

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	South Dakota state universities will offer AP Institutes for teachers during summer 2005.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students • Native American students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state subsidizes test fees for qualified students through the federal Advanced Placement Incentive Program. • System-wide policy of the Board of Regents (governing body of the public universities) for acceptance of AP.
Bridge Programs	No		No		No	
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	No details known or available	No		Yes	System-wide policy of the Board of Regents for acceptance of CLEP.
Distance Learning/ Virtual School	Yes	All K-12 schools and public state universities are wired to the Internet and connected to the Digital Dakota Network (video-conferencing system). There is also an e-learning program at Northern State University.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American students • Non-traditional students • Rural students • Single mothers 	Yes	The state and Board of Regents provides legislation and policy; the state provides base funding for the e-learning program, wiring all schools to the Internet and the Digital Dakota Network.
<u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u>	Yes	The state authorizes schools to allow students to enroll in a dual credit course, but local school districts and public universities can choose whether to accept or administer dual credit.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students • Native American students • Pregnant teens 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state does not provide any funding. School districts can opt to pay for student tuition, but most do not. • State statute 13-28-37
Early or Middle College High Schools	No		No		No	
GED in College Settings	No	Handled by K-12 districts except policy to accept GED for admissions requirements at public universities	No		No	

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High School Articulation with Technical Colleges	Yes	Multi-district vocational high schools offer vocational and technical courses for area high schools. Some classes articulate with the local technical schools to help students move on to postsecondary education.	Yes	Rural students	No	
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	1 IB high school, in its second year	No		Yes	System-wide policy from the Board of Regents for acceptance of IB
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	4 local Tech Prep consortia located at each postsecondary Technical Institute providing regional leadership and grant administration.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Rural students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD Department of Labor administers federal Perkins funds to the local school districts. • SD Department of Education provides overall policy guidance and management.

Summary of academic pathways:

Distance learning is a major pathway in South Dakota. All of the public K-12 schools and public state universities are wired to the Internet and connected to a statewide video-conferencing system called the Dakota Digital Network. Additionally, Northern State University in Aberdeen houses the Center for Statewide E-learning, which provides AP and dual credit for area high schools. In addition, a consortium allows member school districts to utilize courses they share through distance learning.

During the last legislative session, the legislature authorized the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, which will provide a high school graduate with a \$5000 scholarship over four years. Eligible students must obtain a minimum ACT composite score of 24 and complete the more rigorous Regent Scholar Curriculum with a grade no lower than a "C" and an average grade of "B" .

Each year the South Dakota Board of Regents publishes the *South Dakota High School to College Transition Report*, which high schools may use to assess the preparation of students for postsecondary education. The report contains aggregated and non-aggregated data on high school graduate student performance: AP scores, number of first-year postsecondary students enrolling in remediation courses, number of graduates with AP credit and dual credit, GPA, and other academic measures. This report provides recommended actions for students and parents as well as vital information to school districts so they can make curriculum changes.

State's effort to encourage college prep curriculum:

The South Dakota Board of Regents has policies for [undergraduate admission requirements](#), but institutions can adopt specific admission requirements upon review by the Board of Regents. Effective Fall 2001, the South Dakota Board of Regents established the Regent Scholar Curriculum, upon completion of which students are awarded a Regents Scholar Diploma and automatic admission into their choice of the state's public universities. With a more rigorous curriculum, students must complete the program with a grade no lower than a "C" and an average grade of "B". Although South Dakota does not have a prescribed college prep curriculum, the Board of Regents' SD College Prep program provides information to students and parents about the high school courses that should be taken to prepare for college. Information is available at www.sdbor.edu/sdcollegeprep.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Distance Learning: Digital Dakota Network
- Distance Learning: Northern State University E-Learning Program

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Of those pathways present in the state, over half make special efforts to reach out to underserved students. Each school district determines populations on which to focus special efforts. Most school districts serve underrepresented students as part of the populations. Nonetheless, special efforts are made to reach underserved students, particularly low-income, rural, first-generation, and low-achieving students. In some schools, special efforts are made for pregnant teens through dual credit. With 8.3% of its population being American Indian or Alaskan Natives, according to 2000 census data, the state makes a special effort to reach Native American students through many academic pathways. Moreover, first-generation students constitute a large proportion of high school graduates in South Dakota. Therefore, when the state works with local school districts, they often help them provide information to parents about college and academic pathways.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Six pathways are supported by the state through funding, legislation, policy, or a combination thereof. The state provides funding for four academic pathways: dual credit, Tech Prep, AP, and distance learning. The most significant financial contribution the state allocated in recent years was for distance learning, in which the state paid to connect all of the public K-12 schools and public state universities to the Internet and to the Dakota Digital Network state-wide video-conferencing system.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- It is important that the state provide a wide variety of educational opportunities like these academic pathways. The state must find ways to provide all of these options and make them available to all students.
- The state best serves students with consistent, statewide policies. When individual universities set their own policies (like acceptance for AP, IB, and CLEP), the situation becomes confusing.



SOUTH DAKOTA

State Profile

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Distance Learning	Northern State University, Center for Statewide E-learning	Erika Tallman, Director	--	(605) 626-3382
High School Articulation with Technical Colleges	Lake Area Multi-District Vocational	Julie LeVake, Superintendent/CEO	--	(605) 882-6380
Advanced Placement (AP)	Sioux Falls School District	Rich Meier, Director of Education Services	--	(605) 367-7946
Advanced Placement (AP)	Rapid City School District	Patricia Peel, Director of Curriculum	--	(605) 394-4053

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Melanie B. Rubin/ Updated January, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)