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 District Office, Groton Area MS/HS Principal's Office, Elementary Principal's Office, MS/HS Library, Elementary Library, and Groton City Hall.

School Performance Index (SPI) Ratings

The school performance index is a 100 point rating system 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. *Note: These school performance index ratings are the same as reported in 2013 as the result of a Department of Education waiver prompted by the implementation of a new statewide assessment, the Smarter Balance Assessment.*

Groton Area Elementary earned a school performance index rating of 90.06 and is classified as a "progressing school."

Groton Area Middle School earned a school performance index rating of 88.53 and is classified as a "progressing school."

Groton Area High School earned a school performance index rating of 89.61 and is classified as an "exemplary school," a classification reserved for the top 5% of South Dakota schools.

Further information on the new school performance index ratings can be found on the Department of Education website, <http://www.doe.sd.gov/Accountability/spi.aspx>.

State Assessment Reports

The adoption and implementation of the new Smarter Balance test means that there will be no reportable assessment results for 2014. Other measures of school accountability, such as graduation rates, high school completion rates, and attendance are still being reported in 2014.

Graduation and High School Completion

The graduation rate is measured as a percentage of students who successfully earn a high school diploma in four years. The four-year cohort graduation rate for Groton Area was 93.33%.

High school completion is calculated to include students who return after their fourth year of high school to earn a high school diploma or who successfully earn a GED. The high school completion rate for Groton Area was 100.0%

College and Career Readiness

Currently, the Groton Area School District indicator for College and Career Readiness is the ACT test scores for students who have taken the test. Students are considered college-ready if their ACT score for math is 20 or greater and if their ACT score for English is 18 or greater. Those marks are also used to determine if students require remedial instruction upon enrollment to a post-secondary institution in South Dakota. 83.87% of Groton Area Students taking the ACT scored 20 or greater in math and 87.10% scored 18 or greater in English.

Attendance

Attendance rates for the state were 95.95%. The Groton Area School District attendance rate was 96.31%. Separately, the Groton Area Elementary attendance rate was 96.57% and the Groton Area Middle School attendance rate was 95.72%. Attendance is not included as an accountability measure for high schools.

Highly Qualified Teachers

All classes for the 2013-2014 school year were taught by highly qualified teachers under the requirements set forth by the South Dakota Department of Education.

The district will provide full print copies of the accountability report and report card in the superintendent's office, principals' offices, school libraries, and Groton City Hall. Results of each grade tested, two-year trend data, and state comparisons can be found on the full report.

This information is publicly available at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/reportcard/index.aspx>, <http://www.doe.sd.gov/oats/NAEP.aspx>, and <http://www.doe.sd.gov/reportcard/listnew/>

