

Department of Education 11/06/2025

Agency's Mission Statement: The Department of Education (DOE) is dedicated to enhancing learning through leadership and service.

Aspiration: All students leave the K-12 education system ready for college, careers, and life.

Summary FY 25 Performance Measures: Many key indicators showed improvement in SY 2024-25. That includes growth rates on the ELA and Math assessments in grades 3-8. Statewide attendance continued to nudge upwards. The four-year cohort graduation rate increased more than two percentage points while the Native American graduation rate jumped 6.9 points. High school completion (not shown below and encompassing those who take longer to graduate or earn a GED) remains strong at 91%. The Native American subgroup experienced increases in several areas, and the DOE continues to focus on improvement. Notably the DOE will be transitioning to new college and workforce readiness indicators moving forward, moving away from assessment-based indicators towards more comprehensive views of a student's preparation. Finally, while Grade 8 math performance increased slightly Grade 3 ELA performance dropped. DOE expects ELA proficiencies to improve in a more dramatic fashion over the next few years as the Science of Reading is restored in elementary schools. New math standards, now under consideration, have the potential to produce positive effects in numeracy.

Goal 1: Students enter 4th grade proficient in reading.

	Performance Measures					FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Trend	Status	Actual	Target						
Grade 3 English Language Arts proficiency rate (state assessment)			44.97%	54.43%		48.38%	47.51%	45.74%	46.91%	44.97%
Elementary and middle school ELA growth rate (state assessment)			56.14%	61.26%			53.11%	52.96%	54.39%	56.14%

Agency comments regarding the accomplishment of Goal 1: Grade 3 is a critical milestone in a student's academic career. After 3rd grade, students are no longer just learning to read, they are reading to learn. The grade 3 proficiency level results were disappointing, but the growth shown above for SY 2024-25 (which reflects elementary and middle school grades) is movement in the right direction. We expect the the state's focus on implementing Science of Reading principles will have a positive impact on student literacy and ultimately state test scores.

Goal 2. Students enter 9th grade proficient in math.

	Performance Measures								
	<u>Trend</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Target</u>	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Grade 8 Math proficiency rate (state assessment)			41.70%	54.44%	40.16%	38.00%	38.44%	41.11%	41.70%
Elementary and middle school Math growth rate (state assessment)			50.83%	57.61%		47.49%	48.32%	50.16%	50.83%

Agency comments regarding the accomplishment of Goal 2: Grade 8 is also a critical milestone in a student's academic career, as students move on from calculation to algebraic concepts and higher level math. The above indicators show three years of positive growth, trending in an upward direction.

Goal 3. The academic success of Native American students is increased.

	Performance Measures								
	Trend	Status	Actual	Target	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Native American elementary and middle school attendance rate			59.78%	75.58%	59.37%	56.03%	57.09%	58.40%	59.78%
Grade 3 Native American English Language Arts proficiency rate			16.33%	54.45%	21.29%	18.96%	17.42%	18.35%	16.33%
Grade 8 Native American Math proficiency rate			9.30%	54.45%	12.45%	9.07%	9.29%	10.35%	9.30%
Native American elementary and middle school English Language Arts growth rate			34.84%	55.81%		35.25%	32.37%	33.98%	34.84%
Native American elementary and middle school Math growth rate			29.50%	51.25%		28.01%	29.98%	29.57%	29.50%
Native American four-year cohort graduation rate			53.21%	92.30%	44.97%	45.80%	48.36%	46.35%	53.21%
Native American College readiness rate English Language Arts (state assessment, ACT, or Accuplacer)			35.75%	57.47%	43.87%	21.89%	40.22%	37.83%	35.75%
Native American College readiness rate Math (state assessment, ACT, or Accuplacer)			9.41%	40.27%	21.85%	14.48%	15.29%	11.51%	9.41%

Agency comments regarding the accomplishment of Goal 3: The Department of Education tracks the progress of various subgroups of students, including Native American students, who represent the largest minority subgroup based on race/ethnicity (roughly 10 percent of the public school student population). Several tracked measures saw growth, notably the graduation rate. While these increases are positive, the metrics for this subgroup of students are below that of the All Students group. One additional note: Data for the college and workforce readiness measures are one year behind.

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Goal 4. Students graduate high school ready for postsecondary and the workforce.

	Performance Measures					FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Trend	Status	Actual	Target						
Four-year cohort graduation rate			86.49%	90.66%		82.89%	82.15%	84.05%	84.05%	86.49%
College readiness rate English Language Arts (state assessment, ACT, or Accuplacer)			67.37%	70.17%		71.82%	62.96%	68.80%	67.04%	67.37%
College readiness rate Math (state assessment, ACT, or Accuplacer)			45.17%	54.60%		56.42%	53.67%	47.01%	44.96%	45.17%
Workforce readiness rate (National Career Readiness Certificate silver and above)			72.98%	95.85%		71.20%	74.96%	73.56%	73.34%	72.98%

Agency comments regarding the accomplishment of Goal 4: South Dakota's four-year graduation rate increased in SY 2024-25. The high school completion rate (not shown above and encompassing students who take longer to graduate or earn a GED) remains strong at 91%. DOE will be moving to a more comprehensive look at college and workforce readiness measures as reflected in the advanced honors endorsements, as opposed to using only test scores. Note: Data for the college and workforce readiness measures are one year behind.

Goal 5. Students attend school regularly.

	Performance Measures					FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Trend	Status	Actual	Target						
Elementary and middle school attendance rate			87.18%	92.13%		88.03%	85.65%	86.41%	86.75%	87.18%

Agency comments regarding the accomplishment of Goal 5: Students struggle to progress academically if they are not in school and learning. The attendance rate is defined as the percentage of students attending school for 90% or more of enrolled days. The attendance measure edged upward slightly for the 3rd year in a row in SY 2024-25.

NOTES: Most of the Targets in Column G come from the Department of Education's State Plan required under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Those Targets increased this year, in accordance with the long-term goals laid out in the State Plan. Cells that are blank are missing data due to lack of test administration.

Status Indicator:

-  = Green - the historical trend line indicates improved performance and the target has been met.
-  = Yellow - the historical trend line indicates improved performance, but the target has not been met.
-  = Red - the historical trend line does not indicate improved performance and the target has not been met.