

TO: Principals, Physical Education Teachers, and School Nurses

FROM: SD Departments of Health and Education  
Larissa Skjonsberg, Nutrition and Physical Activity Co-Director  
Susan Alverson, Nutrition and Physical Activity Co-Director  
Julie Ellingson, School Health and Oral Health Coordinator

DATE: August 12, 2015

RE: School Height and Weight Data Collection and Equipment  
*Please share this information with the appropriate contact at your school.*

In an effort to address the obesity epidemic in South Dakota, the Departments of Health (DOH) and Education (DOE) are requesting your help to collect current height and weight data on your students. We provide the resources and would appreciate your assistance to gather the data.

**School Height and Weight Data:** This school year marks our 18<sup>th</sup> year collecting heights and weights of children 5-19 years of age. This voluntary program to track childhood obesity serves as a basis to develop state and local programs to quantify and alleviate the problem.

Heights and weights can be entered on your computer into the Infinite Campus system. We encourage you to use this convenient method as it saves both school and state agency staff time. If you do not have access to this data collection system, please contact your **Infinite Campus** administrator to receive permission to enter data and extract reports. Easy to follow instructions for using the Infinite Campus system are at: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/assets/InfiniteCampus.pdf> . This web site also has instructions for taking accurate measurements, for maintaining confidentiality, as well as suggestions to consider if sending data to parents.

If your school does not use Infinite Campus for other school records, contact [Carrie.Cushing@state.sd.us](mailto:Carrie.Cushing@state.sd.us) to request an Excel spreadsheet or Word document for submitting your height and weight data. Data for the 2015-2016 school year will be accepted at anytime during this school year but must be submitted no later than June 15, 2016, for inclusion in our analysis. Watch later for the previous year's summary report to be included on the DOH website: <http://doh.sd.gov/statistics/school-height-weight.aspx>

**Free Measuring Equipment:** DOH is accepting applications from schools that need equipment to participate in the data collection project. Attached is a short application form for this **limited** supply of equipment (wall-mounted measuring board and balance beam scale). Applications are **due by September 30, 2015 either by regular mail, electronic mail, or fax.**

If you have questions about the school data or the measuring equipment, please contact Julie Ellingson at 605-773-7150, [Julie.Ellingson@state.sd.us](mailto:Julie.Ellingson@state.sd.us) or fax 605.773.5942. The mailing address is: SD Dept of Health, 615 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Pierre, SD 57501. We look forward to working with you.

Cc: DOH Office of Health Statistics