

SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL BOARD**August 24, 2026 1:00 PM****Instructional Planning Center
201 East 38th Street, Sioux Falls****Nan Kelly
President****Dr. James Nold
Superintendent**

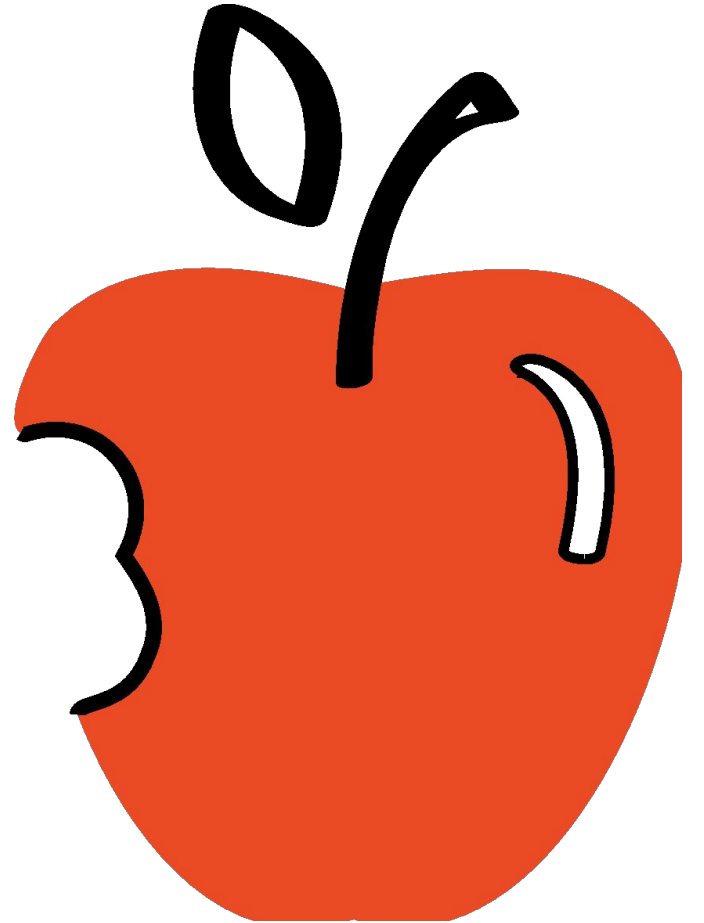
This agenda may also be viewed on the District's website: www.sf.k12.sd.us

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input on Work Session Agenda Items
3. Child Nutrition Update
4. Facilities Task Force Update
5. District Priorities for 2026-27
6. Budget Updates
7. School Visits
8. Board Meeting Reports
9. Board Member Committee Updates
10. Adjournment

Child Nutrition Updates

August 24, 2026



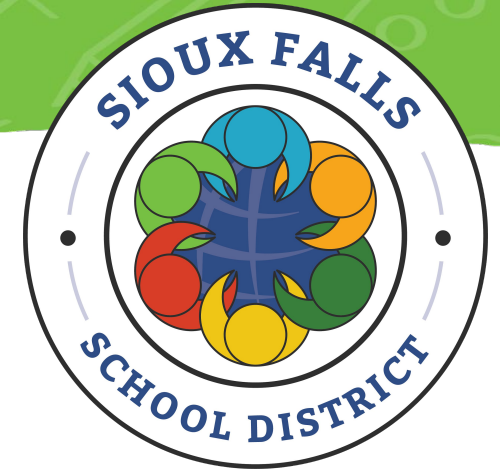
SNAP changes made by Congress - 1 year later

- July 2025 - SNAP Households Minnehaha Cty.: 9,189 Individuals: 17,228
- July 2026 - SNAP Households Minnehaha Cty.: 8,728 Individuals: 16,239
- Difference between years: down 5.74%

Month-by-month comparisons provided by:



August 2026



Free/Reduced Eligibility Data as of 8-20-26 compared to same date in 2025

Eligibility Record Summary Report

Grand Totals: 2026

Student:	5351 - Free	3649 - Direct Certified	21 - Temporary	0 - Per Administrator
	1473 - Reduced	3148 - SNAP	45 - Homeless	128 - Foster
	466 - Denied	66 - TANF	265 - Migrant	0 - Head Start
	7290 - Total	0 - FDPIR	0 - Runaway	0 - Even Start
	6824 - Total (F/R Only)	0 - Medicaid Free	0 - Medicaid Reduced	

Application:	3796 - Free	2932 - Direct Certified	12 - Temporary	0 - Per Administrator
	811 - Reduced	2560 - SNAP	43 - Homeless	121 - Foster
	298 - Denied	65 - TANF	201 - Migrant	0 - Head Start
	4905 - Total	0 - FDPIR	0 - Runaway	0 - Even Start
	4607 - Total (F/R Only)	0 - Medicaid Free	0 - Medicaid Reduced	

Eligibility Record Summary Report

Grand Totals: August 21, 2025

Student:	6519 - Free	4162 - Direct Certified	0 - Temporary	0 - Per Administrator
	1911 - Reduced	3463 - SNAP	125 - Homeless	97 - Foster
	534 - Denied	90 - TANF	206 - Migrant	93 - Head Start
	8964 - Total	0 - FDPIR	0 - Runaway	0 - Even Start

Application:	4659 - Free	3417 - Direct Certified	0 - Temporary	0 - Per Administrator
	1043 - Reduced	2875 - SNAP	117 - Homeless	84 - Foster
	342 - Denied	96 - TANF	168 - Migrant	92 - Head Start
	6044 - Total	0 - FDPIR	0 - Runaway	0 - Even Start
	5702 - Total (F/R Only)	0 - Medicaid Free	0 - Medicaid Reduced	

Fr/Red Comparison per approved down 23.87%
SNAP Comparison down 9.10%

Angel Fund Information & Unpaid Meals

- All students will start the year off with ZERO debt or parent funds in their accounts.
- Last year, 494 students received free meals from community donors.
- Projecting increase in the 185%-200% of families in this range
- Verbal commitment from Hungry Hearts for another matching campaign (meeting TBD in September)





Child Nutrition Goals & Priorities

- Food Quality - Fine tune meal preparation & delivery times for all elementary schools - Continued work in progress
- SNAP Certifications – Free/Reduced meal benefits
- Pilot Second Entrée option for elementary schools – Sonia Sotomayor begins in September



Child Nutrition Goals & Priorities

- Customer Service **TO** “*Customer Experience*” – Additional training for all involved -

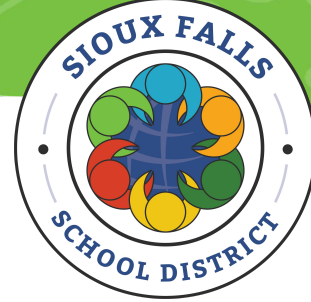
Note: ESP trainings to date have been well accepted.

- Pilot hot breakfast option at elementary school – Anne Sullivan in late Sept or early Oct.
- Plan for coming changes from USDA with meal patterns, food pyramid to include changes in food preparation.

School Nutrition Association (SNA) Resources & Data

The data accurately reflects current concerns in SFSD CN.

[USDA Pledge.pdf](#)



School Meals: Proven Success, Pressing Challenges

For 80 years, America's school meal programs have fueled students for success. Today, these programs nourish **30 million children** each school day and meet [federal nutrition standards](#) requiring fruits, vegetables, milk, whole grains and lean protein, while restricting calories, saturated fat, sodium and added sugar. Meanwhile, K-12 suppliers are proactively removing artificial dyes, additives and ingredients of concern from school foods.

Today's school meals are [proven](#) to be the healthiest meals Americans eat, yet school meal programs face an uncertain future due to evolving regulatory mandates and critical financial and operational challenges:

- As school meal programs work toward July 2027 rules to further reduce sodium and cap added-sugar, they must also prepare for additional federal standards. USDA will soon release rules to align current standards with the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs), emphasizing protein and reducing highly processed foods.
- Recently, several states have passed legislation prohibiting a variety of ingredients in school foods, creating a patchwork of state standards that could increase costs and procurement challenges.
- USDA is urging Governors to sign a voluntary state-level [pledge](#) to build upon federal standards. Pledge priorities include updating standards for snacks, serving only 100% whole grains and offering more whole foods at breakfast.

School nutrition professionals are committed to building on their success, but grapple with **increased costs and tight budgets**. In [SNA's recent survey](#) of school meal program directors nationwide:

- Virtually all respondents (99%) reported needing **more funding**, with 79% expressing an "extreme need" for increased funds to further expand scratch cooking and reduce reliance on ultra-processed food.
 - Respondents also cited needing **more staff** (94%), **culinary training** (95%), **equipment and infrastructure** (94%).
- 70% of respondents reported the federal **reimbursement rate is insufficient** to cover the cost of producing a school lunch.
 - For about **\$4.85**—less than the average price of a latte—schools must prepare a complete, nutritious lunch and cover labor, supplies, equipment and all other costs.

To help schools overcome challenges and serve students more whole foods, Congress and the Administration should invest in school meal programs. SNA's [2026 Position Paper](#):

- Urges Congress to increase funds for school meals.
- Calls for federal school nutrition standards that are scientifically sound and operationally feasible for schools.

Contact school nutrition professionals in your community to learn more!

SNA Additional Resources



BREAKFAST COST COMPARISON

Cost of a Current School Breakfast vs.
Breakfast with a Required Protein Component

CURRENT GRAIN-BASED BREAKFAST

2-Grain Muffin Meal



COST COMPONENT	COST
Food Cost	\$2.02
Labor	\$0.68
TOTAL MEAL COST	\$2.70

+\$0.50

Additional Cost
Per Breakfast
Served

19%
increase over
the grain-based
breakfast
example

BREAKFAST WITH PROTEIN

Breakfast Sandwich Meal



COST COMPONENT	COST
Food Cost	\$2.10
Labor	\$1.10
TOTAL MEAL COST	\$3.20

WHY COSTS INCREASE



HIGHER FOOD COSTS

Protein entrées cost more than grain-based options.



MORE LABOR

Additional preparation and assembly time.



STORAGE & REFRIGERATION

Protein foods often require cold storage and handling.



FOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Additional monitoring and handling procedures.

Template Letter: PPLs to Governor

On behalf of the [State Affiliate Name], representing [X] school nutrition professionals who manage and operate school meal programs across [State], I am writing regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's voluntary [Pledge for Healthier School Meals](#). As the professionals responsible for planning, preparing, and serving school meals every day, our members are uniquely positioned to provide insight into both current progress and the practical considerations associated with implementing new nutrition initiatives. We share the goal of ensuring students have access to nutritious, appealing meals that support their health, well-being, and academic success.

If your administration is considering participation in the USDA pledge, we encourage engagement with the school nutrition professionals responsible for implementing these changes in cafeterias every day. School meal programs have already made significant strides in improving meal quality while navigating challenges related to procurement, labor shortages, student acceptance, food costs, equipment needs, and federal nutrition requirements.

Our members can provide valuable insight into:

- Current nutrition practices already underway in schools across [State]
- Operational and financial considerations associated with potential changes
- Product availability and procurement
- Workforce, equipment, and training needs
- Strategies that support student participation and meal acceptance
- Successful local approaches already being implemented by school districts

We welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource to your office and share perspectives from school nutrition professionals throughout the state. We believe collaboration between state leaders and school meal operators is essential to ensuring any new initiatives are practical, effective, and sustainable for schools and students.

Should your team wish to discuss the pledge, we would be pleased to meet with you or your staff at your convenience.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and success of [State]'s students. We look forward to being a partner and resource as these conversations move forward.

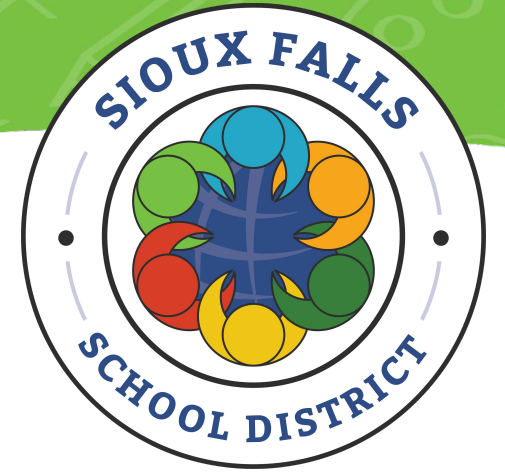


USDA & HHS Announcement

8-24-26 @ USDA headquarters - Updates coming

Assumption it will be announcing program changes with a 60-90 day comment period to write in pros & cons

Goal is to have over 300,000 comments submitted from all involved in school meals



Questions?

Thank you!



SFSD Facilities Task Force

Planning for the Future

Mission: “to educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world”



Purpose

To review the process the District and Facilities Task Force used to develop a priority list of projects, and to share next steps for the facility planning process.

***Our Mission: To Educate and Prepare Each Student
to Succeed in a Changing World***





Charge to the 2026 Task Force

Prioritize CIP Facility Projects that are:

- Aligned to the District's mission, vision, and priorities
- Aligned to the District's facilities standards
- Designed to allow the District to expand or contract with enrollment shifts
- Developed to ensure fair and uniform access for students across every building





Our Mission:

***To Educate and Prepare
Each Student to Succeed in a
Changing World.***





Our Vision:

It is the vision of the Sioux Falls School District to provide the opportunities and challenges for each student to succeed as a lifelong learner in a changing world. The District values a highly trained and committed workforce, continually evaluating and improving their own and student performance. The District recognizes its role as a key contributor to the social, civic, and economic foundation of this community. **To achieve this vision, we must ignite the hearts and minds of our students, staff, families, the business community, and citizens.**



2026 SFSD Facilities Task Force



Process

1. Reviewed District and City of Sioux Falls growth projections
2. Reviewed and prioritized current facility needs
3. Reviewed and prioritized future facility needs
4. Prioritized projects that may be supported by a future bond
5. Provided a list of prioritized projects to the School Board

***Our Mission: To Educate and Prepare Each Student
to Succeed in a Changing World***

Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Process

District Leadership completed the following:

- Involved building level leadership
- Reviewed all District and building project listings
- Developed a comprehensive CIP 2027 project list
- Developed preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Presented the CIP 2027 project list to the Facilities Task Force for review and prioritization





Meeting #1 ~ The Charge and Historical Baseline

Meeting #2 ~ Funding & CIP Projects

Meeting #3 ~ Facility Field Trip

Meeting #4 ~ Consensus Ranking & Path Forward

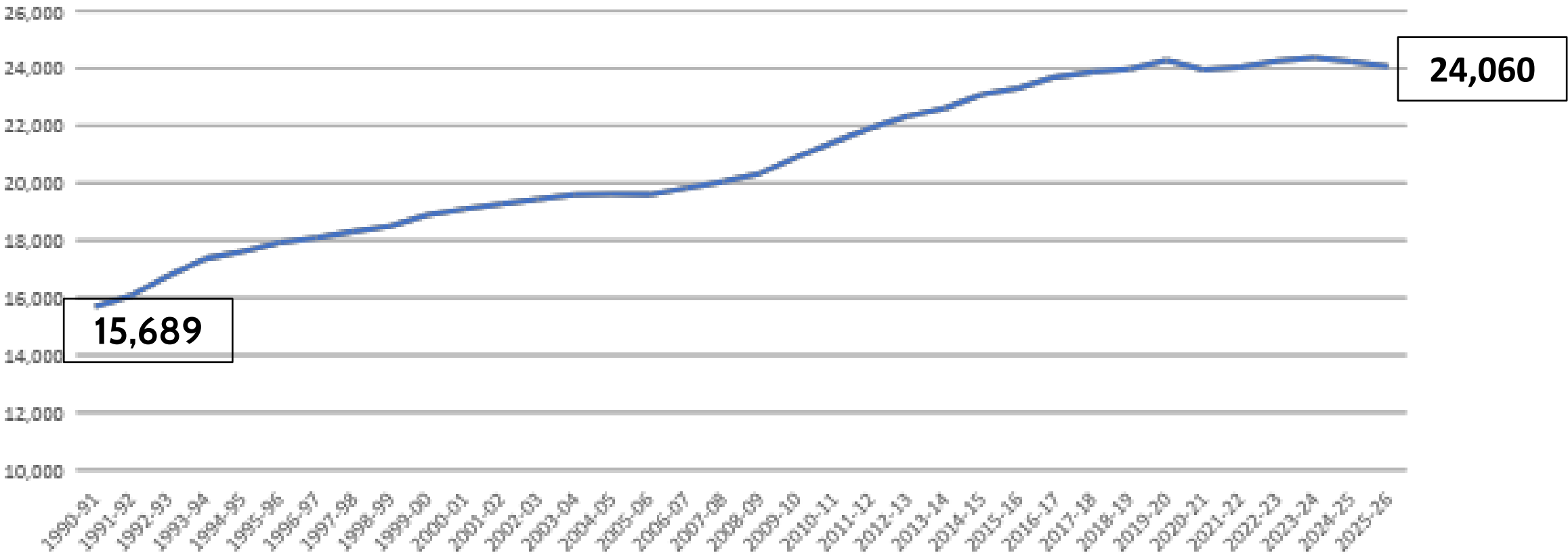




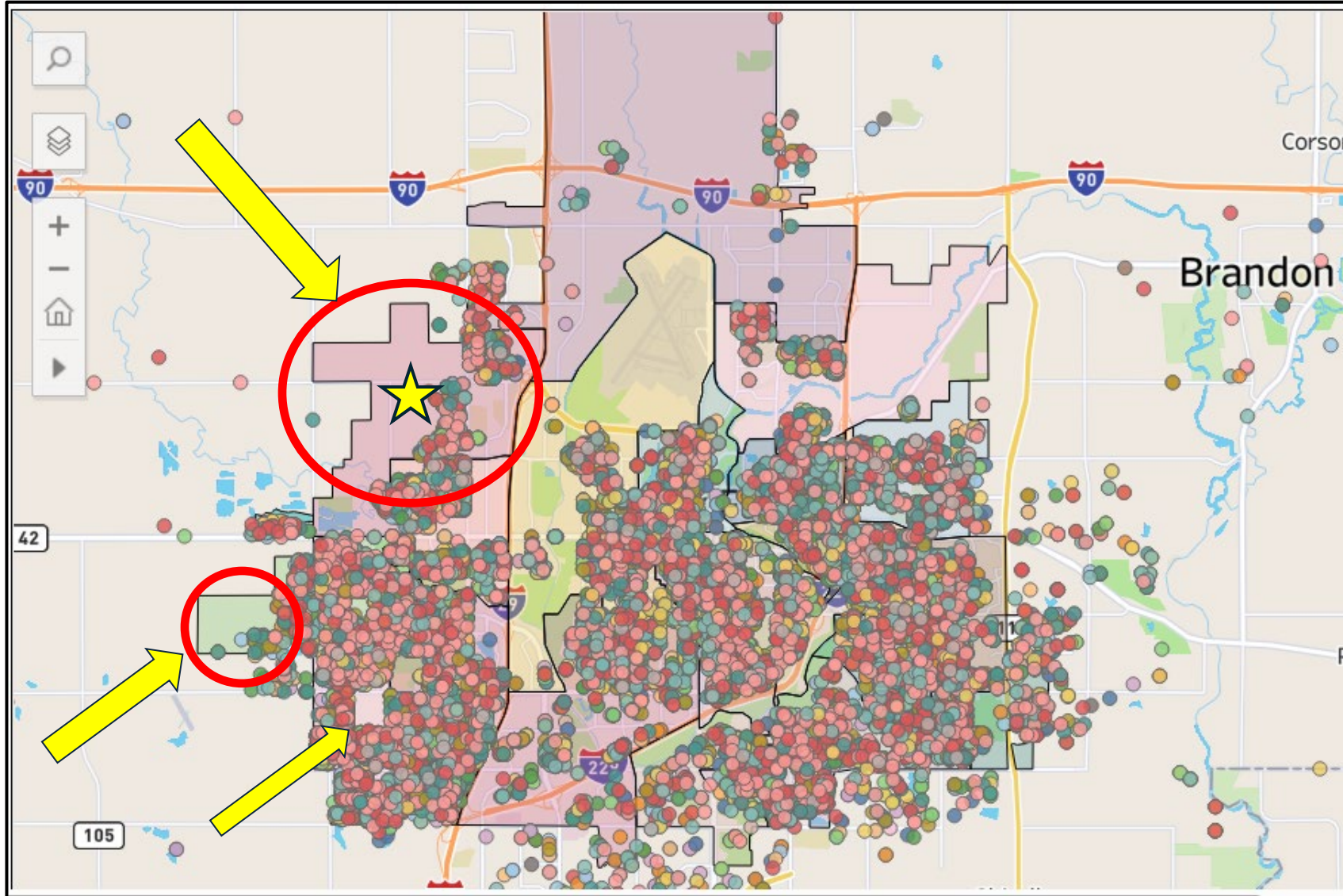
Enrollment-Historical



K-12 Enrollment



Enrollment-Remaining Growth Areas



Future Growth Areas:

- NW area by GMMS
- Land annexed from Lennox School District
- SW area by RHS

Northwest Side Projections

 Madison & Marion

0 – 5 Years

Tier 1



3,038 people

741 under 18

1,399 Households

410 Households with Children

6 – 15 Years

Tier 2



5,611 people

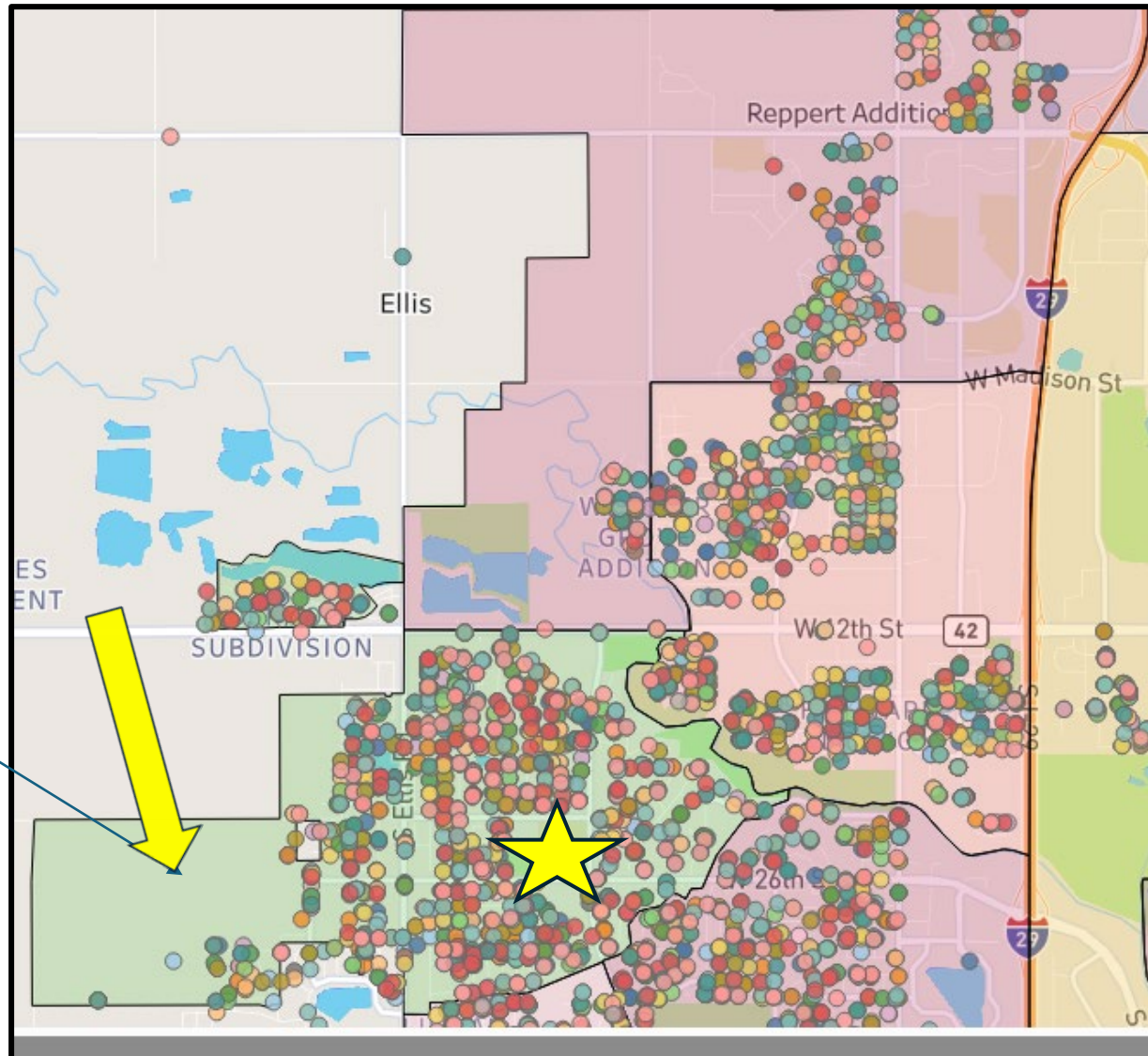
1,369 under 18

2,575 Households

754 Households with Children



Enrollment-Land Annexed From Lennox



300-400
Students

- Land annexed from Lennox could grow to additional 300-400 students as the area develops
- Southwest elementary schools already running at/near capacity
- Eventual possible need for another elementary school

West Side Projections



26th & Ellis

0 – 5 Years

Tier 1



3,523 people

860 under 18

1,564 Households

458 Households with Children

Tier 2



6 – 15 Years

741 people

181 under 18

294 Households

86 Households with Children



Growth Projection

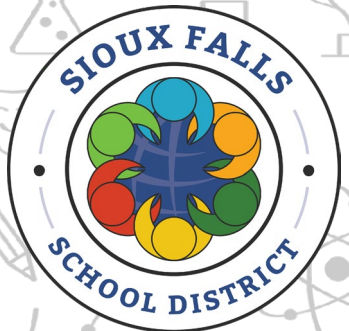
📍 41st & Sertoma

1,935 people
472 under 18
876 Households
257 Households with Children



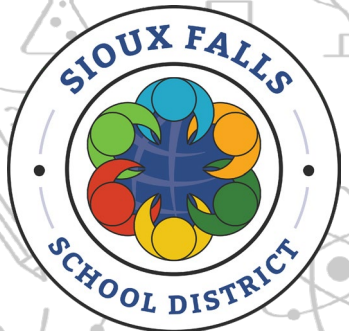
Final CIP Ranking

1. Whittier Middle School Replacement
2. New Westside Elementary
3. District-Wide Security Updates
4. Edison Middle School ~ Aud., Commons, Tech-Ed, Art
5. Garfield Elementary Restroom Renovations
6. LBA ~ New Resource Room/Tutor Room/ Staff RR
7. PHMS ~ Auditorium
8. WHS, LHS, RHS Locker Rooms
9. BRMS, GMMS, MMS ~ RISE Changing Rooms & RR
10. LHS Band Area Improvement
11. WHS Science Lab Room Improvement
12. Edison Middle School ~ PE Locker Rooms
13. WHS & RHS Little Theatre reconfiguration
14. Lowell ~ Classroom Update Early Childhood
15. LBA, Terry Redlin ~ Playground Turf
16. Edison Middle School ~ Gym Bleachers & Moveable Wall
17. PHMS ~ Classroom Expansion
18. Axtell Park ~ Restroom Renovations



Final CIP Ranking

19. LBA ~ RR renovation
20. Garfield ~ Addition to the West of the Community Center
21. LBA & Lowell ~ Drop Off Areas
22. PHMS ~ CTE Update
23. John Harris ~ Classroom Updates
24. Edison Middle School ~ RR Renovation
25. Hayward ~ Library Walls
26. WHS & RHS ~ Tech Ed and FACS Areas
27. Lowell ~ RR Update and Storage Expansion
28. Laura Wilder ~ Off Street Parking
29. Discovery, Eugene Field, Robert Frost, Jane Adams, & Lowell ~ Drop Off Areas
30. JHS, LHS, RHS, WHS ~ Bleachers on Main Field
31. Robert Frost ~ Playground Reconstruction
32. Jane Addams, Robert Frost, SBA, Sonia Sotomayor ~ Playground Turf
33. GMMS, MMS ~ Remove Center Lockers & Add Conference Rooms
34. JFK ~ Reading Pits
35. JFK ~ Update Lockers and Casework
36. HWF ~ Field Events Area, Additional RR, FieldHouse Modifications



Our Path

January 26, 2026 ~ Kickoff SFSD Facilities Task Force

January 26→February 13, 2026 ~ Application window was open

Feb 16→Feb 27, 2026 ~ Task Force Members were selected

March 2→March 6, 2026 ~ Applicants notified of their selection

April 8, 2026 ~ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

April 22, 2026 ~ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

May 6, 2026 ~ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

May 20, 2026 ~ 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Task Force Meetings

June 6, 2026 ~ Present Project Priority List to the School Board





SIoux FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Kids. Our Future.

A Successful Outcome Requires:

- A bond election package that clearly addresses city growth and school enrollment trends and facility needs of the District
- A clear vision of the scope and cost of each project and the financial impact on taxpayers
- Fiscal accountability with a goal of \$3/\$1000 of property valuation when combining Capital Outlay Levy with Bond Redemption Levies
- Consistent, factual answers about why each project is included
- Active listening that collects public feedback to shape the final proposal
- Trusted community voices sharing accurate information and encouraging participation in the bond election

How the Community can Engage

LISTEN:

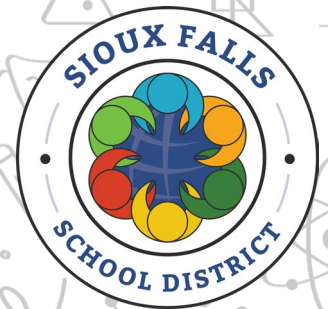
- Invite questions and concerns
- Help uncover information that needs clarifying

PARTICIPATE:

- Complete the community survey
- Attend an information session at WMS or MMS

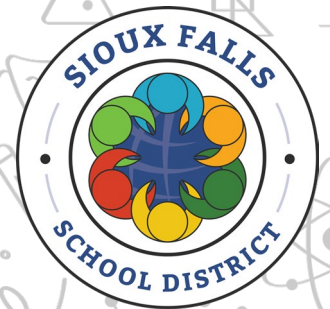
SHARE FACTS:

- Engage in conversations to explain the process
- Highlight priorities
- Inform others about project scope and bond package



Summary

- 30 community members comprised the Task Force.
- The Task Force met four times during the spring of 2026.
- The Task Force reviewed and prioritized a list of CIP projects.
- The Task Force identified the replacement of Whittier middle school and a new elementary on the westside of the Sioux Falls School District as the top priorities.
- The Task Force also identified
 - Edison MS Auditorium, commons, tech-ed, and art area
 - Patrick Henry MS auditorium and tech-ed area
 - Garfield Elem restrooms
 - Laura B Anderson resource room, tutor room, staff spaces



Next Steps

August 24, 2026 ~ Facilities Task Force Update at Board Work Session

September 2026 ~ Facilities Task Force Gathering

September 30, 2026 ~ Community Information Session at WMS

October 7, 2026 ~ Community Information Sessions at MMS

October 2026 ~ Community Engagement Survey Distributed

December 9, 2026 ~ Reconvene Facilities Task Force

January 25, 2027 ~ Present Facilities Task Force findings to School Board

April 2027 ~ Bond Election





FACILITIES FOR THE FUTURE:

Sioux Falls Public Schools belong to the people of this great community. For 155+ years, residents have invested in and supported our public schools because they recognize the positive reciprocal impact on the city's continued growth and success. High-quality education is delivered daily to nearly 25,000 PreK through age 21 students at 24 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 4 high schools as well as alternative and career-focused locations.

Fiscal accountability is expected, not merely suggested.

WORK COMPLETED

FACILITIES TASK FORCE CREATED:

The School Board created the SFSD Facilities Task Force in January 2026 and charged it with reviewing city growth, enrollment trends, building capacity, and capital needs to plan for the next 10 years.

- From 140 applicants, a diverse cross-section of community members was selected, representing varied neighborhoods, careers, and experiences.
- An independent facilitator led four meetings over six weeks.
- Members reviewed funding and planning data, examined 38 proposed projects and toured Whittier, Ben Reifel and Edison Middle Schools.

PROJECT RANKINGS:

Members asked questions and offered suggestions, then independently rated the identified projects to develop a final project priority ranking.

INITIAL PRIORITIES

HIGHEST RANKED:

- Replace the aging (100+ yrs) Whittier Middle School
- Build a future west-side elementary school
- Complete District-wide security updates

OTHER LEADING PROJECTS:

- Edison Middle School auditorium, commons, tech-ed, and art improvements
- Patrick Henry MS auditorium, tech-ed area
- Garfield Elem restrooms
- Laura B. Anderson resource/tutor/staff spaces

NEXT STEPS

SEPT 30 (Whittier) & OCT 7 (Memorial):

Increase community awareness by sharing the process, project list, and financial impact at two public information sessions

MID OCTOBER 2026:

Survey community to gain feedback

DECEMBER 9, 2026:

Facilities Task Force reconvenes to review public input and prepare final recommendation to the School Board

JANUARY 25, 2027:

School Board acts on Task Force recommendation

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2027:

Continued effort to inform voters by sharing accurate information with the public

APRIL 2027: Bond election

A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME REQUIRES:

- A bond election package that clearly addresses city growth and school enrollment trends and facility needs of the District
- A clear vision of the scope and cost of each project and the financial impact on taxpayers
- Fiscal accountability with a goal of \$3/\$1000 of property valuation when combining Capital Outlay Levy with Bond Redemption Levies
- Consistent, factual answers about why each project is included
- Active listening that collects public feedback to shape the final proposal
- Trusted community voices sharing accurate information and encouraging participation in the bond election

HOW THE COMMUNITY CAN ENGAGE

LISTEN: Invite questions and concerns; help uncover what information the community needs to understand.

PARTICIPATE: Complete the survey and attend an information session before the package is finalized.

SHARE FACTS: Engage in conversations to explain the process, highlight priorities, and inform others that project scope and bond package will be determined through community feedback.

2026-27 District Priorities

Sioux Falls School District





Academic Success

We believe excellent instruction is the key to high academic achievement for our students. Our tiered system of support is designed to deliver evidence-based instruction and data-informed interventions. By focusing on individual student needs, we promote growth and success for all.

Academic Success Initiatives

- Improve Academic Response To Intervention (RTI) Framework to Ensure Student Needs are Met
- Expand Learning Pathways/Opportunities to Support Future Readiness
- Prioritize Targeted Professional Learning Aligned to District Priorities
- Elevate PreK-12 Reading Achievement through High-Quality ELA Curriculum and Evidence-Based Reading Instruction
- Support Academic Growth through Development of Rigorous Curriculum and High Expectations



Academic Response to Intervention (RTI)

SFSD believes every student deserves instruction, and if necessary, interventions to support their success in every learning opportunity. RTI is our district's academic focus within a system-wide approach to ensure all students receive the instruction and interventions they need to succeed.

Grounded in timely data and collaborative problem-solving, the Response to Intervention (RTI) process allows Sioux Falls School District educators to address all students' academic needs by identifying learning gaps early with targeted, research-based support.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Optimize and expand data analytics tools such as the Data Viz Dashboards to equip school problem-solving teams with timely insights to identify student needs and track intervention impact.
- Create and refine standardized general and special education problem-solving tools to systematically guide teams through the RTI framework and document student support efforts.
- Build and maintain a comprehensive inventory of evidence-based interventions, empowering teams to explore, select, and implement targeted strategies aligned with student needs.



Pathways for Future Readiness

College and career readiness skills are essential for life beyond PreK–12. The Sioux Falls School District equips students with the tools and knowledge to succeed in college, careers, and a changing workforce.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Convene a steering committee to refine and expand the Junior Kindergarten program to enhance school readiness for early learners.
- Launch a CTE pilot at George McGovern and Whittier Middle Schools to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in high-interest fields like culinary arts, healthcare, robotics, ag-tech, and forensic science.
- Investigate and implement opportunities to increase the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy enrollment by expanding access, awareness, and scheduling flexibility.
- Continue to expand middle school Community Learning Center (CLC) programming and identify sustainable funding sources to increase student access to enrichment and college and career exploration opportunities.

Pathways for Future Readiness

College and career readiness skills are essential for life beyond PreK–12. The Sioux Falls School District equips students with the tools and knowledge to succeed in college, careers, and a changing workforce.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Expand relevant student work-based experiences that prepare graduates for post-secondary and career success, including the para and cyber apprenticeship programs.
- Scale the Junior Achievement partnership to help all middle school students gain experience with securing employment, understanding finances, and exploring careers.
- Partner with Junior Achievement to revise the High School Career Fair for Juniors and Seniors
- Integrate the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) and Project Discovery training to develop student strengths into marketable job skills.
- Expand post-secondary access for students with disabilities through the Transcend Program, providing targeted instruction in college transition, scheduling, career exploration, and life skills.

Professional Learning

By prioritizing professional learning, we foster continuous growth through data-driven decisions to build the collective capacity of all SFSD staff. Our goal is to ensure every staff member has access to meaningful learning opportunities that contribute to an exceptional educational experience for every student.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Refine and implement the RTI Framework to strengthen Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III academic interventions.
- Expand K-12 professional learning opportunities centered on instructional Clarity practices.
- Provide meaningful professional learning aligned with the career goals of SFSD staff by delivering comprehensive, choice-driven training designed specifically to support clerical and specialist roles.
- Define and integrate high-yield balanced assessment practices across all K-12 grade levels.
- Integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) training into elementary professional development while continuing advanced learning opportunities for all staff.

Advancing PreK-12 Literacy and Reading Achievement

The Sioux Falls School District is committed to building strong foundational literacy skills and empowering all students to become confident, proficient readers. By prioritizing high-quality instruction and continuous curriculum enhancement, the district ensures every learner gains the tools necessary for long-term academic success. Through strategic investments and evidence-based practices, we empower educators to foster engaging, supportive reading environments in every preK-12 classroom.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Fully implement UFLI in grades K-2.
- Implement the Word Origins pilot as a targeted intervention to support third-grade students who have not yet achieved reading proficiency.
- Launch a comprehensive two-year K-12 ELA curriculum study to evaluate, align, and select high-quality instructional materials.
- Begin Year 2 of the four-year Elevating Literacy Grant to expand instructional coaching, classroom resources, and systemic reading supports.

District Curriculum Studies

The Sioux Falls School District is committed to ongoing curriculum studies that support high-quality instruction. Current efforts focus on updating curriculum frameworks, refining pacing and assessment practices, and launching comprehensive content area reviews to ensure coherence and rigor across all grade levels.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Implement middle and high school Social Studies curriculum, pacing guides and common benchmark/semester assessments.
- Pilot K-12 Mathematics products, finalize pacing guides, and assessments.
- Launch the PE/Health curriculum study.
- Launch the Family And Consumer Science (FACS), Personal Finance, and Business/Marketing curriculum studies.



2026-27 Progress Indicators

The Sioux Falls School District Academic Response To Intervention (RTI)

- Continue an RTI Academic Team to guide, monitor, and support building-level teams.
- Improve and enhance Data Visualization tools to support school-based problem-solving teams.

K12 College and Career Readiness

- Increase total student enrollment and course participation at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy.
- Successfully launch and monitor student enrollment in the new CTE pilot program at George McGovern and Whittier Middle Schools.
- Identify student interests from the K-5 SmartLab experience at Marcella LeBeau Elementary.
- Expand Community Learning Center opportunities at middle schools.
- Expand and refine structured work-based learning pathways for juniors and seniors (e.g., Paraprofessional and Cyber Apprenticeship Programs).
- Establish the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab and implement the Project Discovery curriculum at Community Campus in collaboration with SDSU.
- Increase post-secondary access for students with disabilities through the Transcend Program.
- Scale Junior Achievement's 6th grade Biz Town program to all 6 middle schools.



2026-27 Progress Indicators

Professional Learning

- Provide multi-tiered (Tier I, II, III) intervention training through the content curriculum study process.
- Expand Clarity training to include middle and high school teachers.
- Train all clerical and designated front-line specialists with choice-driven training.
- Create and introduce a balanced assessment framework.
- Continue cultivating a culture of data-driven decision-making by training educators and administrators in data analysis, interpretation, and evidence-based practices to enhance student outcomes and operational effectiveness.
- Provide AI training to all elementary teachers and administrators.



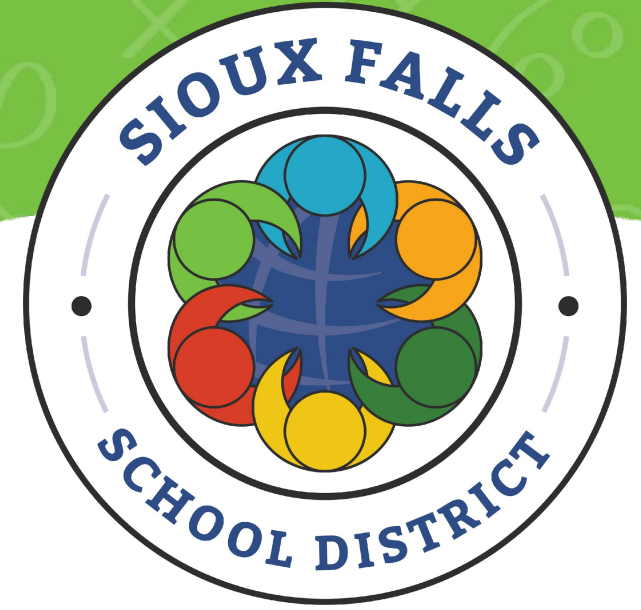
2026-27 Progress Indicators

Advancing PreK-12 Literacy and Reading Achievement

- Monitor implementation of UFLI in grades K-2 and the Word Origins pilot for non-proficient third-grade students to strengthen foundational literacy outcomes
- Launch Year 1 of the two-year K-12 ELA curriculum study
- Implement Year 2 of the four-year Elevating Literacy Grant

District Curriculum Studies

- Implement middle and high school social studies curriculum
- Continue the math study into year 2
- Launch the PE/Health curriculum study
- Launch the Family And Consumer Science (FACS), Personal Finance, and Business/Marketing curriculum studies



Well-Being

We believe that a sense of belonging is essential for the academic and social success of students and staff members. It is our responsibility to cultivate safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning communities within every school, where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to flourish.



Well-Being Initiatives

- Ensure Accessible Supports for Students, Families, and Staff Across the District
- Align Programs and Resources to Address the Unique Needs of Each Student
- Offer Ongoing Professional Learning so Staff are Equipped to Foster Well-Being and Student Success



Student, Staff, & Family Supports

The success of our educational community relies on prioritizing the health and well-being of students and staff. We ensure access to community resources, cultivating resilience among students and staff members.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Increase awareness and encourage staff use of the District's comprehensive benefits and wellness resources to support thriving at work and at home.
- Develop and implement strategies to motivate and challenge students to engage in a physically active lifestyle.
- Pilot a chemical awareness and prevention program at four elementary, one middle, and one high school.
- Pilot Character Matters programming focused on sportsmanship, accountability, and leadership within extracurricular activities at all four high schools.
- Provide new/additional mental health resources to families.

Partners for Success

To fulfill our mission, we must educate all students with compassion and intention, using supportive and inclusive methods. By partnering with our community and leveraging available resources, we will connect students with caring adults, effective programs, and the support they need to reach their goals.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Cultivate ongoing partnerships to expand the pool of adult mentors committed to supporting our students.
 - Expand College and Career Access programming to all four high schools.
 - Expand Community Learning Centers (CLCs) to multiple middle schools for students and families to engage in well-being activities during out-of-school hours to address physical and mental health and parenting.
 - Work with local agencies to provide access to comprehensive physical, mental and health-related services.
 - Partner with the university systems to provide professional learning and career advancement opportunities for SFSD support staff.
 - Expand partnership with Junior Achievement to all 6th graders through JA Biztown, and HS Career Fair for Juniors and Seniors.
 - Partner with the City of Sioux Falls and SD Game Fish and Parks to create the Outdoor Native Heritage Learning Space.
- 

Professional Development - Student Support

Exceptional staff members have a profound impact on student performance and success.

Therefore, prioritizing professional learning opportunities for staff is essential in ensuring student achievement.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Support ongoing professional learning and staff training in proactive behavior intervention.
- Implement a District Behavior Systems Team (DBST) to assess behavior systems across schools and provide targeted training and support to staff.
- Streamline behavior event recording through a single tool to improve data access for school-based decision-making teams and staff.
- Establish mentor program for new counselors/social workers.
- Support professional learning around WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) implementation.





2026-27 Progress Indicators

Student, Staff and Family Support Systems

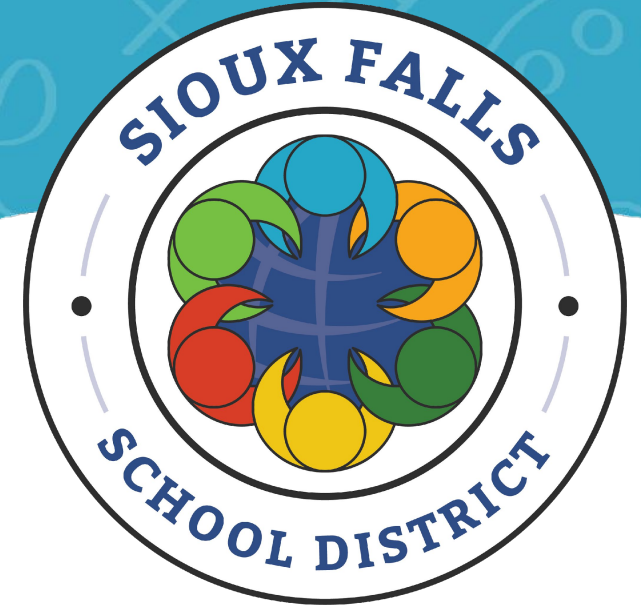
- Increased use of the Employee Wellness Program
- Increased capacity to support and reinforce positive student behaviors
- Implementation of Counseling, Awareness, Recovery, Education (CARE) program
- Increased views and downloads of mental health resources provided to families and staff

Programming Supports for Students

- Implementation of College and Career Access program at four high schools
- Expansion of Community Learning Center (CLC) to multiple middle schools
- Expansion of embedded mental health therapists in schools
- Dental care partnership with the City of Sioux Falls
- More adult mentors dedicated to serving students
- Expanded professional learning and career advancement opportunities for support staff

Completion of Staff Professional Learning

- Expansion of the District Behavior Systems Team (DBST) training at the elementary level
- Student Success Teams trained on behavior event recording platform and available resources
- Implementation of Counseling and Social Worker Mentoring program



Community Engagement

We believe when stakeholder relationships are intentionally cultivated, students grow through hands-on learning experiences and real-world work and career opportunities. Through these school-community partnerships, we believe students develop a deeper connection to living and working in Sioux Falls.

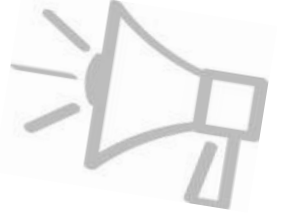


Community Engagement Initiatives



- Expand Strategic Partnerships and Community Connections to Support District Priorities
- Showcase Public School Successes for Legislators, Community Leaders, and Stakeholders
- Engage All Stakeholders in Determining Facility Projects for 2027 Bond Referendum
- Enhance District Communication to Increase Stakeholder Satisfaction

Strategic Partnerships



School partnerships hold immense value as they enable collaboration, resource sharing, and collective efforts to enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for students.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Forge fresh strategic partnerships to actively support the diverse opportunities within the school district.
- Evaluate current partnerships to identify potential areas for expansion and improvement.
- Expand and evaluate career pathway opportunities for students that match community needs.

Stakeholder Listening and Learning

Actively listening to and valuing the diverse perspectives and feedback of stakeholders is essential for continuous improvement. By engaging with stakeholders, we learn important insights and information to drive our progress.

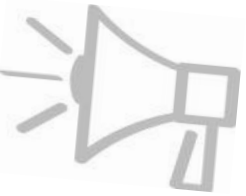
The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Utilize feedback from multiple sources to continuously refine our practices.
- Engage community leaders to personally experience public schools through tours and events to showcase the exceptional education offered.
- Maximize opportunities for non-parent stakeholders to experience SFSD through special programming and Community Education courses.



The SFSD Experience

The Sioux Falls School District Experience is an opportunity to provide students with a first-class public school education. Our unwavering commitment is to exceed expectations right from the start between children, adults, and our schools, guaranteeing an extraordinary educational journey for every person in our care.



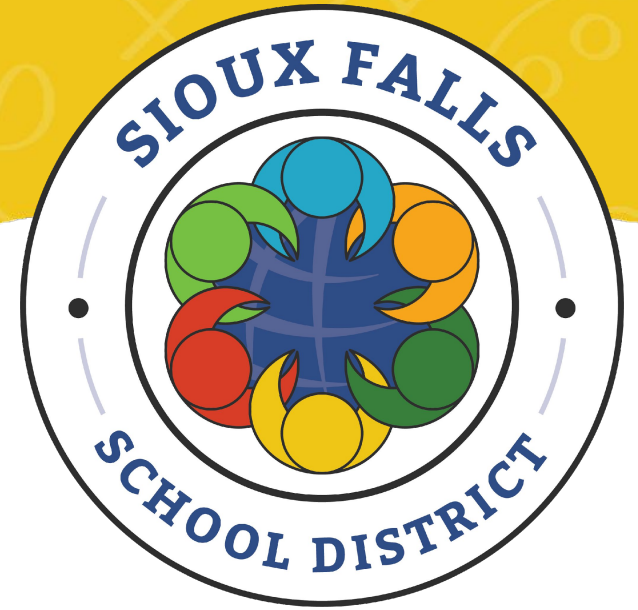
The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Connect the expertise of our staff and community partners to provide valuable support through information and education to students and families.
- Maximize the user experience of the District website and app by providing effortless access to a wide range of information and resources.
- Offer assistance and training to parents, equipping them with the necessary skills to use the District learning tools and become active partners in their child's educational journey.
- Deliver professional learning for all staff around Web Content Accessibility Standards (WCAG) ensure accessible information and communication for all stakeholders.

2026-27 Progress Indicators

- Establish a partnership framework to identify and evaluate current and future partnerships to maximize growth opportunities.
- Foster increased parent/community satisfaction through District and school-specific communication, conversations, and surveys.
- Train all staff on accessibility tools to meet Web Content Accessibility Standards compliance.
- Update and expand information on primary web pages, with special focus on Counseling pages to increase access and understanding for parents and students.
- Collaborate with community leaders to establish Literacy Allies partnership.
- Increase mentors at all schools, with special attention at Anne Sullivan, Cleveland, and Terry Redlin.





Staff Excellence

We believe in the importance of investing in all staff members. Both new and experienced employees are encouraged to engage in continuous learning and professional development. When professional growth is prioritized, staff feel valued and satisfaction increases.

Staff Excellence Initiatives



- Foster professional growth and enhance professional capacity by offering relevant and aligned professional learning opportunities that address the priorities of the district, departments, and schools.
- Prioritize intentional staff recruitment, recognition, and retention strategies to attract and retain talented people.
- Strengthen staff engagement by actively involving employees in District initiatives, soliciting meaningful feedback, and clearly communicating how their input influences decision-making and organizational priorities.

Building Professional Capacity

We attract, invest in, and retain staff members who consistently excel in their positions, demonstrate integrity, and embody a commitment to the SFSD vision and mission.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Provide tuition assistance programs for staff members seeking certification in Special Education, promoting professional growth and supporting their ability to effectively serve students with diverse needs.
- Offer engaging and job-relevant training opportunities for non-teaching staff members.
- Provide support and resources for classified and substitute staff members who are interested in exploring and pursuing a career in teaching and other certified positions, encouraging their professional growth and advancement within the education field.

Staff Recruitment, Recognition, and Retention

In a competitive landscape where top applicants have numerous employment options, showcasing our unwavering commitment to staff and student achievement strengthens the District's brand.

Once staff members are hired, we understand the significance of building strong relationships. By cultivating a work environment and organizational culture that prioritizes employee motivation and encourages a sense of community and belonging, we foster an atmosphere conducive to professional growth and sustained engagement.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Expand the comprehensive system to recognize and celebrate high-achieving staff across all employee groups, acknowledging exceptional contributions and promoting a culture of excellence.
- Sustain and promote the employee milestone recognition program to commemorate significant career achievements and longevity, valuing the dedication and commitment of staff members.
- Conduct a thorough evaluation of recruitment and staffing strategies, taking into account the unique challenges and dynamics of today's hiring climate, to ensure we attract and retain top talent.
- Collaborate with identified employee groups for win-win negotiation processes.
- Review and optimize the District's benefits administration platform, employee benefit offerings, and consultant partnerships to support informed, data-driven recommendations by the employee-led Insurance Committee.
- Encourage substitute teachers and volunteers to explore permanent career opportunities within the District. By tapping into their passion for student impact and offering clear pathways to long-term roles, we aim to inspire the individuals to consider careers that allow them to make an even greater difference every day.

Staff Innovation

SFSD encourages staff to take risks and seek innovative solutions to enrich the student experience and the staff work environment.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Foster a spirit of collaboration and innovation by cultivating staff ideas for new opportunities and district enhancements.
- Foster staff engagement in District initiatives by seeking input, valuing feedback, and communicating how staff perspectives shaped outcomes.
- Promote a process for sharing insights and best practices, enabling staff to connect and learn from one another.

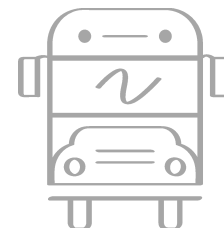
2026-27 Progress Indicators

- Increased employee retention rates in all groups, with special focus on hard-to-fill positions.
- Demonstrated and documented communication of how stakeholder feedback influenced District implementation, decisions, and priorities.
- Increased number of classified staff members or substitute staff members achieving professional growth, resulting in more teaching contracts for the SFSD.



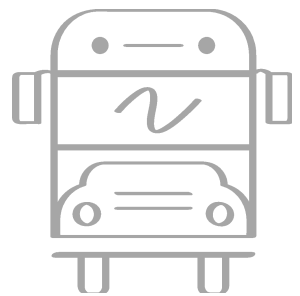
Effective Use of Resources

We believe the effective and strategic use of resources creates optimal conditions for the education and preparation of students, enabling them to thrive in an ever-evolving world. By thoughtfully allocating resources, we expand access to the necessary tools, opportunities, and support systems that help students achieve success and reach their full potential.



Effective Use of Resources Initiatives

- Prioritize future facility needs to effectively address growth and ensure adequate learning spaces for students.
- Evaluate the influence of transportation on student success and engagement, identifying areas for improvement and implementing strategies to enhance transportation services.
- Strengthen the Child Nutrition Program to promote healthy eating habits, expand access to nutritious meals, and create a positive dining experience for students.
- Foster fiscal responsibility by implementing sound financial practices, optimizing resource allocation, and seeking innovative cost-saving measures to maximize the impact of available resources.

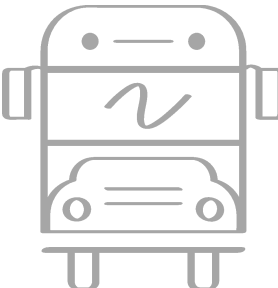


Future Facility Needs

The need for school expansions and new facilities is driven by a robust economy. The District collaborates with community partners to assess the timing and locations for the establishment of schools, ensuring the educational needs of the community are met.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Reconvene the SFSD Facilities Task Force in the fall of 2026 to continue the process of reviewing future needs for the bond resolution in the spring of 2027.
- Develop project schedules for approved projects prioritized by the Bond Steering Committee.
- Complete construction of the CTE Agricultural Wing for fall 2026 opening.
- Collaborate with community partners to determine the scope of Howard Wood Field renovations.

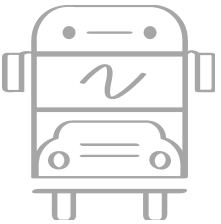


Transportation

School bus transportation plays a crucial role in student success by providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation for students. It ensures equal access to education by bridging geographical gaps, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting a conducive learning environment for students to arrive at school ready to learn.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Work with vendors to allow alternative methods for students to scan onto buses.
- Work with the SFSD Data Services Office to determine effectiveness of Bus Pilots.
- Educate and encourage families for better use of Sioux Area Metro busing system for high school students.
- Improve on-time performance by reducing the number of late buses.

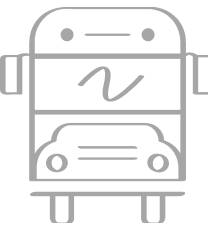


Child Nutrition

School nutrition services play a critical role in promoting the health and well-being of students. By providing access to nutritious meals, these services ensure that students have the fuel they need to concentrate, learn effectively, and reach their academic potential.

The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Continue to improve the quality of meals for elementary students by preparing hot food at six nearby HS/MS locations.
- Pilot food choice options for elementary students.
- Communicate changes regarding reduced price meals and how they are now covered by the state.
- Continue delivering exceptional customer service where all students feel welcome through staff development.
- Review the updated food pyramid (flipped) and provided by Make America Healthy Again and the impact it will have on Child Nutrition.

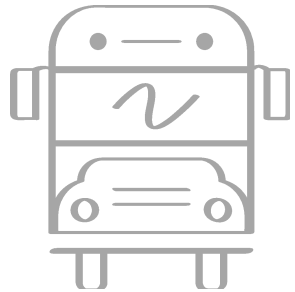


Fiscal Responsibility

SFSD remains committed to fiscal responsibility and ensures accountability to taxpayers by consistently maintaining a balanced budget. Through careful financial planning, effective resource allocation, and transparent financial reporting, the district strives to uphold the trust placed in it by the community and ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and efficiently to support quality education.

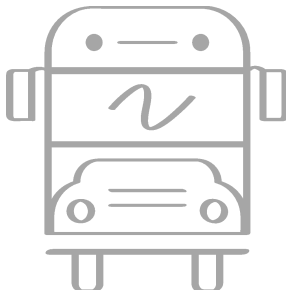
The Sioux Falls School District will:

- Create an RFP for Health Insurance to determine quality and feasibility of current options.
- Look into options of tendering old bond issues to save the district money in future years by reducing debt.
- Develop a Capital Outlay/Bond Redemption Funds blueprint to fund the replacement for Whittier Middle School, a new west side elementary school, and other capital projects over the next five years.
- Uphold favorable financial comparisons to both local school districts and national peers, demonstrating sound financial management practices and responsible stewardship of resources.



2026-27 Progress Indicators

- Ensure efficient facility use, while focusing on increased participation in SFSD summer and after-school programming.
- Decrease number of bus route delays that are over 10 minutes.
- Boost student lunch and breakfast participation rates.
- Achieve Top Quartile Ranking for the lowest homeowner property tax obligations in Sioux Falls and surrounding areas while still including the new bond projection.
- Increase opportunities for savings through bond tender process.
- Evaluate current health insurance plan for efficiencies through the Health Insurance RFP.





Budget Updates

Sioux Falls School District 49-5

Presented by: Cameron Kerkhove, Business Manager

August 24th, 2026

Highlights

- Reduced the Opt Out by \$1.5 million from original proposal which was a \$1 million reduction from the previous year
- FY26 over \$3,000,000 in reductions
- FY27 over \$2,000,000 in reductions
- Bond Tender Process
- Health RFP

Bond Tender Process

- Wanted to look for efficiencies and savings
- Would normally try to refinance a bond
- Try to get lower interest rate
- That is not an option in this market
- Did a new bond tendering process (first in South Dakota)
- How it works.....
 - Companies want to trade in their old bonds at low interest rates.
 - That way they can loan out their money again at a higher rate.
 - Willing to sell back their bond money for a lower amount

Bond Tender Process

- Results:
 - We traded back \$48,590,000 in old bonds for \$39,695,000.
 - This decreases our current debt.
 - We will have a higher interest rate on the new \$39 million compared to the old \$48 million.
 - This results in a total net savings of **\$2,363,879.55** over the life of the bond payments.
 - The last payment will be in FY 2040.

Health RFP Process

- In an effort to provide the best benefits possible for staff, we are looking at an RFP process for health insurance needs.
- We will be looking to give the best benefits possible while hopefully decreasing costs.
- Will RFP for a broker (Board member on this review committee)
- The broker will then go to the market to try to get us better pricing/benefits/coverage.
- FY 2028 change over

Takeaways

- Our goal is to be fiscally responsible.
- We continue to look for efficiencies and savings for taxpayers, the district, and staff.
- We have had a lot of good wins lately, and we want to continue to build on them.
- These are just some of the wins with more items in the works.



SCHOOL VISITS 2026–2027

COMMON PURPOSE

See the work. Learn from our schools. Celebrate our students and staff. Strengthen understanding of public education.

1 BOARD MEMBER SCHOOL VISITS

Purpose: Continue our traditional School Board Member school visits, providing an opportunity to learn more about individual schools and see teaching and learning firsthand.

Up to 12 Visits: Each Board Member may establish up to 12 school visits during the school year.

Scheduling: Board Members will enter their desired school visits in the Google document shared by Alicia DeSmet. Alicia will work with the school to establish the date and time and will ensure everyone who needs to be notified is informed.

Purpose & Expectations: Visits are intended to allow Board Members to be present, seen and connected to our schools. The emphasis is on **seeing, listening, learning, encouraging, and celebrating**. The Board will create and approve a guidance document.

2 LEGISLATIVE LEADER SCHOOL VISITS

Purpose: Build stronger relationships with local legislators by inviting them into our schools to see firsthand the outstanding work happening across the SFSD.

Visit Opportunities: Multiple visit opportunities will be established throughout the year. Board Members are invited to participate and may sign up for individual visits.

Board Participation: A Board Member can participate with each legislative visit group. Board Members will also be encouraged to personally contact and invite local representatives to attend.

Focus: Showcase students, staff, programs, innovation and the impact of public education in our community.

3 COMMUNITY LEADER SCHOOL VISITS

Purpose: Building and central office administrators will invite community leaders into our schools to see firsthand the great things happening in our schools.

How it Works: Local leaders will be invited to participate in scheduled school visits designed specifically to allow community leaders to see the great things being done in the Sioux Falls School District.

District Support: District senior leadership will participate as schedules allow.

Focus: Visits are informational opportunities to see successful practices, programs, student experiences and the day-to-day work taking place in our schools.

2026-2027 Board Work Sessions and Board Reports Planning Guide

Person	Department	Topic	Board Report or Work Session	Date Scheduled
Becky Dorman	HR	Staffing Update	Board Report	8/10/2026
Paul Keizer	CLC	Annual Update	Board Report	8/24/2026
Sara Klaahsen	Curriculum Srv	Professional Development Update	Board Report	8/24/2026
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	FY26 Budget Wrap UP	Board Report	9/14/2026
Doug Morrison	Data Services	Initial Enrollment Report	Board Report	9/14/2026
Dr. Stacy Stefani	Curriculum Srv	UFLI Report	Board Report	9/14/2026
Allison Struck	Education Foundation	SF Public Schools Education Foundation Update	Board Report	9/28/2026
Dr. Kirk Zeeck	Curriculum Srv	Post Secondary Report	Board Report	9/28/2026
Andrew Engdahl	ITS	Information and Technology Update	Board Report	10/26/2026
DeeAnn Konrad	Community Relations	District Demographics Report	Board Report	10/26/2026
Doug Morrison	Data Services	Fall Enrollment Report	Board Report	10/26/2026
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	2027 SFSD Legislative Positions Report	Board Report	11/9/2026
Dan Conrad	Admin Srv	Renberg	Board Report	11/9/2026
Doug Morrison	Data Services	SFSD Academic/State Accountability Report	Board Report	11/9/2026
Sarah Burkett	Curriculum Srv	AP/Dual Credit Report	Board Report	11/9/2026
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	FY28 Budget Timeline and Guidelines Report	Board Report	11/23/2026
Sarah Burkett	Curriculum Srv	HS Grad Rates and 9th - 10th Transition	Board Report	11/23/2026
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Election Timeline	Board Report	12/14/2026
Dan Conrad	Admin Srv	Class Size Report	Board Report	12/14/2026
Rebecca Wimmer	CLC	Community Partnerships Report	Board Report	12/14/2026
Erica Kogel	Early Childhood	Family Engagement/Head Start Programming Report	Board Report	1/11/2027
Sara Klaahsen	Curriculum Srv	EL Update	Board Report	1/11/2027
DeeAnn Konrad	Community Relations	Community Relations Overview	Board Report	1/25/2027
Molly Satter	Health Srv	Health Services Update Report	Board Report	1/25/2027
Dan Conrad	Admin Srv	Facilities Task Force/Bond	Board Report	2/8/2027
Morrison/Wirkus	Data Services	Digitization of Student Records	Board Report	2/8/2027
Dr. Kirk Zeeck	Curriculum Srv	Clarity for Learning	Board Report	2/22/2027
Elizabeth Jehangiri	Early Childhood	Early Childhood Updates	Board Report	2/22/2027
Dr. Stacy Stefani	Curriculum Srv	Jr. Kindergarten	Board Report	3/8/2027
Missy Braak	Transportation	Transportation Services Updates	Board Report	3/8/2027
Andy McKay	Curriculum Srv	Spanish Immersion Update	Board Report	3/22/2027
Dr. Kirk Zeeck	Curriculum Srv	Math Study	Board Report	3/22/2027
Anna Brokenleg	Office of Indian Ed	Outdoor Native Heritage Space/OSO Programs	Board Report	4/12/2027
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Tentative Budget Adoption	Board Report/Public Hearing	4/12/2027
Dan Conrad	Admin Srv	School Calendar	Board Report	4/26/2027
Doug Morrison	Data Services	Staff Survey Results	Board Report	4/26/2027
Becky Dorman	HR	Specialists Negotiations	Board Report	5/10/2027
Dr. Kirk Zeeck	Curriculum Srv	Balanced Assessment (BAST 2)	Board Report	5/10/2027
Wuebben/Meile	Activities	Participation and Outcomes	Board Report	6/21/2027
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Final Budget Adoption	Board Report	7/27/2027
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Legislative Updates	Board Report	Jan/Feb/Mar
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Budget WS #1	Work Session	3/31/2027
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Budget WS #2	Work Session	4/7/2027
Dr. Jamie Nold	Supt Office	School Visits	Work Session	8/24/2026
Gay Anderson	Child Nutrition	Child Nutrition Updates	Work Session	8/24/2026
Senior Leadership	District	District Priorities	Work Session	8/24/2026
Kim Sharping	Student Supt. Srv	CARE Program	Work Session	9/2/2026
Jeff Kreiter/Hall	Operations/CTE	CTE Ag Science	Work Session	10/7/2026
Dr. Stacy Stefani	Curriculum Srv	Jr. Kindergarten	Work Session	11/4/2026
Kim Sharping	Student Supt. Srv	Rooted Program	Work Session	11/4/2026
Special Srv	Special Srv	Special Services Overview	Work Session	12/2/2026
Dan Conrad	Admin Srv	Facilities Task Force/Bond	Work Session	1/25/2027
Doug Morrison	Data Services	Custom Data Vis	Work Session	1/25/2027
Dr. Kirk Zeeck	Curriculum Srv	ELA Literacy Grant (ECE and K-12)	Work Session	1/25/2027
Cameron Kerkhove	Finance	Health Insurance Review	Work Session	2/3/2027
Sharping/Conrad	Admin Srv	College and Career Access - Promising Futures	Work Session	5/5/2027