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### **(S.D.)-South Dakota College Retention Rates Haven't Improved**

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 10/07/2012 07:44 AM

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota (AP) - Fewer than three in four South Dakota college freshmen have been coming back for a second year in school.

South Dakota college officials say they're putting a renewed focus on student retention. But the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports the 72 percent retention rate hasn't improved from a year ago.

The rate measures the number of students who go to college straight out of high school, and then come back for a second year. The national average is about 79 percent.

The director of South Dakota's Board of Regents says student retention is a high priority, but he cautions against expecting big improvements right away.

South Dakota State University has opened a center to advise first-year students and make them aware of services they can use.