

ARTICLE 24:43

ACCREDITATION AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Chapter

- 24:43:01 Definition of terms.
- 24:43:02 State accreditation and approval system.
- 24:43:03 Approved external third-party accreditation agency option.
- 24:43:04 Approval of nonpublic schools.
- 24:43:05 Approval of specialized nonpublic education programs.
- 24:43:06 Nonaccredited or nonapproved educational settings.
- 24:43:07 Warning, denial, suspension, or removal of accreditation.
- 24:43:08 Waiver of certain administrative rules and Department of Education policies.
- 24:43:09 Administration.
- 24:43:10 Instructional staff.
- 24:43:11 Curriculum.
- 24:43:12 Distance learning.
- 24:43:13 Noncertified administrators, Repealed.

CHAPTER 24:43:01

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section

24:43:01:01	Definitions.
24:43:01:02	Approval defined.
24:43:01:03	Improvement plan defined.
24:43:01:04	External third-party accreditation agency defined.
24:43:01:05	Nonpublic school defined.
24:43:01:06	Specialized nonpublic educational program defined.
24:43:01:07	Nonaccredited and nonapproved educational setting defined.
24:43:01:08	Plan of corrective action defined.
24:43:01:09	Credit defined.
24:43:01:10	Distance learning course defined.
24:43:01:11	Distance learning provider defined.
24:43:01:12	Physical school defined.

24:43:01:01. Definitions. Terms used in this article mean:

(1) "Accreditation, state," certification by the secretary that a school system meets the adopted standards of the state board for a specified school fiscal year;

(2) "ADM," average daily membership;

(3) "Approved Career and Technical Education Course," a career and technical education course within an approved career cluster program of study approved by the department and taught by a certified teacher or instructor;

(4) "Assignment," a classification of activities performed by a staff member which can be identified and described by a single record entry;

(5) "Attendance, day of," a day in which an enrolled person is present under the guidance and direction of a teacher for the minimum length of time that school is in session;

(6) "Capstone experience," a culminating high school experience designed to integrate knowledge, skills, and concepts gained from a student's program of study. Capstone experiences include:

(a) Senior experience that requires students to complete a research project, design and develop a product, assemble a portfolio, and complete an oral presentation before a panel;

(b) Entrepreneurship experience that requires students to research a new business opportunity, develop a business plan, assemble a portfolio, and complete an oral presentation before a panel;

(c) Youth internship that allows students to gain hands-on experience at a business, develop employability skills, learn technical skills, and complete a portfolio; and

(d) Preapprenticeship, a contractual partnership between an employer and a student that allows students to gain initial training in a particular industry and formal classroom-related instruction;

(7) "Computer studies," a laboratory course offering instruction in computer applications, one or more computer languages, computer science, and societal impact;

(8) "Course equivalency exam," ~~a state-approved~~ an exam aligned to state standards used by ~~an~~ a public or nonpublic accredited school ~~district~~ to allow students to record high school course credit without attending the actual course;

(9) "Credential," "certificate," or "permit," the document issued by the state authorizing the holder to perform services for the school system;

(10) "Division," the Division of Education Services and Support;

(11) "Distinguished high school program," the course of study a student may choose in order to meet the eligibility requirements of the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship;

(12) "Dual enrollment," the enrollment of a pupil in elementary or secondary educational programs in two or more school systems at the same time;

(13) "Elementary," an educational program for any person classified below the ninth grade or for anyone under the age of 14 before the date established by SDCL 13-28-2 who is enrolled in an unclassified nongraded school program;

(14) "Endorsement," authorization to perform in a specific capacity in a school;

(15) "Language arts courses," instruction in literature, speaking, writing, grammar, and research;

(16) "Enrollment," the total number of original entries in a given school unit in the state, the total number of original entries in public schools plus the total number of original entries in nonpublic schools;

(17) "Experimental program," an educational program for which applicable state board rules must be waived if the program is to be implemented;

(18) "Facility," a building site, a building, or a part of a building;

(19) "Fine arts courses," instruction in drama, instrumental and vocal music, and the visual, graphic, and performing arts;

(20) "FTE time," a measure of time for performing a staff assignment calculated as a fraction of a full-time assignment;

(21) "Full-time equivalency," "FTE," the amount of employed time that is normally required of a staff member to perform a full-time assignment;

(22) "Grade," that portion of a school program that represents the work of one regular school term, identified by a designation such as kindergarten, grade one, or grade ten;

(23) "Graduate," an individual who has received formal recognition for the successful completion of a prescribed program of studies;

(24) "Health integration," the process of incorporating standards relative to maintaining and improving health, preventing disease, and avoiding or reducing health-related risk behaviors into the required units of credit described in § 24:43:11:02 as appropriate to the course;

(25) "In-service education or training," a program of systematized activities approved by the school system that contributes to the professional or occupational growth and competence of staff members during the time of their service to the school system;

(26) "Junior high school," a school consisting of a combination of two or more consecutive grades that must include grades seven and eight and may include grade nine;

(27) "Laboratory class," a course providing opportunities for students to interact directly with the material world, or with data drawn from the material world, using tools that are not found in a library, media center, study hall, or classroom, and in which students use safe and appropriate laboratory techniques, as well as implement data collection techniques, models, and theories of science;

(28) "Mathematics courses," instruction in general mathematics, algebra, geometry, consumer mathematics, probability and statistics, calculus, trigonometry, and similar courses in advanced topics;

(29) "Middle school," a school consisting of any combination of two or more consecutive grades, five through eight;

(30) "Norming period," the period of time during which tests were standardized;

(31) "Original entry," the initial enrollment of a pupil for any school term at any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school in this state;

(32) "Personal learning plan," a plan based on a student's skills and interests that identifies the specific coursework a student needs to reach the student's academic and career goals;

(33) "Plan of Intent," a written document stating how a school district intends to ensure that all teachers and administrators are serving on valid certificates in their certified areas;

(34) "Program director," "coordinator," or "supervisor," a person who serves as the identified head of an organized educational program or administrative unit within a school system or other educational entity;

(35) "Pupil" or "student," an individual for whom instruction is provided in an educational program under the jurisdiction of a school or school system;

(36) "Pupil, full-time," a pupil who is carrying a full course load as determined by the local school system;

(37) "Pupil, high school," anyone, regardless of age, who is enrolled in grades nine through twelve and who has not graduated from high school. The term includes any person who was 14 years of age before the date established by SDCL 13-28-2 who is enrolled in a nongraded or unclassified school program and who has not graduated from high school;

(38) "School," a public or nonpublic organization or entity which is approved or accredited by the secretary for the purpose of instructing children of compulsory school age as provided in SDCL 13-27-1 or for children attending school as provided in SDCL 13-13-1, or both;

(39) "School, elementary," a school consisting of any combination of grades from kindergarten through eighth grade;

(40) "School, nonpublic," a school operated by an organization other than a school district;

- (41) "School, public," a school operated by a school district;
- (42) "School, secondary," a school consisting of any combination of three or more consecutive grades, including ninth grade through twelfth grade;
- (43) "School system," all of the schools and supporting services operated by a governmental agency or by any private organization;
- (44) "Science courses," instruction in physical, earth-space, and biological sciences;
- (45) "Secretary," the secretary of the Department of Education;
- (46) "Service learning," service learning is a meaningful and relevant activity that addresses needs important to the community being served. Students explore the context of societal issues relevant to the service;
- (47) "Social studies courses," instruction in history, government, geography, anthropology, psychology, sociology, and economics;
- (48) "Staff member," a person in a school system who meets all of the following criteria:
- (a) The person serves under the rules of the governing authority of the school system;
 - (b) The person's assigned activities are under the direction and control of the governing authority of the school system;
 - (c) The person is assigned to perform activities which provide a service for the school system or for a program operated by the school system; and
 - (d) The person is an employee of the school system covered by or subject to workers' compensation, the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), and income tax withholding;
- (49) "State board," the South Dakota Board of Education Standards;
- (50) "State education agency," the Division of Education Services and Support, created by SDCL 1-45-4;
- (51) "Teacher, certified," the holder of a valid South Dakota teacher certificate who is assigned to those responsibilities authorized by the certificate;
- (52) "Teacher, full-time," a staff member who is employed to teach for a minimum school day for the entire regular school term;

(53) "Unit of credit," the demonstration of student learning for course work. A unit of credit may be granted verifying competency of content through an end-of-course exam, alternative assessments demonstrating content knowledge, or 146 hours of class time. Fractional units of credit may be granted based upon proportionate time spent in class; and

(54) "World Languages," the study of languages other than English which may include Native American and American Sign languages.

Source: SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 3 SDR 23, effective September 29, 1976; 3 SDR 69, effective July 1, 1977; 5 SDR 110, effective July 5, 1979; 7 SDR 6, effective August 6, 1980; 7 SDR 120, effective July 1, 1981; 9 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1983; 10 SDR 111, effective April 24, 1984; 11 SDR 96, 11 SDR 112, effective July 1, 1985; 11 SDR 177, effective July 3, 1985; 12 SDR 22, effective August 21, 1985; 16 SDR 214, effective June 12, 1990; repealed, SL 1995, ch 86, § 2, effective July 1, 1995; readopted, 22 SDR 12, effective August 9, 1995; 23 SDR 31, effective September 8, 1996; 31 SDR 129, effective March 22, 2005; transferred from § 24:03:01:01, 31 SDR 178, adopted May 4, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; 33 SDR 55, effective October 2, 2006; 33 SDR 188, effective May 15, 2007; 33 SDR 236, effective July 5, 2007; 34 SDR 127, effective November 14, 2007; 35 SDR 82, effective October 22, 2008; 36 SDR 96, effective December 8, 2009.

General Authority: SDCL 13-1-12.1, 13-3-47.

Law Implemented: SDCL 13-1-12.1, 13-3-47.

CHAPTER 24:43:11

CURRICULUM

Section

24:43:11:01 Number of required credits for graduation from high school -- Personal learning plan required.

24:43:11:02 General requirements for high school graduation.

24:43:11:02.01 Specific units of credit required for high school graduation advanced endorsement.

24:43:11:02.02 Specific units of credit required for high school graduation advanced career endorsement.

24:43:11:02.03 Specific units of credit required for high school graduation advanced honors endorsement.

24:43:11:03 Criteria for providing instruction over distance by electronic media.

24:43:11:04 Repealed.

24:43:11:05 Specific units of credit required for high school graduation -- Distinguished high school program.

24:43:11:06 Repealed.

24:43:11:07 Required high school unit offerings.

24:43:11:08 Testing requirements.

24:43:11:09 Course equivalency exam.

24:43:11:10 Repealed.

24:43:11:11 Repealed.

24:43:11:12 Repealed.

24:43:11:13 Repealed.

24:43:11:14 Repealed.

24:43:11:15 Repealed.

24:43:11:09. Course equivalency exam. Course equivalency exams may be administered by a district if the district has received the approval for waiver from administrative rule pursuant to chapter 24:43:08 to offer equivalency exams for a specific content area. ~~If the Department of Education has a course equivalency exam available for the specific content area, the department's exam may be used. If a course equivalency exam is not available from the department, the district may create an exam.~~ The exam shall be standards based if applicable. ~~The exam must be approved by the department before it may be administered.~~ Credit shall be granted by equivalency exam based on the following:

- (1) The student must pass the exam with at least 85% proficiency;
- (2) The course equivalency exam must be passed on the first attempt for credit to be issued;
- (3) Credit ~~may~~ must be included on the ~~student~~ student's transcript as a "pass" grade ~~only upon achieving 85% proficiency or above and may not be calculated as a part of a student's cumulative grade point average;~~
- (4) Failed attempts on the course equivalency exam may not be included on a student's transcript and may not be calculated as a part of a student's cumulative grade point average; and
- (5) ~~If a student wishes to have a letter grade for the test out included on the student's transcript as a means of scholarship eligibility or entrance into a postsecondary institution, a formal request may be made to that student's school district to have a course grade included. The course grade is a letter grade that corresponds to the student's test score on the course equivalency exam. The course grade may not be calculated as a part of the student's cumulative grade point average;~~
- (6)(5) The school district must proctor and score the exam.
- (7) ~~The department must receive a roster of participant, including the students' name, grade in school, district attendance center, and percentage on the completed exam before the start of the next school year.~~

Source: 33 SDR 236, effective July 5, 2007.

General Authority: SDCL 13-1-12.1, 13-3-47.

Law Implemented: SDCL 13-5-34.