



south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Learning. Leadership. Service.

Presentation to GOAC on Accountability and Initiatives

October 2026

National Perspective

- ACT
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- PISA
- State Assessments in English Language Arts and Math

ACT 2025

21.0

South Dakota's average composite score

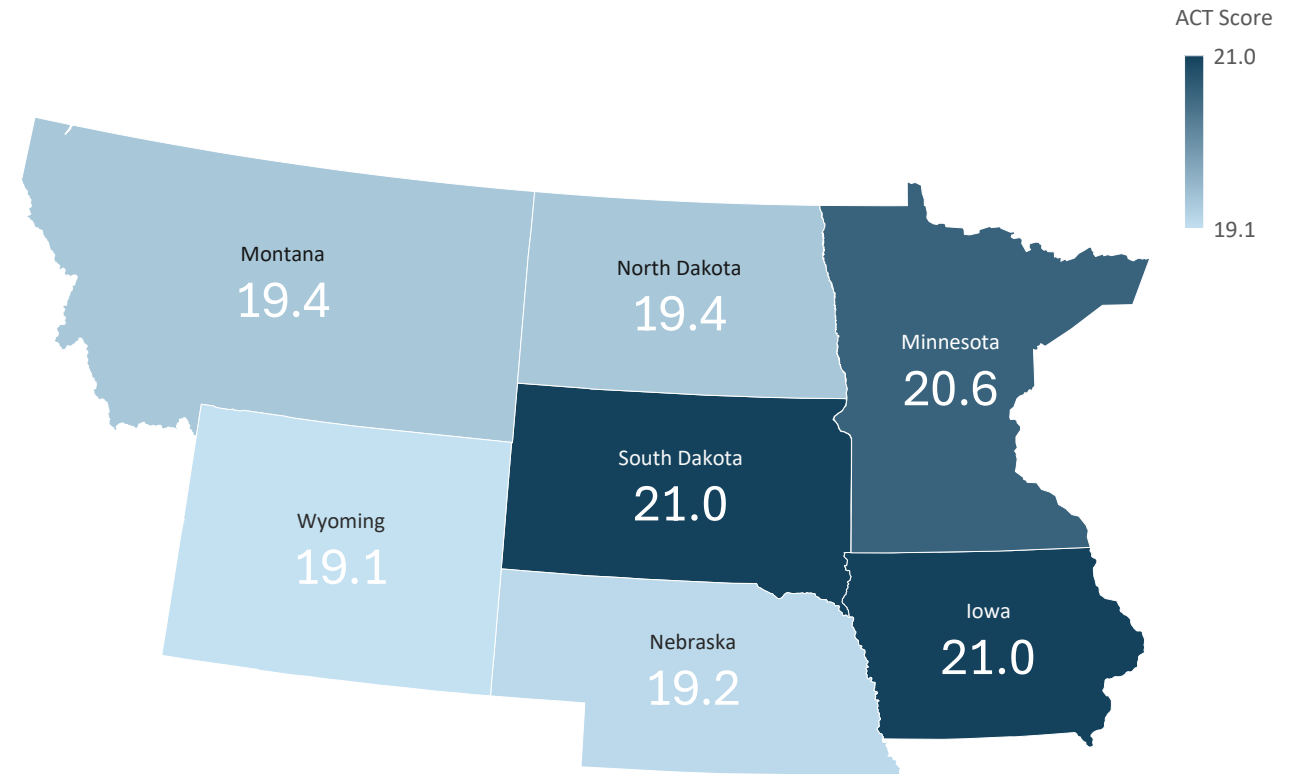
21.1

South Dakota's public school average composite score

19.4

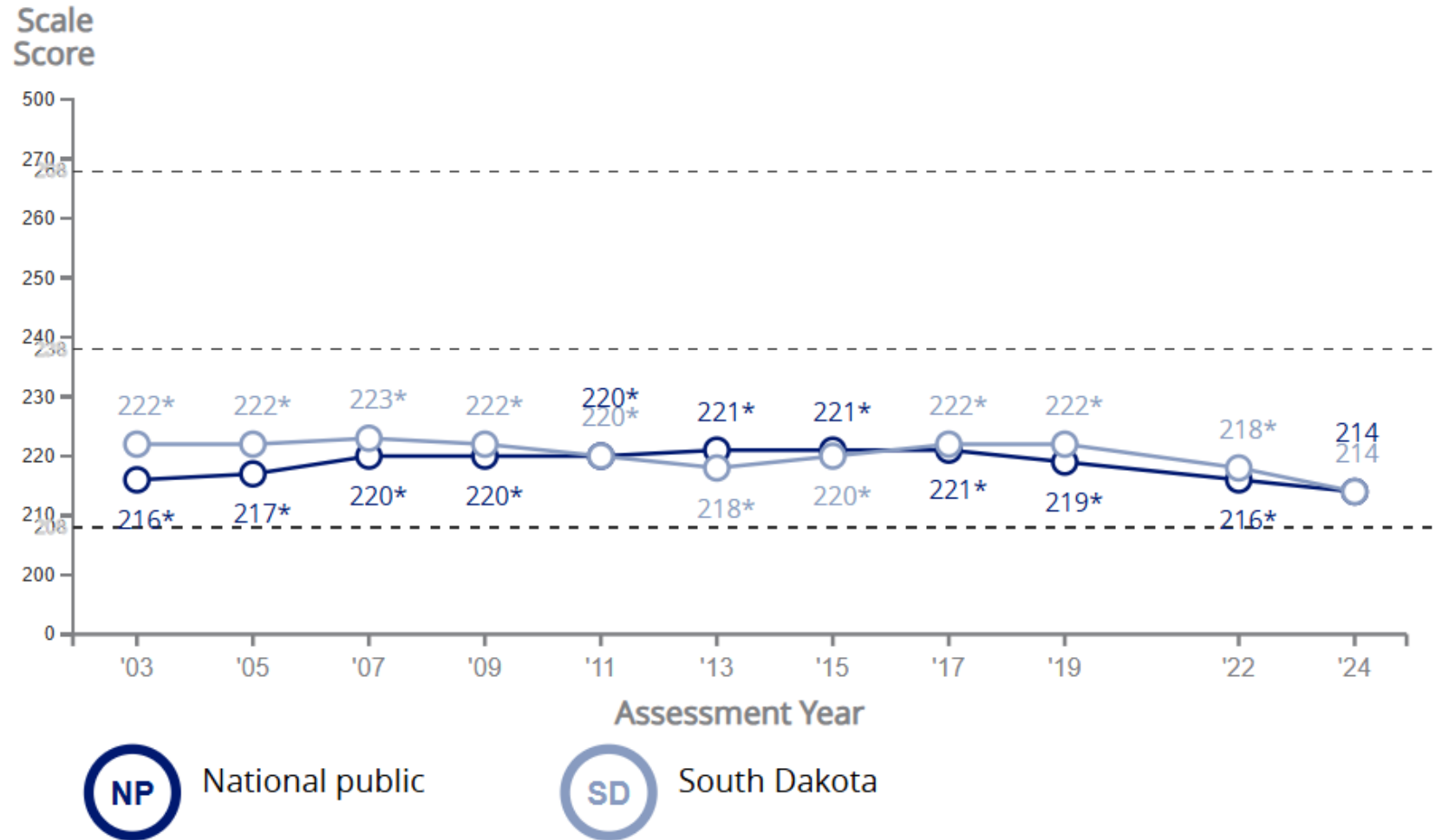
National average composite score

Average Composite ACT Scores, 2025

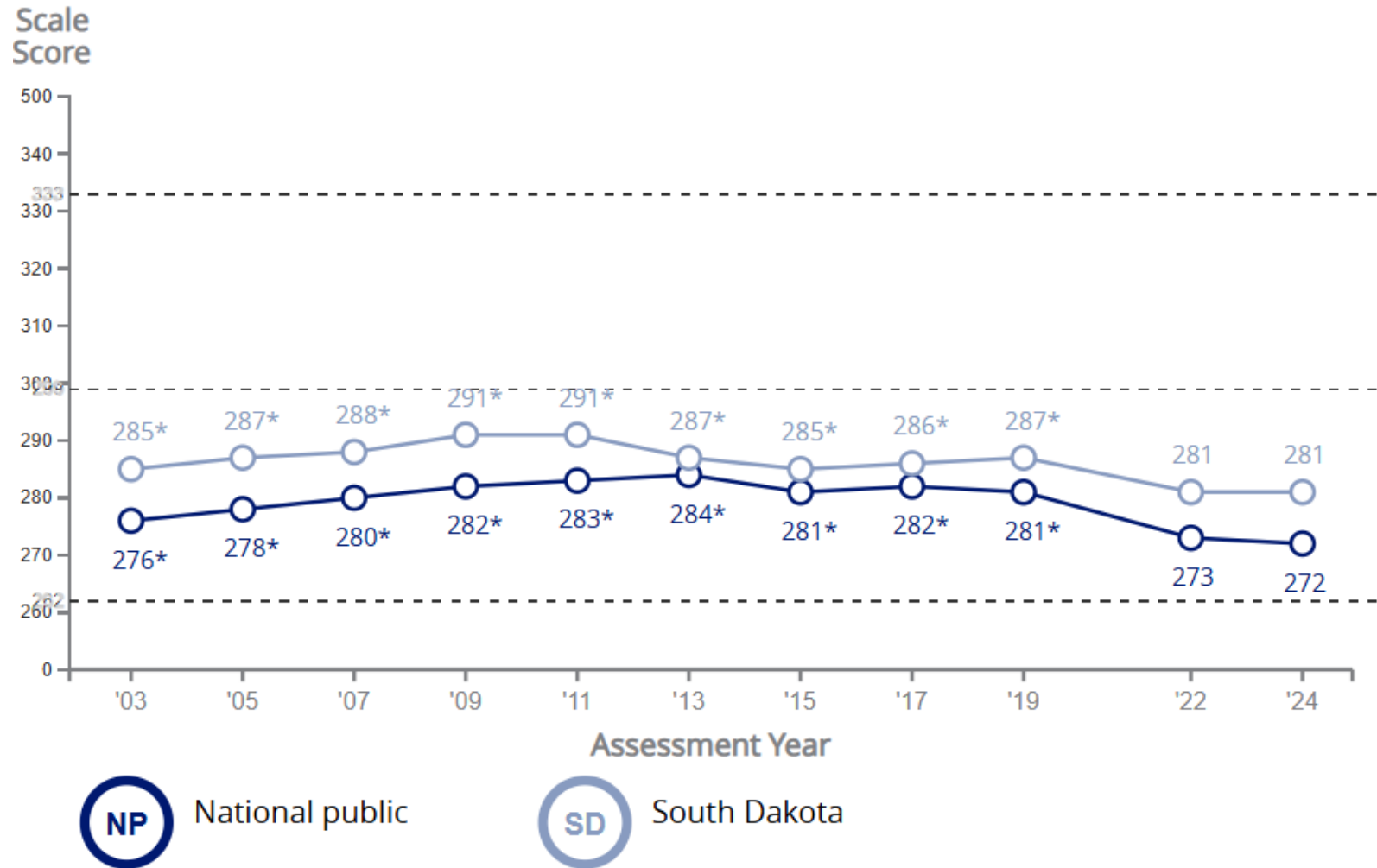


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NAEP 2024: Reading, Grade 4 Comparisons



NAEP 2024: Math, Grade 8 Comparisons



NAEP 2024: South Dakota Standings

2022	ELA Rank	Math Rank
4 th Grade	14 th	13 th
8 th Grade	12 th	4 th

2024	ELA Rank	Math Rank
4 th Grade	31 st	11 th
8 th Grade	16 th	6 th

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

- Only comprehensive source of international comparisons
- Administered every 3 years, taken by 15-year-olds
- 2025 Results (760,000 students in 91 countries)
 - Internationally, Reading Scores fell by 28 points, about 1.5 years of learning, which is astonishing
 - Math scores fell by 22 points, or about 1 year of learning, which is also astonishing
 - Highest performers: Areas of China, Estonia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and the U.K.
 - Split between higher-performing and lower-performing students widened, though not in America.
 - U.S Results:
 - Ranked 13th overall in reading and 27th in math, among the 91 countries.
 - Science scores held steady while math and reading scores fell.
- Issues regarding the PISA include lack of many countries tested, questions about who is tested (China tests only some areas within the country; Academic vs. Vocational High Schools, among others).

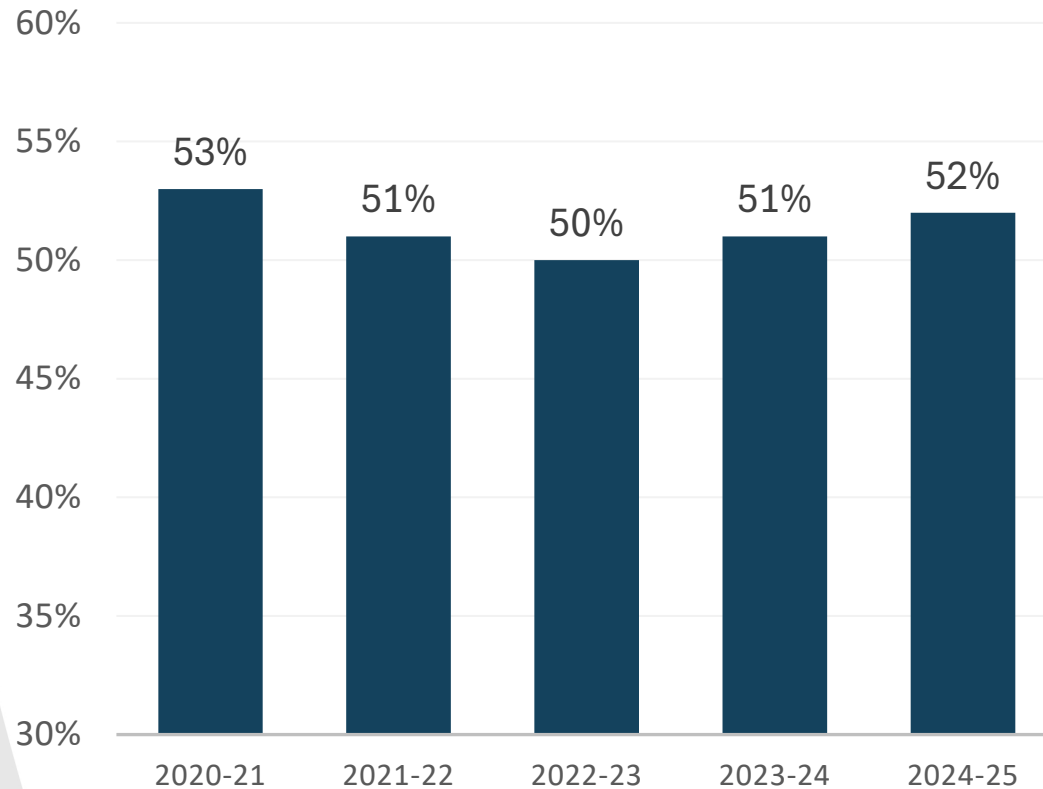
PISA: 2025

Measure	United States	OECD average
Reading mean score	490	461
Change in reading, 2022 to 2025	-14	-14
Reading trend per decade since 2015	-7	-27
Mathematics mean score, 2025	463	463
Top performers, Level 5 or 6 in any domain	17.8%	11.9%
Low performers, below Level 2 in all three	17.5%	19.7%

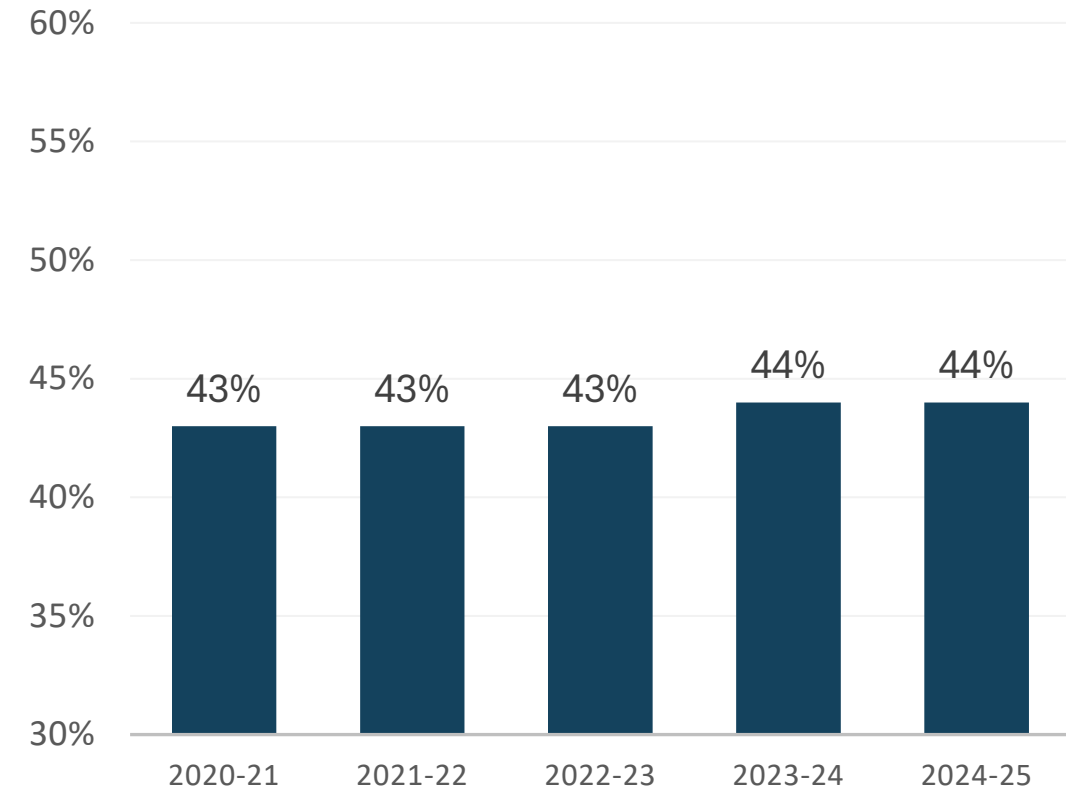
State Assessments 2025

All tested grades

English Language Arts % Proficient



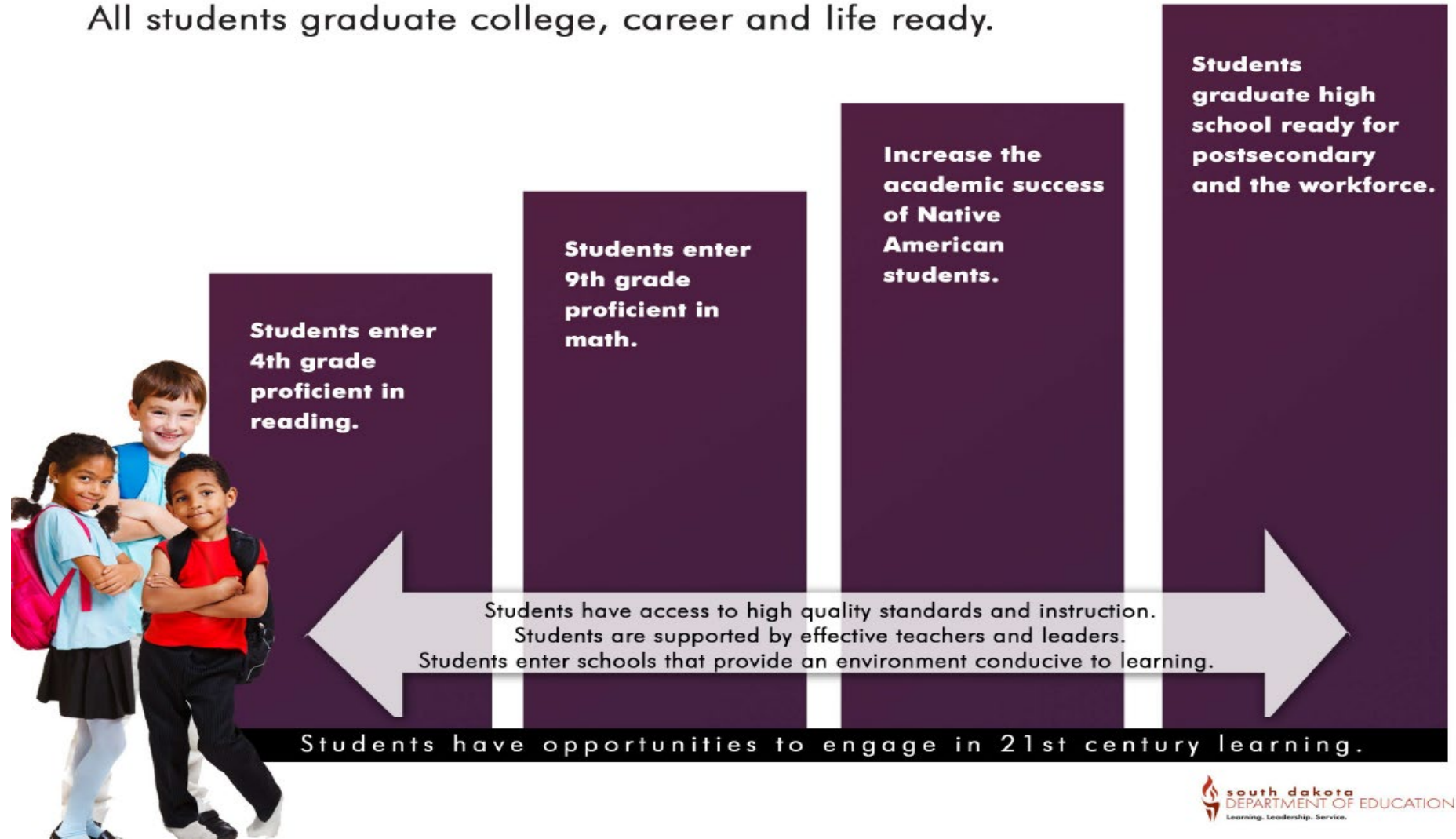
Math % Proficient



Performance Indicators (2025)

College, Career and Life Ready

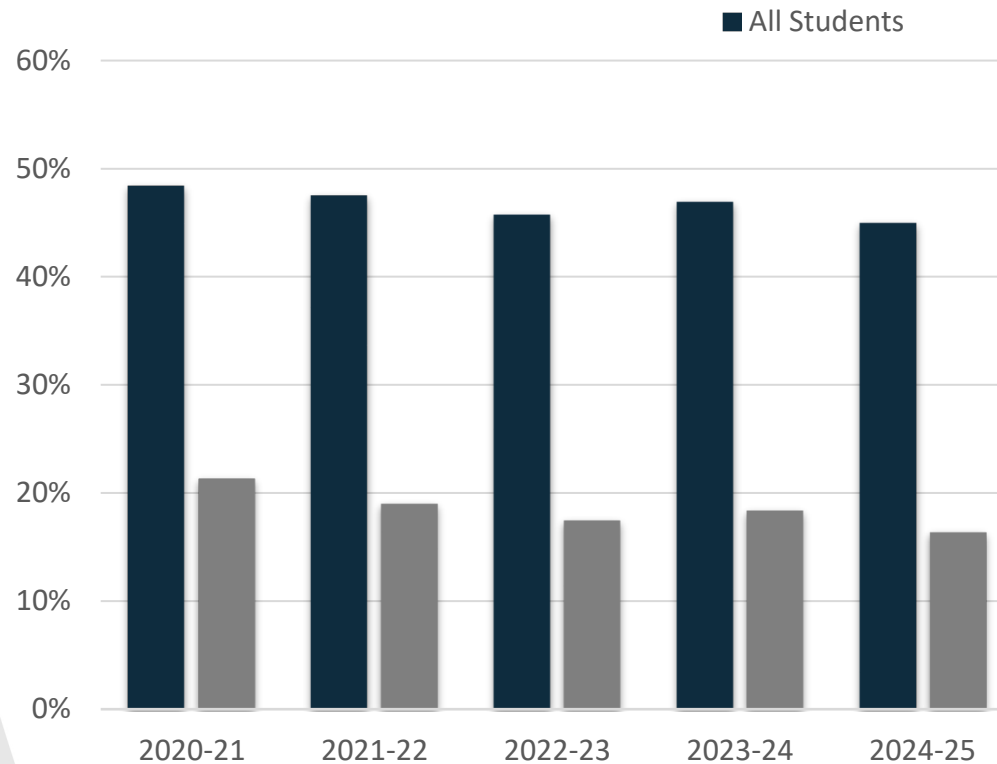
All students graduate college, career and life ready.



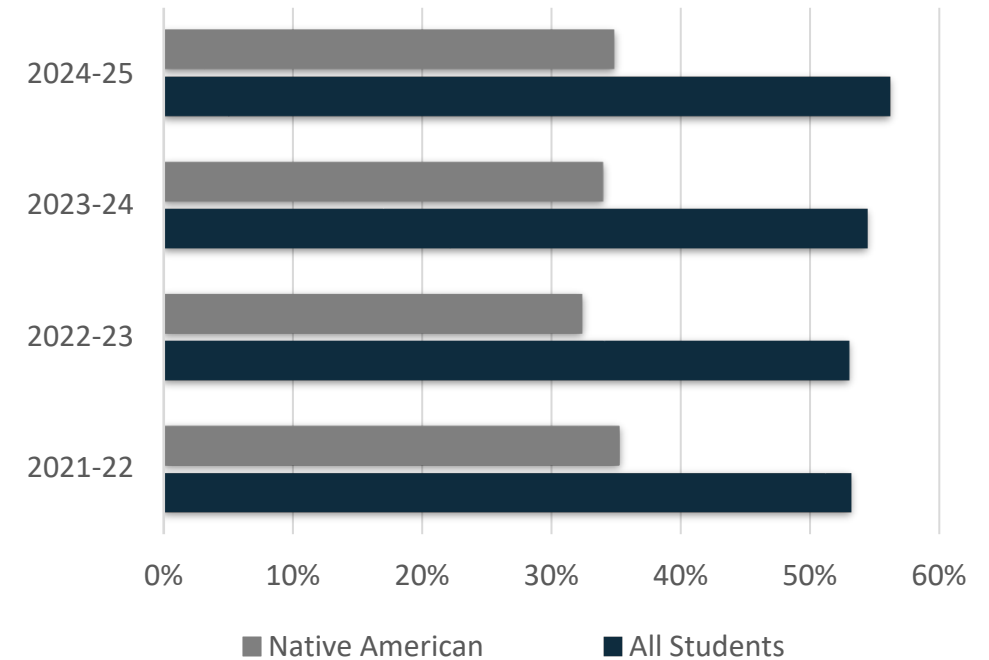
Proficient in Reading by 4th Grade (2025)

3rd Grade ELA Proficiency and ELA Growth Rates

Percent Proficient – 3rd Grade



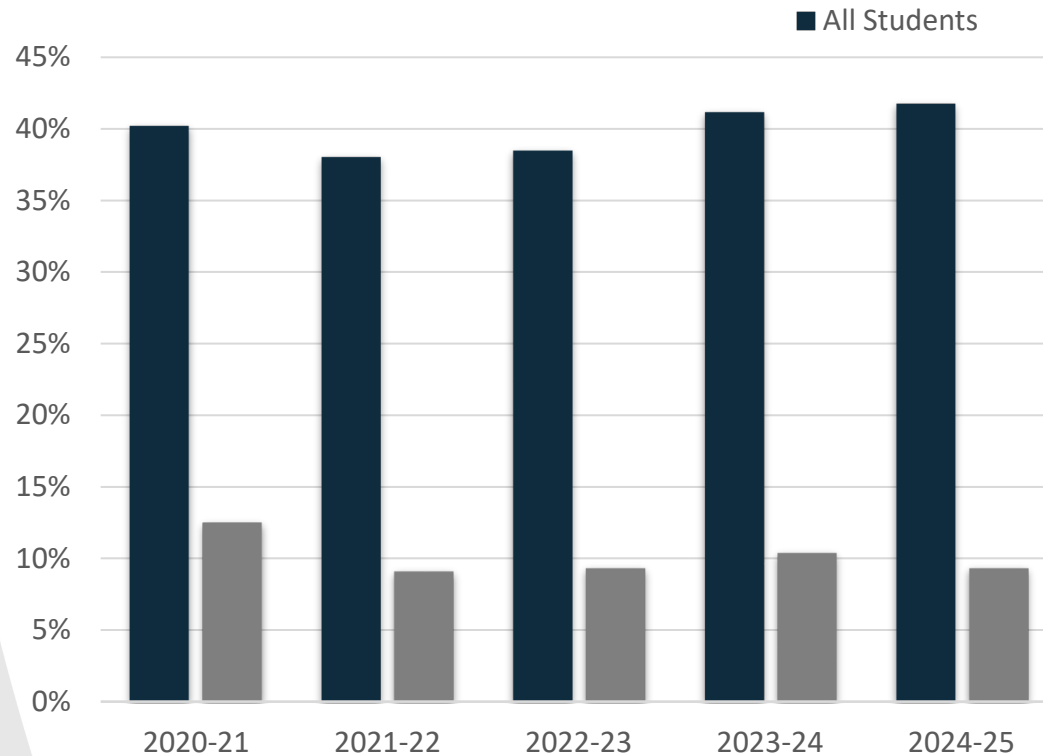
Percent Meeting Growth Targets



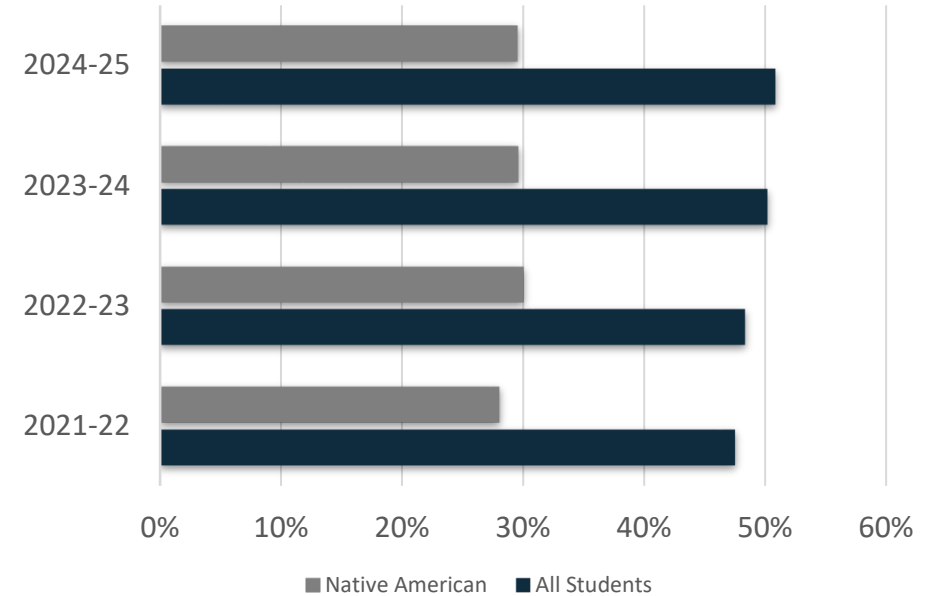
Proficient in Math by 9th Grade (2025)

8th Grade Math Proficiency and Math Growth Rates

Percent Proficient – 8th Grade

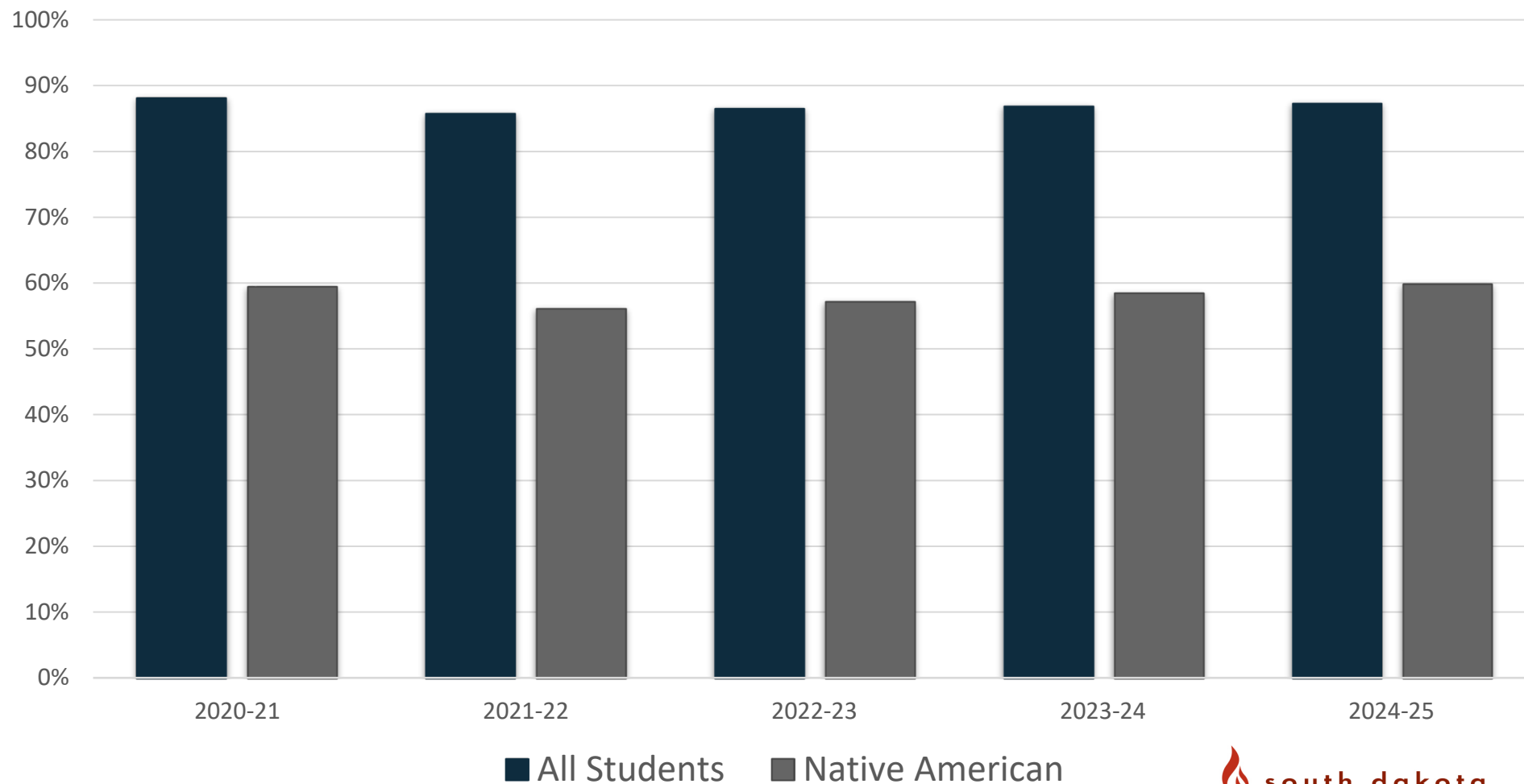


Percent Meeting Growth Targets



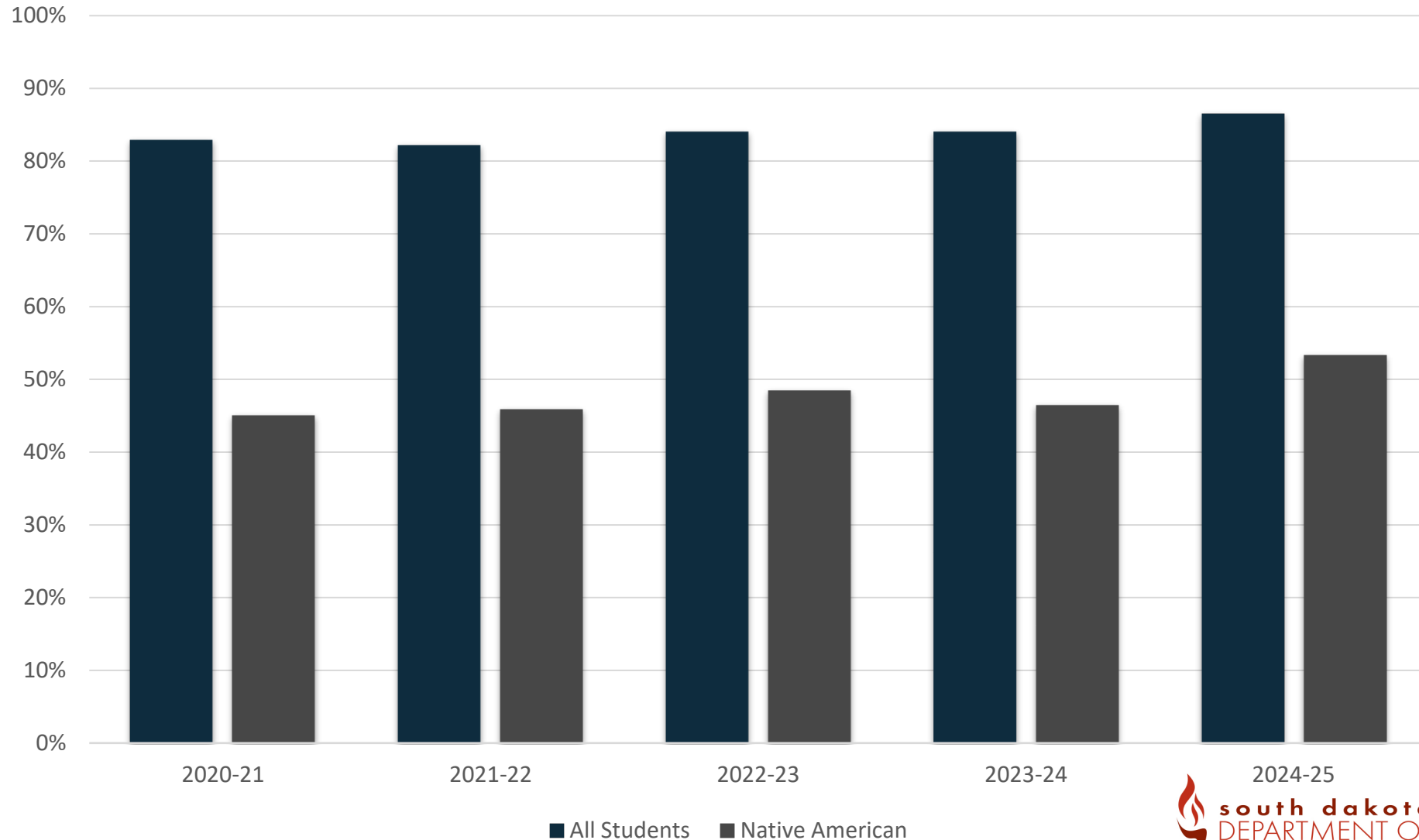
Attendance (2025)

Percent of Elementary and Middle School Students Attending at least 90% of Enrolled Days



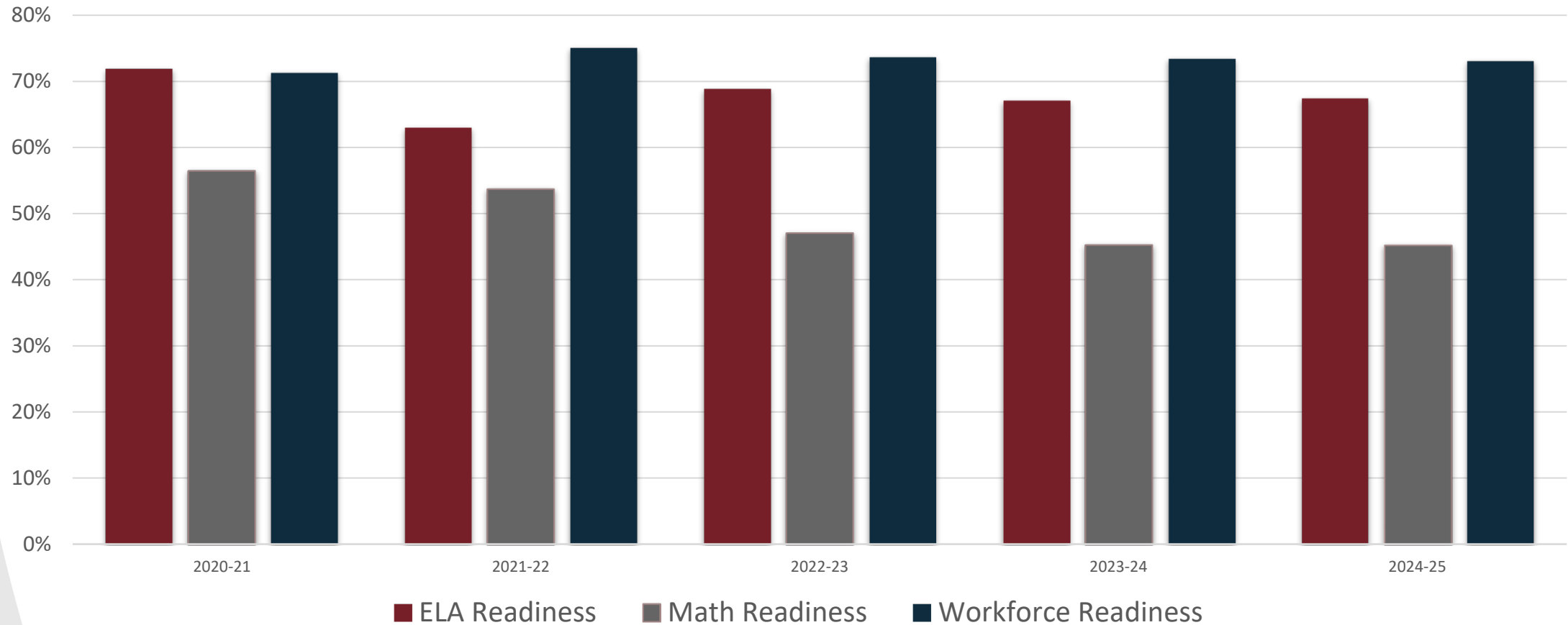
Graduation (2025)

Percent of students graduating within four years



College and Career Readiness (2025)

Ready for what comes next



Strategies

- **Restore Science of Reading to classrooms**
 - Train all elementary teachers across the state
 - Literacy Blueprint Courses
 - Coaching Model for Local Implementation
 - CLSD Grant
 - Literacy Conference
- **Explicit Instruction in Mathematics**
 - Newly approved mathematics standards
 - SPDG –State Personnel Development Grant
 - \$3.5million 5-year federal grant to support professional development to improve student outcomes in mathematics
 - Focus on K-5 PD on math instruction, explicit instruction, peer coaching
 - Previous SPDG lead to (success of) SD Literacy Initiative
- **Knowledge-Based Social Studies Instruction**
 - Consistent with Latest Social Studies Standards

Strategies

- **Investment in programs that produce outcomes:**
 - Jobs for America's Graduates
 - Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
 - Career and Technical Education
 - South Dakota Sturdy
- **Address the teacher shortage through:**
 - Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway (TAP)
 - Improved Compensation
 - Certification Flexibility
- **Improve data connections and systems**