

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

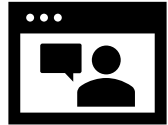
SD Department of Corrections

Corrections Commission

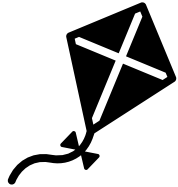
December 3, 2025



Agenda



Offender Communication Services



Electronic Kites



Commissary Overview





Offender Communication Services



Offender Communication Services

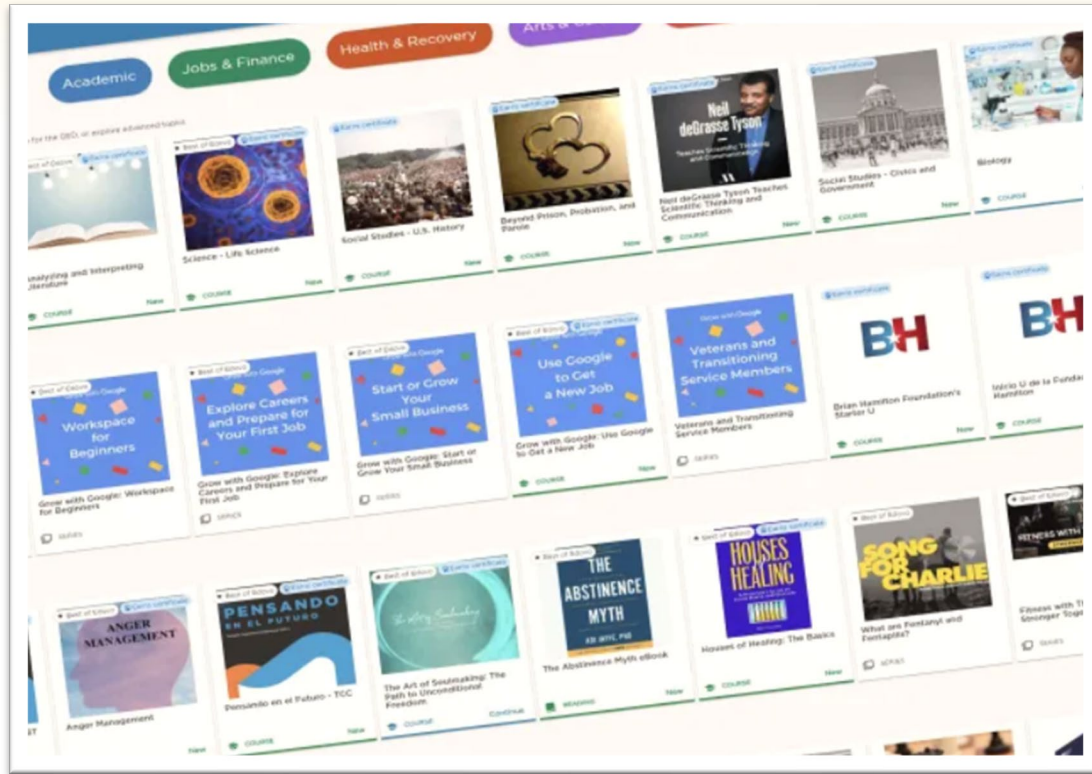
- DOC contracts with Viapath Technologies to provide communication services.
- Offenders can make outbound calls on their tablet or on wall phone in the housing units.
 - Calls are limited to 120 minutes/day.
 - Viapath provides one free 5-minute call per month.

| Service | Cost | Commission |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| Voice Calls | \$0.06/minute | 18.7% |
| Video Calls | \$0.40/minute | 50% |
| Messaging | \$0.125/message | 50% |

Viapath Technologies Additional Services

| Service | Cost | Commission |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Music | \$0.05/minute | 0% |
| Movies | \$0.05/minute | 0% |
| Games | \$0.05/minute | 0% |
| eBooks | \$0.05/minute | 0% |
| Law Library | \$0 | NA |
| Tablets | \$0 | NA |

Offender Tablet Education: Edovo Learn



- Educational App on offender tablets.
- 25,000+ hours of content available in at no cost to offenders.
- Categories of courses include health & recovery, life skills, religious, arts & culture, academic, jobs & finance, etc.

Edovo collaborates with hundreds of specialized content providers to deliver evidence-based programs in adult literacy, GED prep, college-level courses, cognitive behavioral therapy, social-emotional learning, parenting, reentry success, and more.



Viapath Contract Updates

- To help ensure communication with loved ones was affordable, the DOC made the following changes in 2020:
 - Reduced phone call rate from **\$0.08/minute** to **\$0.06/minute**.
 - Reduced messaging from **\$0.25/message** to **\$0.125/message**.
- Rates have not changed since then.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

- FCC adopted new interim rate caps in October 2025.
- For prisons, the rate cap increased from \$0.06 to \$0.11/minute.
- DOC has not had to change rates to comply with the FCC.
 - Compliant in 2024 as rate was already decreased to \$0.06 in 2020.
 - DOC will **not** increase the rate to \$0.11/minute just because the cap increased.

| Audio/Phone | 2024 Rate Cap | 2025 Total Rate Cap | Percent change | Rate Change |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Prisons | \$0.06 | \$0.11 | 83% | \$0.05 |
| Large Jails (1,000+) | \$0.06 | \$0.10 | 67% | \$0.04 |
| Med. Jails (350-999) | \$0.07 | \$0.11 | 57% | \$0.04 |
| Small Jails (100-349) | \$0.09 | \$0.12 | 33% | \$0.03 |
| Very Small Jails (50-99) | \$0.12 | \$0.14 | 17% | \$0.02 |
| Extremely Small Jails (0-49) | \$0.12 | \$0.18 | 33% | \$0.06 |





Electronic Kites



Electronic Kites

- Electronic Kites (e-kites) are used for offenders to communicate with staff, similar to an email.
 - Messages are sent via offender tablet with staff accessing Viapath platform to read and respond back to the offender.
- Currently SDWP and the Sioux Falls campus are utilizing this communication method.
- Mike Durfee State Prison, Yankton Minimum Center and Rapid City Minimum Center will begin rollout in December.
- Paper kites remain available for offenders to use as well.



Commissary Overview



Commissary RFP Process

- **October 2023:** Corrections Commission approves business plan for commissary warehouse shop at Pheasantland Industries.
- **November 2023:** Issued Request for Proposals for commissary solutions per SDCL 5-18D
 - Three vendors responded including Keefe Commissary Network, Summit Food Service, and Union Supply Group.
- **December 2023 – April 2024:** Reviewed responses, answered questions, listened to presentations, and held technical reviews.
- **September 2024:** Contract with Union Supply Group begins.



Union Supply Group & PI Partnership

- Warehouse on campus at South Dakota State Penitentiary.
 - Employs 25 offenders at \$1/hour (higher wage than other PI jobs.)
- Offenders may order up to \$35/week if funds available.
 - Personal care products.
 - Snacks & beverages.
 - Stationary & reading materials.
- PI retains 5% sales and \$85K annually for warehouse space.
- Union Supply pays offender labor and salaries for Warehouse Manager and Production Staff.



Commissary Price Comparison

- 2024 cost comparison was conducted in 2024 between USG and prior vendor.
- 357 total items on the new commissary menu:
 - 40% (142 items) were **new items** that prior vendor did not carry.
 - 31% (112 items) were **less expensive** or **within 10 cents** of the previous price.
 - 15% (53 items) were **within 50 cents** of what prior vendor charged.
 - 14% (50 items) were **51 cents or more** than previously charged by prior vendor
- More analysis on most sold items:
 - Ramen noodles - most sold item. Cost difference is \$0.01.
 - USG \$0.47. Prior vendor \$0.46. **Walmart is \$0.47.**
 - Mayo packets - 2nd most sold item. Cost difference is -\$0.01.
 - USG \$0.14 and prior vendor \$0.15.



Thank you!