

Beresford Republic and School Newsletter Articles

Submitted August 27, 2010

Brian Field, Superintendent

Beresford Elementary School and Beresford High School **Named 2010 “Distinguished Schools”**

The South Dakota Department of Education has named Beresford Elementary School and Beresford High School as 2010 “Distinguished Schools.” This is the sixth consecutive year (2005-2010) that the Beresford Elementary School has received this honor. Beresford Elementary School was one of ninety-nine elementary schools in South Dakota to receive this honor in 2010. This is the second time Beresford High School has received this honor. Beresford High School was one of thirteen high schools in South Dakota to receive this honor in 2010. There were 150 individual South Dakota schools that received the “Distinguished School” honor, including elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The SD DOE has been naming “distinguished schools and districts” for the past seven years, 2004-2010.

A distinguished school or district must meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two consecutive years in both reading and math based on the Dakota State Test of Education Progress (STEP). The school or district must also decrease the achievement gap for one or more subgroups (students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient students, and major racial/ethnic groups) by 10% over a two-year period OR the percentage of students in the “all student” group that have met the state’s proficient and advanced levels of student performance in both reading and math must be 10 percentage points higher than the current year’s annual measurable objective (AMO) for reading and math.

In 2008, the Beresford School District was one of eighteen school districts in South Dakota to be named a “Distinguished School District” and our district was the largest school district to receive this honor. In 2008, the Beresford Middle School received the “distinguished school” honor for the second time.

Academic Achievement Report Card for 2010

NCLB and AYP

The federal law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that each state adopt challenging academic content standards that define what all students should know and be able to do in the areas of reading and math. Currently, NCLB focuses on performance in reading and math. Schools must demonstrate and measure adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward all students becoming proficient (performing at grade level) or advanced (performing above grade level) in their learning. AYP is based on separate reading and math achievement objectives based on the South Dakota essential core content standards. AYP for reading and math must be met by all students; ethnic/racial groups; economically disadvantaged students; special education students with disabilities; and limited English proficient students. School districts must also make AYP in K-8 attendance rate, high school graduation rate, and by hiring “highly qualified” teachers. NCLB defines a highly qualified

teacher as one with full certification, a bachelor's degree, and demonstrated competence in subject knowledge and teaching. School districts that do not make AYP are placed in school improvement.

Last April, Beresford students in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 11 took the Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (STEP) as required by NCLB and the South Dakota Department of Education. Official results were sent to our school district in late July. We are very pleased to report that all of our schools and district made adequate yearly progress. This is a true reflection upon the quality of our staff, dedication and work ethic of our students, and the district's commitment to professional development.

Reading

In grades 3-5 reading, 87% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 78% and well beyond the state target of 69%. In grades 6-8 reading, 74% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 75% and beyond the state target of 69%. In grade 11 reading, 78% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 70% and well beyond the state target of 62%. As an overall district in reading, 80% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 76%. In comparison to our Big Sioux Conference public school districts, our district reading results ranked third, 3% below Canton and 1% below Dell Rapids.

Math

In grades 3-5 math, 93% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 78% and well beyond the state target of 72%. In grades 6-8 math, 90% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 79% and well beyond the state target of 72%. In grade 11 math, 78% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 68% and well beyond the state target of 63%. As an overall district in math, 89% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 76%. In comparison to our Big Sioux Conference public school districts, our district math results ranked first with Elk Point/Jefferson.

Science

Science is tested with the Dakota STEP in grades 5, 8, and 11 but the science results are not used for school accountability under NCLB. In grade 5 science, 92% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 77%. In grades 8 science, 74% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 73%. In grade 11 science, 73% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 68%. As an overall district in science, 80% of our students were proficient or advanced, compared to the state average of 73%. In comparison to our Big Sioux Conference public school districts, our district science results ranked third, 5% below Elk Point/Jefferson and 2% below Canton.

Attendance Rate and Graduation Rate

In regards to school attendance, our K-8 grades had an attendance rate of 95.79%, compared to the state average of 94.99% and beyond the NCLB goal of 94%. In regards to graduation, our high school had a graduation rate of 92.86%, compared to the state average of 89.23% and well beyond the NCLB goal of 80%.

Highly Qualified Teachers

100% of our classes in the Beresford School District were taught by “highly qualified” teachers.

Dakota STEP—Individual Student Results

In September, parents will be mailed a copy of their child’s Dakota STEP test scores for reading and math that he/she took last spring. The individual report will allow parents to see how their child fared on the test in relationship to the math and reading core standards adopted in our curriculum. Parents will see the scaled score and achievement level listed on the report. Students are given the rating of below basic (performing several grades below level), basic (performing one grade below level), proficient (performing at grade level), or advanced (performing above grade level). Parents will find a description for their child’s achievement level in both reading and math. Parents should keep in mind that this is one test and one accountability measure for their child. Parents should feel free to contact their child’s teacher at anytime or utilize the campus parent portal to receive more specific information on their child’s progress in school.

State, District, and School Report Cards

If you are interested in receiving a power point of our entire 2010 Beresford School District Academic Achievement Report Card, please visit our school website at www.beresford.k12.sd.us and click on report cards, contact our central office at 763-4293, or email me at Brian.Field@k12.sd.us. The power point will include our 2010 Dakota STEP results for grades 3-5, 6-8, and 11 and ACT results for the class of 2010.

You may also view our state, district, and school report cards at <https://nclb.ddncampus.net/nclb/index.html>. The report cards will present information related to student achievement on the Dakota STEP test from 2003-2010. Assessment results are displayed in percentage of students scoring at four levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. A State Report Card shows the combined performance of all schools in South Dakota. A District Report Card shows the combined performance of all schools in each district. A School Report Card shows the combined performance for each public school and each grade that was tested in the school.

Please be assured that our district remains committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students and professional development opportunities for our staff. We will continue to focus on improving our student learning results. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Brian Field at 763-4293 or your child’s principal.