

WHAT IS READING UP?

READING Up is a statewide professional development initiative that takes aim at student performance on specific English language arts content standards. Using Dakota STEP data, the Department of Education has identified the two standards at each grade level with which students struggle the most.

Through this targeted professional development, participating teachers will zero in on the targeted standards – revising lesson plans and student assignments, and teaching to a deeper level of understanding.

In many – but not all grades – the targeted standards fall under the following two indicators:

- **Indicator 3:** text structures, literary devices, and literary elements to develop interpretations and form responses
- **Indicator 5:** access, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate informational texts

To view the targeted standards by grade level, go to doe.sd.gov/readingup/ and click on “Identified Standards.”

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

While high, South Dakota’s reading scores on the Dakota STEP have remained fairly steady for the past five years. They actually dropped in 2009, due to the introduction of revised standards. Another indicator, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, shows that other states are making more progress in reading at the 4th-grade level than South Dakota.

Dakota STEP Reading (All Grades)

Year	% Proficient or Advanced
2010	76%
2009	75%*
2008	84%
2007	83%
2006	83%

*Revised standards assessed for 1st time

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT MY STUDENTS AND SCHOOL?

- Teachers who participate will have revised lesson plans that align with targeted content standards.
- As a result, students will have a deeper understanding of the specific standards targeted at their grade level, and therefore, should perform better on the Dakota STEP.
- **Bottom line: The initiative has the potential to raise reading scores at the school, district and state levels.**

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The READING Up professional development is appropriate for:

- Curriculum directors
- Elementary teachers
- Teams of middle and high school teachers focused on improving reading

WHAT'S THE DELIVERY METHOD?

The professional development will follow the Standards in Practice™ model. Trainers will demonstrate how this model can be used to review, revise and align lessons and student assignments to grade-specific standards at the appropriate Bloom's Taxonomy level. The SIP™ model details the implementation of a higher level of rigor in classroom instruction.

Teachers will participate in a one-day face-to-face training this fall – with follow-up webinars in the winter and spring.

Approximately 50 face-to-face trainings will be provided at locations statewide. Locations and dates are posted at <http://www.doe.sd.gov/readingup/>. To register for workshops go to http://www.escweb.net/sd_esa/.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

Teams who participate in the READING Up initiative will be required to do the following:

- Participate in a face-to-face READING Up workshop
- Bring one current lessons/assignments to the workshop
- Administer a diagnostic (pre) assessment before implementing SIP™ process – using Achievement Series
- Apply the SIP™ process to a minimum of four lessons and/or assignments over a four-month period
- Administer a formative (post) assessment after implementing SIP™ process – using Achievement Series
- Participate in follow-up webinars
- Submit two SIP™ lessons/assignments and Process Self-Reflections, and a final summary of pre- and post- data

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, visit doe.sd.gov/readingup/ or contact Department of Education staff:

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