



Education System Updates

Department of Education

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$1.7 million in one-time funding to update the educator certification website, database, and application system and the virtual school website, registration, and reporting system.

Educator Certification

The current educator certification system, which was developed in 2001, is cumbersome for South Dakota educators who must apply for certification. The \$1.5 million in one-time funding will be used to update and redesign the certification website and modernize the certification system. The updated system will decrease the turnaround time for processing applications and allow staff to focus on providing better customer service to educators by having a user-friendly website and application system. The updated system will also improve the ability of researchers, school districts and the public to access staffing information and data.

Virtual School Website

The South Dakota Virtual School (SDVS) website provides a full menu of courses that a student needs to graduate from high school, as well as a variety of other courses, including career and technical education courses. SDVS expands academic opportunities for high school students across the state, as it gives access to courses students would not otherwise have access to due to a variety of reasons (i.e. doesn't fit into the student's schedule, school does not offer a particular course, etc.). The current system is outdated both in terms of appearance and its ability to register students and run reports. The recommended \$200,000 will fund a new, user-friendly system.