

South Dakota Board of Regents waive college application fees now until Nov. 30

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Application fees at all six public universities in South Dakota will be waived from Monday to Nov. 30, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced this week.

The Free College Application Campaign is being extended to help with the fee, and the regents announced the launch of an 'Our Dakota Dream' coalition to coordinate a series of initiatives to help potential students navigate the college application process.

Our Dakota Dream's goal is to increase the number of college applications completed and submitted to all postsecondary institutions in the state, and to increase understanding of and assist in completion of the FAFSA among all high school students, SDBOR communications director Janelle Toman said.

“Pursuing higher education can help make many dreams come true, while supporting the vitality of communities across South Dakota,” Brian Maher, regents’ executive director and CEO, said in a statement. “As workforce demand for jobs requiring at least a bachelor’s degree increase, ‘Our Dakota Dream’ will help demonstrate that college for South Dakotans is accessible and affordable, and that college can make dreams a reality.”

The Dakota Dream is designed to support the dreams of South Dakotans who require education after high school. Post-secondary certifications can take many forms, and many dreams can only be achieved by attending college.

“Applying for college can be an intimidating and scary process,” Janice Minder, the regents’ system vice president for academic policy and planning, said in a statement. “By offering a free application period, we hope to increase the number of first-generation students and students from low-income families who might otherwise not pursue their dreams of attending college. Our Dakota Dream is that all South Dakotans have an opportunity to achieve their dreams.”

The coalition is funded by a national grant through the U.S. Department of Education and coordinated through the Board of Regents.

Dakota Dream Coalition includes representatives from the regents' central office, Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota Mines, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota Board of Technical Education, and Mapping Your Future.