

FAST TRACK Admissions

What is the type of admissions redesign?

Direct Admissions: High school students are proactively notified by a state postsecondary agency or system of their acceptance to at least one two- or four-year institution based on academic criteria (e.g., GPA) and can select the institution(s) of their choice by completing a simplified application without an application fee.

In which state is it based?

South Dakota

What state postsecondary agency or system sponsors the program?

South Dakota Board of Regents

When was the program first started?



2024

Does the student or state agency/system initiate the admissions process?


South Dakota Board of Regents

What are the central characteristics of the program?

The Fast Track Admission pilot program lets high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. Students from participating districts will receive a notification through the mail and email during the fall listing the universities where they have earned automatic acceptance – without having to apply.

 <p>Program Scope</p>	Does the program include all high school districts or only a portion ? Is opt-in required?	For the pilot, high school seniors from Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, and Spearfish public high schools are eligible.
	Does the program support admission to four-year institutions, two-year institutions, or both ?	Four-year institutions
	Which institutions are participating in the program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Hills State University – Spearfish and Rapid City • Dakota State University – Madison • Northern State University – Aberdeen • South Dakota Mines – Rapid City • South Dakota State University – Brookings • University of South Dakota – Vermillion and Sioux Falls
 <p>Eligibility Criteria and Application</p>	What are the academic eligibility criteria for students?	Students are eligible if they are (1) on track to graduate and (2) meet the specific academic criteria for general admission at the universities identified in the Fast Track Admission letter.
	Are students still required to apply to postsecondary institutions?	No, students do not need to complete an application for the universities where they have been directly admitted, though some programs or majors may have additional admissions requirements. Students only need to activate their Fast Track Admission by selecting their school(s) of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form included with the notification letter.
	Is the application fee waived ?	Participating universities are waiving application fees for students who have earned Fast Track Admission.

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Data and Policy 	What is the data source for the program?	South Dakota Codified Law (13-28-50) allows school districts to share directory information with the South Dakota Board of Regents. In addition, participating high schools, the South Dakota Department of Education, and the Board of Regents completed the necessary data-sharing agreements and memorandums of understanding to ensure compliance with all applicable data privacy and security regulations.
	Did the state or system adopt policy related to the program, and if so what does the policy include?	

Information above is up to date as of December 2025