

Clarification on SDDOE Systems

In recent months, districts have been introduced (or re-introduced) to systems used by SDDOE. These systems include:

- South Dakota Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (SD-STARS)
- South Dakota Assessment Portal (SDAP)
- South Dakota Leading Effectively, Achieving Progress (SD LEAP)

With these new systems comes questions like, “How are they connected?” or “When should I use it?” We hope that the information below will help districts understand what each system can do, who should use it, and how the systems are related.

SD-STARS

Description: The Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (SD-STARS) is a State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). The goal is for SD-STARS to securely consolidate and link all educational data that currently resides within the SD-DOE. In other words, it pulls data that is already available from different sources (ex: Infinite Campus, assessments), dumps data into a centralized system, and links data together. Current, users can access reports for enrollment, attendance, and achievement. In addition, accountability reports, starting with the 2012-13 year, will be accessible through SD-STARS.

Who: SD-STARS users can be teachers, counselors, principals, superintendent, and more. Districts are able to set up and manage the accounts for their users.

Doesn't do: SD-STARS does not have the capability to create or give assessments.

Website: <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/lds.aspx>

DOE Contact: Marcus Bevier (marcus.bevier@state.sd.us) or Sara Kock (sara.kock@state.sd.us). Training is available for free to interested schools through their ESA and is also available at education conferences several times a year.

SDAP

Description: The South Dakota Assessment Portal (SDAP) is an assessment tool that is free to all schools in South Dakota. Teachers can use it to create online formative or summative assessments. Teachers can create their own items and tests, or they can use the premade items and tests which have already been aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Currently, SDAP contains items for Math, Language Arts, Science, and History, but teachers can create multiple choice, technology enhanced, or constructed response items for any subject. Students log in to take their tests, and once they finish, students and teachers can see the results. End of Course and benchmark tests are also delivered using the SDAP. SDAP houses all DSTEP, End of Course, Benchmark, and formative data, including roster reports, individual student reports, and summary reports. The goal of SDAP is to provide teachers a tool with which they can deliver formative assessments to help understand where students are and to track student progress as they use this assessment data to inform their instruction.

Who: SDAP users can be teachers, counselors, principals, superintendents, and more. The district testing coordinator can create accounts for any school staff.

Doesn't Do: SDAP does not let teachers see individual student reports for the DSTEP Test. This is available at the administrator level only.

Website: <http://doe.sd.gov/oats/SDAP.aspx>

DOE Contact: Matt Gill (Matthew.Gill@state.sd.us). Training is available for free to interested schools and is also available at education conferences several times a year.

SD LEAP

Description: South Dakota Leading Effectively, Achieving Progress (SD LEAP) is a research-based, online tool that assists schools in planning and reporting improvement activities. The customized tool is based on the program called Indistar, which was developed by the Center on Innovation and Learning. SD has provided a framework for the process through the online system, and each district team and school team applies its own ingenuity to achieve the results it desires for their students. The system includes research, called Wise Ways, to evaluate as teams assess sets of indicators of effective practice. If the indicator is not fully implemented in the district or school, the team decides how they will achieve full implementation through a plan with tasks. SD LEAP will be used by the priority and focus schools identified by the SDDOE, although all schools will have the option to participate. The system is a detailed process, but is a helpful guide to focus school improvement efforts.

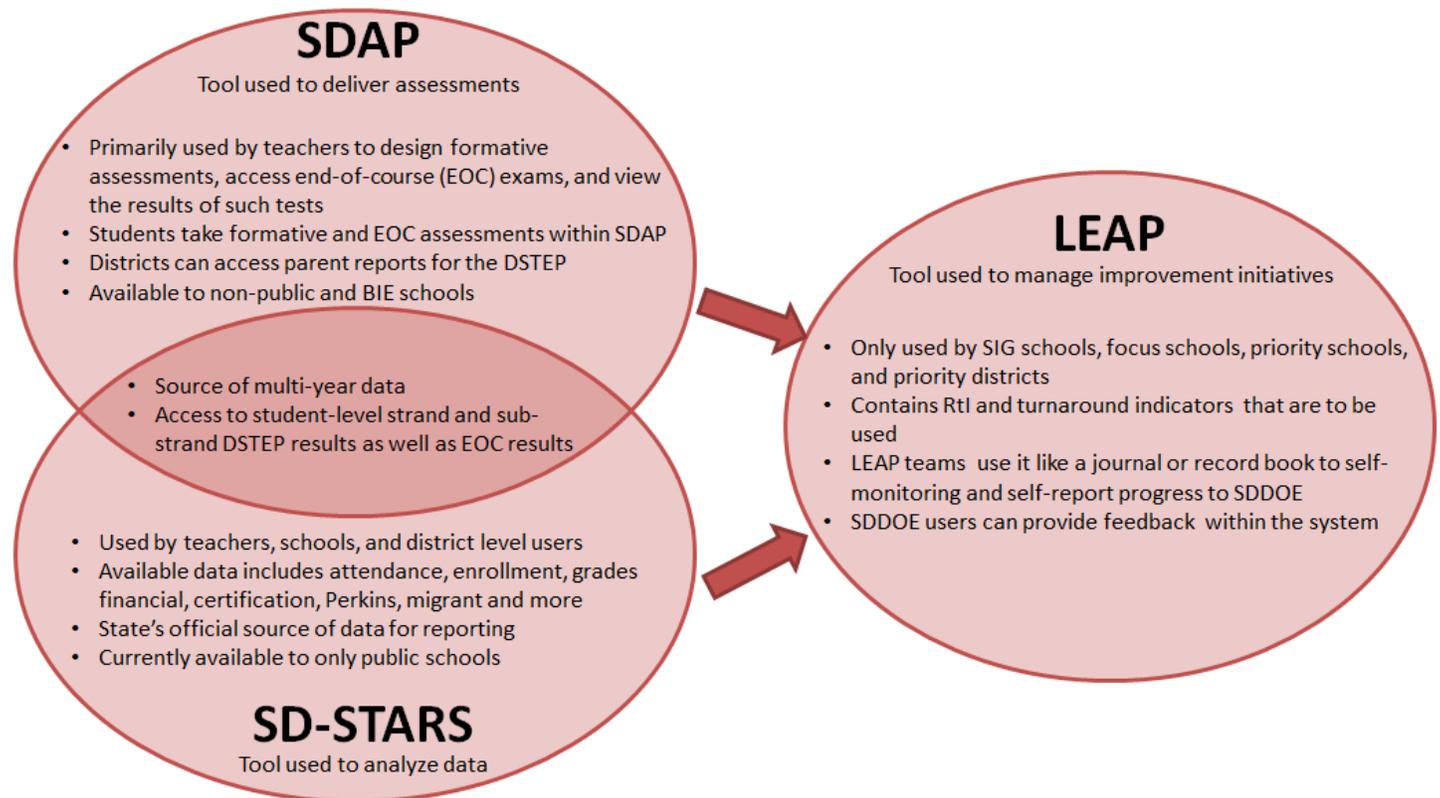
Who: SD LEAP is used by identified Priority Districts and schools and the Focus schools. Each district or school will create a LEAP team to guide the work. This team may consist of the superintendent, principals, teachers, counselors, parents, and others depending on each school's preference. This team can assess, plan, and monitor the indicators within the system. All districts and schools are given guest logins, which are read only access and can be distributed to anyone in the district.

Doesn't Do: SD LEAP does not have the capability to pull data in from assessments.

Website: www.indistar.org

DOE Contact: Shawna Poitra (Shawna.poitra@state.sd.us)

COMPARING THE SYSTEMS



All three systems are useful tools, but each does something different. SD-STARS and SDAP provide data for district, schools, or teachers to use. For SDAP, data are primarily from assessment teachers create, proctor, and evaluate within the system. For SD-STARS, the data sources include Infinite Campus, assessment files (ex: DSTEP, ACT), financial reporting, certification, Perkins, and more. Besides different data sources, SDAP's primary purpose is to deliver assessments while SD-STARS primary purpose is to help districts analyze all types of data. Although both systems offer on-demand reports that can show down to the student-level detail, including DSTEP results, the reports may be different because the SDAP reports are static (never change) where SD-STARS are updated nightly. For example, if a student transfers to a different school in the summer, SDAP will include the student's data in the previous school's report while SD-STARS will include the student's data in the current school's report. SD LEAP system differs from the other system in that it does not provide data to district. Instead, district may go to SD-STARS or SDAP to review their data and report in LEAP if the data show gains or improvement. LEAP is also only available to specific group of schools or districts and only LEAP team members can make changes in the system. Together, SDDOE hopes that these three systems can be used by districts, schools, and potentially even teachers to self-monitor and evaluate progress towards goals.