SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDARDS

# MISSION STATEMENT

*"As Educational Leaders, we will take a prominent role to ensure that each South Dakota student receives a quality education." - Developed September 29, 1995, updated May 11, 2020, ~~updated~~ November 16, 2026.*

**Philosophy/Belief Statement**

- The South Dakota Board of Education Standards is a strong advocate for the best interest of children and youth in our state's schools.
- It is the unique role of the South Dakota Board of Education Standards to listen to, to understand, and to translate the concerns of stakeholders in the development of successful education policies.
- The South Dakota Board of Education Standards has a responsibility to set standards and expectations for the quality of education through the establishment of graduation requirements, accreditation of local schools, certification of professionals, and approval of programs offered by teacher education programs.

**Vision Statement**

The South Dakota State Board of Education Standards envisions a time when each South Dakota child starts school ready to learn and by the third grade have mastered fundamental reading, mathematics, language, science, and technology skills to the best of their ability; and upon graduation students have learned the skills necessary to enter adulthood as responsible productive members of society.

The South Dakota Board of Education Standards will be a leader in education advocacy for each student in the state by:

- Establishing rules or policies that ensure students have ~~adequate~~ opportunities to learn the skills necessary to enter adulthood as responsible, productive members of society.
- Advocating professional development and teacher education programs.
- Maintaining a strong partnership between the Department of Education and the State Board of Education Standards.
- Setting dynamic standards, both mandatory and advisory.
- Opening pathways between all groups concerned with education.
- Actively plan for the continuous improvement of K-12 education.

**The South Dakota Board of Education Standard's Leadership Role is:**

- To advocate for access to a high quality system of public education for South Dakota students.
- To communicate a vision for improving public education for all South Dakota students.
- To enhance the professional development of educators through credentials, effective performance evaluation, teacher training programs, and a professional code of ethics.
- To develop partnerships with all players/stakeholders in the community, such as the Board of Regents, Board of Technical Education, legislators, ~~and~~ local school boards, and parents.
- To advocate for safe, supportive learning environments where students can learn and succeed.

- To identify the elements affecting the quality of education and evaluate overall student achievement trends.
- To provide leadership for education through policy and advocacy to LEA's.
- To establish education standards and rules within legislative directives.

**Annual Work Plan:** In conjunction with the Department of Education, the South Dakota Board of Education Standards commits to develop an annual focus areas clearly stating priority objectives that will over time achieve the above Vision Statement by making incremental measurable material improvements of the State's K-12 system and student outcomes.