



Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Michelle Vande Weerd, Director of Curriculum & Instruction & Continuous Improvement

RE: September Board Report

DATE: September 7, 2021

Here are items of note from my office:

- 1. Public Comment for Standards** – Several sets of standards are posted for public comment on the South Dakota Department of Education’s [website](#), particularly the proposed social studies standards. The DOE encourages educators and the general public to provide feedback using the following
 - [Online tool](#) – You will find the form listed under each specific group of standards up for review.
 - Board of Education Standards hearings: the first of which is Sept. 20, 9 a.m. (Central), in Aberdeen
 - Standard mail: Department of Education, ATTN: Laura Scheibe or Shannon Malone, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501
- 2. Alternative Instruction** – The new homeschool legislation went into effect on July 1, 2021. Families that choose to provide alternative instruction (homeschool) are asked to register with the state. More information can be found using this [link](#). Key changes include:
 - Families no longer need to submit the public school exemption form annually. Families will only need to register once using the registration site on the DOE’s website. A paper copy can be filed with the home district if necessary. If the status of the student changes, families need to update their information online. If the family does not have access to the online tool, they can notify the home district of any status changes.
 - Families are no longer required to test students in grades 4, 8, and 11.
- 3. 20-21 Report Card** – The DOE has released the 20-21 report card to districts for review. We have until September 9th to file an appeal. The public Report Card will not be available until after October 14.