



# News Release

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## **Student Athletes Perform Well at Public Universities**

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The latest report on the performance of student athletes in South Dakota’s public university system shows athletes perform as well or better than non-athletes in most areas.

The report, presented this week to the Board of Regents, covers the performance of two cohort groups of degree-seeking undergraduate students for 2003-04 and 2004-05. “We continue to see a high caliber of student athlete at our public universities,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. “They work hard and perform well academically.”

The report shows that student athletes in both cohort groups consistently had a slightly higher grade point average than non-athletes. For example, in the 2005 spring term, student athletes posted a 2.643 mean grade point average, compared to a 2.548 GPA for non-athletes.

Student athletes also tended to outperform non-athletes in most measures of math proficiency. The average ACT math sub-test score in 2004-05 for student athletes was 22.4, compared to 21.7 for other students in the system. While overall results from the system’s proficiency exam, taken at the end of the sophomore year, were mixed, athletes often had higher pass rates and mean test scores than non-athletes in the math sections of the exam.

Measures of English proficiency among student athletes tended to trail non-athlete performance, according to the report.

The report also found no significant difference in athletes’ academic performance when the type of sport was taken into consideration. Additionally, the data show that scholarship and non-scholarship athletes performed at or near the same levels in most areas.