

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT LISTED AS “DISTINGUISHED” DISTRICT No Child Left Behind ~ 2007 Report Card

In September 2007, the SD Department of Education (DOE) released statewide Dakota STEP results from the Spring 2007 testing period. **The Groton Area School District was listed as one of fifty school districts that were considered “Distinguished” school districts.** To be considered “distinguished,” a school district must meet adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years in both reading and math, AND decrease the achievement gap for one or more subgroups by 10 percent over a two-year period OR have at least 80 percent of students meet the state’s proficient and advanced levels of student performance in both reading and math.

The DOE considers the state-funded Dakota STEP as a primary indicator used to evaluate the success of schools in South Dakota (Grades 3-8 & 11.) Other assessment tools that are very prominent in South Dakota are the American College Test (ACT) which is paid for by students/parents and the NAEP which is funded by the federal government. The Dakota STEP provides the DOE and school districts with a picture of students’ abilities in the areas of reading and math. The area of science will also be assessed during the current (2007-08) school year. The ACT which is taken by the majority of our juniors and seniors is a measurement to help determine whether or not students are adequately prepared for post-secondary education. The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) provides a means to compare the students of South Dakota with their counterparts in other states in the areas of reading and math.

Groton Area School District’s Dakota STEP results are certainly worth noting. We attribute this success to a dedicated administrative and teaching staff, a school board and community committed to providing quality educational programs, and parents and students that value education.

The Dakota STEP assessment results are listed, as follows:

- Our reading scores for **all grades** (3-8 & 11) were 85% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 82%.
- Our math scores for **all grades** (3-8 & 11) were 90% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 74%.
- Reading scores for **grades 3-5** were 92% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 88%.
- Math scores for **grades 3-5** were 93% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 79%.
- Reading scores for **grades 6-8** were 85% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 82%.
- Math scores for **grades 6-8** were 92% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 74%.
- Reading scores for **grade 11** were 71% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 70%.
- Math scores for **grade 11** were 77% of students at proficient or advanced performance, compared to the state at 65%.
- The percentage of students, by grade level, who scored proficient or advanced levels in the areas of reading and math are as follows:

[over]

Reading Math

Grade 3 93% 98%
Grade 4 94% 97%
Grade 5 88% 86%

Grade 6 91% 95%
 Grade 7 88% 94%
 Grade 8 77% 87%
 Grade 11 71% 77%

- In accordance with NCLB and South Dakota accountability measures of student performance in reading and math, as reflected in the Dakota STEP assessment results, **Groton Area students met or exceeded Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at each grade level** and in each sub-category of minority students, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and limited English proficiency students.
- The task that lies ahead is to continue to show improvement and achieve 100% proficiency in the areas of reading and math. With student test scores as high as they are, this could be very challenging.
- **The District has also met or exceeded NCLB percentage requirements for student attendance and high school graduation rates.** The student attendance rate for 2006-07 was 96.5% compared to the state at 95.6%, and the high school graduation rate was 100% compared to the state at 88.26%.
- **All classes for the 2006-2007 school year were taught by “highly qualified” teachers.** To be highly qualified, a teacher must have full certification, a bachelor’s degree, and demonstrated competence in subject knowledge and teaching.
- **The five-year trend of Average ACT scores are as follows:**

English Mathematics Reading Science Composite

Grad. Year Groton State Groton State Groton State Groton State Groton State

2006-2007 21.7 21.3 22.3 21.7 21.7 22.1 22.0 21.9 22.1 21.9

2005-2006 20.7 21.0 23.5 21.6 22.1 22.0 23.2 21.8 22.5 21.8

2004-2005 21.4 20.8 22.4 21.3 21.7 21.7 22.3 21.6 22.0 21.5

2003-2004 20.5 20.7 22.2 21.4 21.5 21.8 21.8 21.6 21.7 21.5

2002-2003 20.9 20.6 23.2 21.2 21.9 21.7 22.9 21.6 22.4 21.4

The district will continue to set high standards for the staff and students. We are committed to providing quality curricular and co-curricular programs and staffing to meet the current and future needs of students of the 21st Century.

The full NCLB 2007 Report Card, including reports for individual schools and districts, is available on the DOE web-site at: <https://sis.ddncampus.net:8081/nclb/index.html>.