

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Updated & Board Approved: April 13, 2023

**Sioux Valley School District
Volga, South Dakota**

Belief Statements, Mission, and Vision

The staff meets during the before school in-service to review, reflect, and instruct new staff regarding the mission and vision of Sioux Valley School District. The staff and administrators believe in the education of all young people. Our mission statement is preparing individuals to succeed in an ever-changing global community.

Our vision includes developing enlightened persons who will learn and later give back to the larger community. The areas outlined are cultural, community/global, career, personal, and learning. These are explained in depth in the Sioux Valley School District Profile.

All staff members embrace the ideas of providing a safe and caring place for students to learn. The staff also believes in setting high expectations for the teaching and learning that occurs in all areas of the school district. Our mantra is "Expect Excellence."

Sioux Valley Elementary's vision statement states that it is our "highest priority to guarantee all Cossacks will reach their highest potential."

Our mission statement for Sioux Valley Elementary is every "Cossack will feel safe and supported in a positive learning community. A culture of collaboration will be felt by all stakeholders: students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members. There will be an expectation of a shared responsibility to ensure the growth of all and to celebrate learning."

SBAC Scores

The 2021-2022 and prior years' district and state results follow:

ELA

Grade	No. of SV Students 2021-2022	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2021-2022	South Dakota % Proficient 2021-2022	No. of SV Students 2020-2021	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2020-2021	South Dakota % Proficient 2020-2021
3	46	61%	47%	45	49%	46%
4	46	57%	49%	48	54%	46%
5	52	46%	49%	43	41%	49%
6	45	47%	47%	58	55%	45%
7	58	54%	52%	64	61%	51%
8	67	58%	49%	45	49%	49%
11	57	68%	63%	46	80%	62%

*Note...SBAC not administered in 2019-2020 school year due to COVID.

ELA

Grade	No. of SV Students 2018-2019	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2018-2019	South Dakota % Proficient 2018-2019	No. of SV Students 2017-2018	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2017-2018	South Dakota % Proficient 2017-2018
3	46	39%	29%	52	56%	51%
4	54	48%	50%	61	67%	50%
5	63	76%	54%	43	44%	53%
6	43	56%	51%	38	58%	52%
7	44	52%	54%	53	66%	56%
8	56	56%	52%	48	40%	56%
11	49	67%	64%	35	74%	67%

MATH

Grade	No. of SV Students 2021-2022	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2021-2022	South Dakota % Proficient 2021-2022	No. of SV Students 2020-2021	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2020-2021	South Dakota % Proficient 2020-2021
3	45	65%	53%	46	49%	49%
4	46	53%	48%	46	60%	45%
5	52	19%	39%	43	27%	36%
6	45	24%	39%	58	38%	36%
7	59	42%	41%	64	47%	38%
8	67	55%	37%	45	36%	37%
11	57	52%	38%	46	43%	37%

*Note...SBAC not administered in 2019-2020 school year due to COVID.

MATH

Grade	No. of SV Students 2018-2019	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2018-2019	South Dakota % Proficient 2018-2019	No. of SV Students 2017-2018	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2017-2018	South Dakota % Proficient 2017-2018
3	46	57%	53%	52	65%	55%
4	54	52%	49%	61	69%	49%
5	63	52%	41%	43	37%	41%
6	43	53%	41%	38	47%	44%
7	44	45%	46%	53	51%	48%
8	57	49%	44%	48	40%	48%
11	49	55%	41%	35	60%	43%

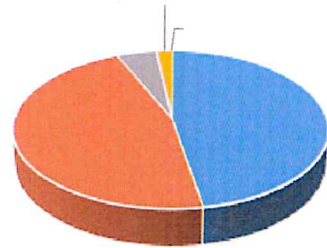
Perception Data

The Sioux Valley School district conducts a Strategic Planning Survey each fall for the purpose of gathering input from the public regarding our school district. Results of the survey were discussed at the January 9, 2023, school board meeting.

A summary of the results from the most recent survey is listed below. One hundred and eight individuals completed the survey. The percentage listed is a percentage of the survey respondents.

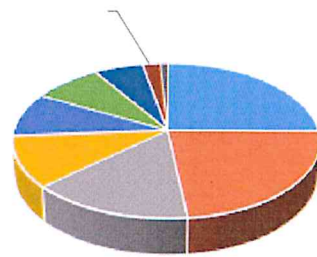
What is your impression of JK-12 education at Sioux Valley?

1 Positive - The school has many strengths	47.2%
2 Mixed positive - The school has more strengths than weaknesses	46.3%
3 Mixed negative - The school has more weaknesses than strengths	4.6%
4 Neutral - I do not have an opinion either way	1.9%
5 Negative - The school has many weaknesses/significant concerns	0.0%



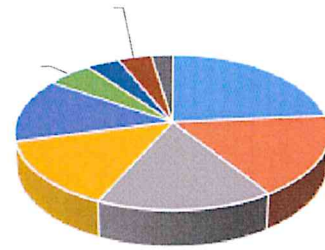
What do you believe is the purpose of JK-12 education at Sioux Valley?

1 Ensure students have basic skills (reading, math)	75.9%
2 Help students fulfill their potential and have choices in life	70.4%
3 Prepare every student for future economic success	45.4%
4 Support/develop our future workforce	32.4%
5 Prepare students for college	27.8%
6 Connect students to their peers and community	25.0%
7 Create global citizens	17.6%
8 Promote equity	6.5%
9 Support our democratic society	2.8%
10 Other (one response receiving a 0.9% rating)	0.9%



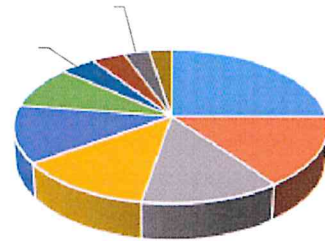
What are the most important skills current JK-12 students should learn before graduating?

1 Critical thinking and problem solving skills	78.7%
2 Communication skills	56.5%
3 Interpersonal skills (working with others)	53.7%
4 Organizational and time management skills	47.2%
5 Financial management skills	44.4%
6 Technology skills	17.6%
7 Research skills (gathering and analyzing information)	13.0%
8 Leadership skills	13.0%
9 Community service skills	8.3%
10 Other	0.0%



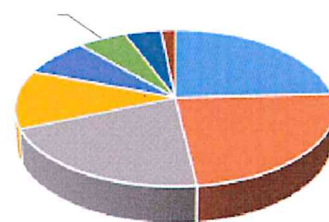
What do you value most in a public school?

1 Quality of teaching	77.8%
2 Caring environment	46.3%
3 A sense of community	39.8%
4 Physical Safety	38.9%
5 Challenging academic programs	38.0%
6 Fun learning experience	27.8%
7 Welcoming to parents and the community	13.0%
8 Extra-curricular options	12.0%
9 Diversity of students	9.3%
10 Quality of facilities	8.3%
11 Other (one response receiving a 0.9% rating)	0.9%



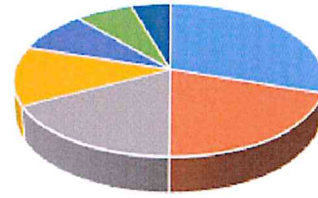
What do you want Sioux Valley School District to provide our students?

1 Safe and orderly learning environment	68.5%
2 Highly qualified teachers	67.6%
3 Curriculum that prepares students for the workforce	58.3%
4 Rigorous, challenging curriculum	34.3%
5 Technology in the classrooms	22.2%
6 Successful extra-curricular programs	15.7%
7 High graduation rates	12.0%
8 High test scores	4.6%
9 Other (two different responses each receiving a 0.9% rating)	1.8%



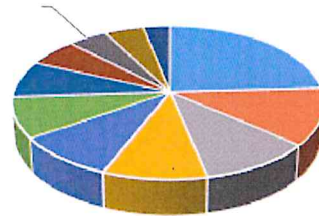
What do you think is the #1 challenge at Sioux Valley?

1 Recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff	28.7%
2 Providing a balanced curriculum & variety of electives	19.4%
3 Meeting the needs of a growing diverse student population	16.7%
4 Providing a safe and orderly environment	12.0%
5 Expanding communication & parent/community involvement	8.3%
6 Increasing student achievement	6.5%
7 Providing challenging instructional programs	4.5%
8 Other (four different responses each receiving a 0.9% rating)	3.6%



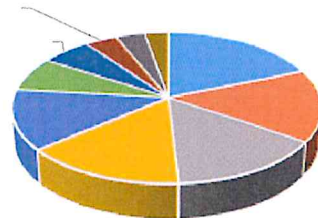
What priorities would you recommend for improvement of our current JK-12 school district?

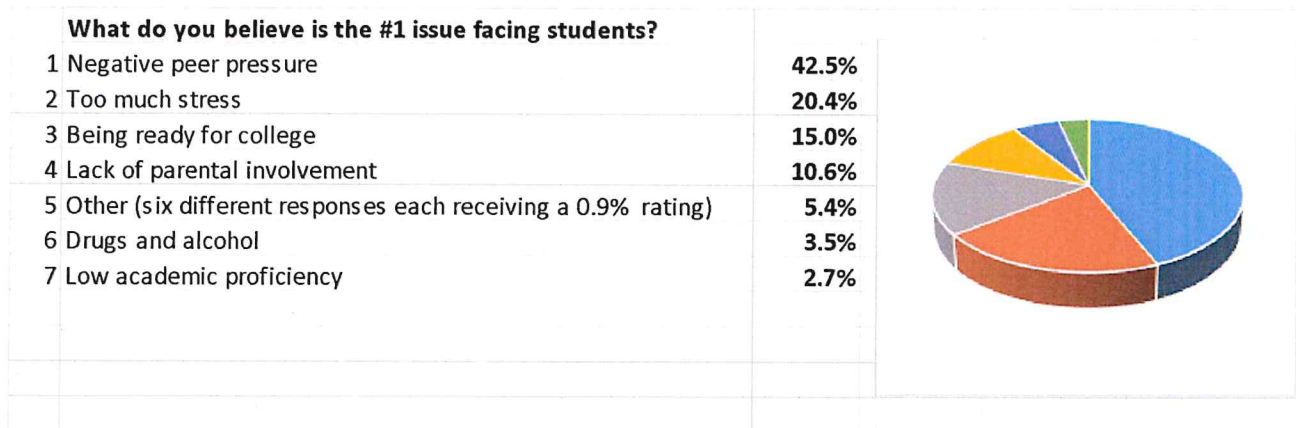
1 Students' motivation and behavior	54.9%
2 Quality of classroom curriculum, equipment, and materials	27.4%
3 Parent and community involvement	23.9%
4 Quality of teaching	21.6%
5 Basic academic skills (reading, math)	21.2%
6 Access to advanced courses for high school students	19.5%
7 Academic rigor and expectations	17.7%
8 Services for English Language Learners (ELL)	13.3%
9 Students' use of technology	10.6%
10 Fine arts options	10.6%
11 Other (eight different responses each receiving a 0.9% rating)	7.2%
12 Extra-curricular options	6.2%



How do you stay connected to school issues?

1 District web site	53.1%
2 School Messenger calls and emails	43.4%
3 Social media	41.6%
4 Emails with child's teachers	41.6%
5 Infinite Campus parent portal	36.3%
6 Word of mouth	20.4%
7 Parent/Teacher Conferences and Open Houses	16.8%
8 Attendance at events	10.6%
9 Classroom newsletters	9.7%
10 Local newspapers	8.0%
11 Other (seven different responses each receiving a 0.9% rating)	6.3%





The last eight questions of the survey were open-ended; therefore, a percentage could not be applied. What is listed are the most frequent responses and the number of responses for each item.

What do you believe is working well in our school district?	
1 Good teachers	20
2 Good communication	12
3 Strong sense of community/community involvement	6
4 Safe environment/good school climate	6
5 Supportive, caring administrators	5
6 Good curriculum/strong academics/quality education	5
7 Strong extra-curricular activities	4
8 Good discipline/follow-up of rules	4
9 Good opportunities for students	3
10 Caring Staff	3

What do you believe are the district's greatest strengths?	
1 Good teachers	20
2 Strong sense of community/community involvement	16
3 Caring staff	14
4 Good leadership, strong administrators	8
5 Good students	5
6 Supportive parents/parent involvement	5
7 Good facilities	5
8 Good communication	4
9 Good student to teacher ratio/classroom sizes	4
10 Good extra-curricular programs	3

What areas of our school district need improvement?				
1	Inappropriate student behaviors			8
2	More balanced curriculum/more options of classes			6
3	Addressing bullying issues			6
4	Better classroom management and discipline			6
5	Better communication			5
6	More social/emotional support for students			3
7	Better safety and security measures			3
8	Retaining qualified staff			3
9	Athletics is too much of a priority over academics			3
10	More staff resources are needed			3

When you think of Sioux Valley Schools, what are you most proud of?				
1	Strong sense of community/community involvement			20
2	Committed, caring teachers			10
3	Quality of staff			8
4	Good students/student achievement			6
5	Small school, small community feel			6
6	Nice facilities			5
7	School pride			5
8	Quality education			3
9	Good school culture and learning environment			3
10	Successful athletic programs			3

What are the school district's greatest facility needs?				
1	Gym space			10
2	Better maintenance and cleaning of current facilities			6
3	More locker rooms/bigger locker rooms			5
4	More parking/better parking flow			5
5	Outgrowing current facilities			5
6	More classroom space/larger classrooms			4
7	Updated classrooms in upper elem, MS, & HS			3
8	More space for special education services			2
9	Better kitchen facilities/more lunchroom space			2
10	More classrooms throughout the school			2

When you think of Sioux Valley Schools, what comes to mind?				
1	Small school/small town feel			11
2	Sense of community/community support			9
3	School pride and positive school culture			7
4	Great school			7
5	Quality education			6
6	Good teachers			4
7	Good people			4
8	Safe place for kids to learn			3
9	Cheer team			3
10	Great athletics			3

When you think of Sioux Valley Schools, what comes to mind?				
1	Small school/small town feel			11
2	Sense of community/community support			9
3	School pride and positive school culture			7
4	Great school			7
5	Quality education			6
6	Good teachers			4
7	Good people			4
8	Safe place for kids to learn			3
9	Cheer team			3
10	Great athletics			3

Is there any other input that you would like to provide at this time?				
1	Thank you for everything you do			5
2	Please address bullying issues/racist comments students make			4
3	Great school sytem, good quality education			4
4	Make sure teachers are supported			3
5	Priority of academics over athletics			3
6	Make students accountable for their behaviors			3
7	Caring staff			3
8	Plan for growth/need smaller class sizes in middle school			3
9	More frequent communication about students' academic progress			2
10	Treat all students equally and with respect			2

Elementary

Needs Assessment:

Here is the link to Sioux Valley's Reading Tiered Fidelity Inventory Reporting. This document drives our needs assessments. A hard copy is also printed.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HBLEovERU1S5C3qjSQ-9cJRi0FZTBaGi>

Focus Areas:

Sioux Valley Elementary has a school-wide reading plan which includes our focus areas, strategies, processes, and assessments. **Attached.**

Identified Goals:

All students will read at or above level by Grade 3 and will continue to show growth or higher in reading across instructional areas throughout their school experience.

Objective:

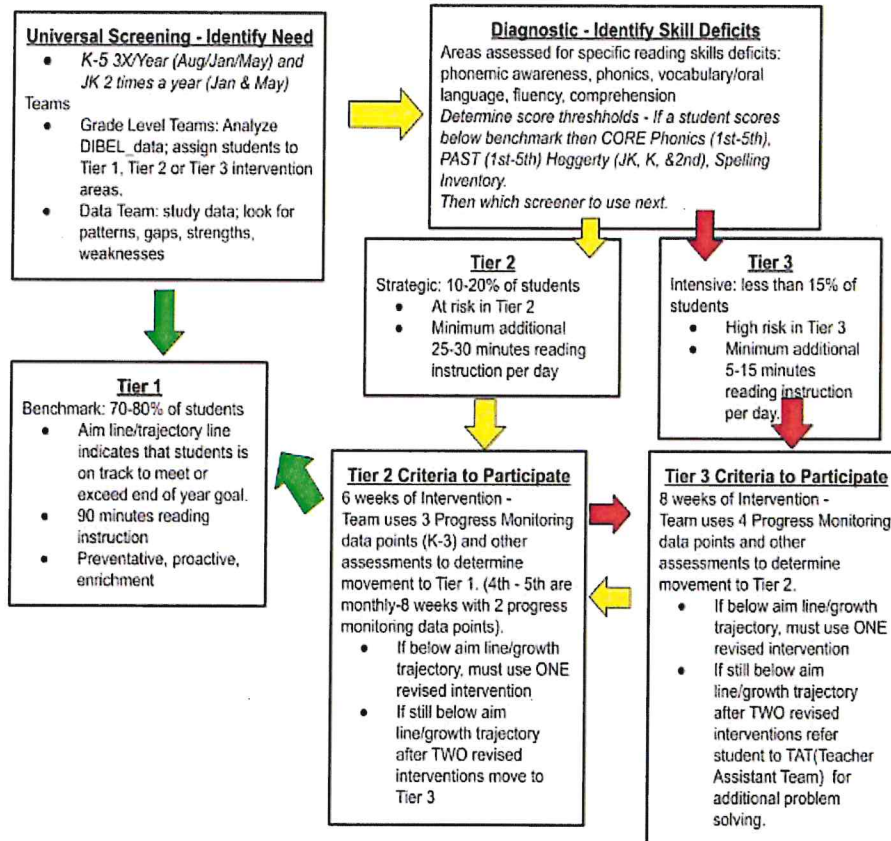
100% of students in JK-5 will show growth within grade level composite scores from DIBELS 8th Edition.

Intervention Strategies & Measuring Progress:

The following strategies will be used to increase our reading and writing performance:

Sioux Valley Elementary School-Wide Reading Plan

Sioux Valley Elementary Assessment Protocol - Grades JK-5 Data Based Decisions Result in Increased Student Achievement



We continue to meet weekly (on Tuesdays) with the principal, teachers, special education teachers, school counselor and/or outside counselor, if needed, school psychologist, and Title I teacher to monitor progress and identify intervention strategies, and to determine if a referral for special education is needed, if agreed upon by parent/guardian. (Teacher Assistant Team)

The following assessments will be used to determine student progress:
State assessments, state interim assessments, DIBELS, IXL, and teacher-made assessments.
Along with the following:

Name of Assessment	Assessment Schedule
<i>Universal Screening</i>	
DIBELS 8th Edition	BOY - August 25-26, August 29-Sept 1 MOY - January 4th-13th, 2023 EOY - May 1st-12th,2023
<i>Progress Monitoring</i>	
DIBELS 8th Edition	Strategic and Intensive Groups will be tested every other week.
MAZE	2nd-5th grade monthly whole group(students can help score progress monitoring)
<i>Diagnostics</i>	
IXL	
CORE Phonics Screener	
Heggerty (JK, K,2nd)	Kindergarten assesses quarterly. 2nd grade Tier 2 and 3 assesses mid year after the primary book is completed.
PAST	
Spelling Inventory	

Professional Development:

Sioux Valley Elementary (SVE) is a MTSS school and does receive support from MTSS/RTI coordinators and facilitators. SVE staff does attend the yearly summer MTSS conference and other MTSS (RTI or PBIS) yearly trainings as professional development.

We use our first and third Wednesdays as PLC time. During this time, all grade level teachers complete an agenda and focus their time on ways on how to make sure students are on track to meet their reading goals.

Middle School and High School

Needs Assessment:

During the 2021-2022 school year, Sioux Valley Middle School and High School conducted a comprehensive needs assessment based on the South Dakota Comprehensive Needs Assessment process looking at the areas of Effective Leadership, Curriculum & Instruction, Talent Development, and Family, Culture, and Climate (Mr. Bolstad has conducted this process in two previous school districts). This included surveys of students, certified staff, classified staff, parents, and community members. Additional qualitative data came from a focus group of staff members held by CNA committee members. The needs assessment also included a review of attendance, behavior, and achievement data on state assessments. With this qualitative and quantitative data, the CNA committee, which included a mix of staff members and departments at the secondary level, conducted an analysis of the data to determine strengths and areas to target for growth. Of those areas identified for growth, the committee engaged in a protocol to prioritize the needs based on the impact level and how long this has been a concern.

Focus Areas:

These are the four highest areas identified areas:

- *Effective Leadership
- *Curriculum & Instruction
- *Talent Development
- *Family, Culture, and Climate, respectively.

Identified Goals:

- *Sioux Valley students will meet or exceed the state average in all SBAC tested categories.
- *Sioux Valley junior and seniors will meet or exceed the state average on the ACT sub scores in English, math, science, and social science.
- *Attendance rates in all grade levels should be at or above 95 percent.

Intervention Strategies & Measuring Progress:

1. Our MS/HS school needs a teacher's assistance team that meets to support the students brought forward that the teacher has concerns with. This process should be improved and streamlined.
 - o Action Plan – By the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, our process for referrals to Tier 2 and Tier 3 services will be streamlined. Tier 2 will follow the TAT process of the elementary level that has been working effectively. These interventions are designed to be implemented quickly and monitored for fidelity and measured in their success. Tier 3 interventions will be developed with the student and parents during a student intervention plan meeting that is specific to the individual child's needs. Both steps occurred during the 2021-2022 school year, but the process needs to be cleaned up and clarified.
2. Using assessment results to determine the next instructional steps.
 - o Action Plan – PLCs to analyze student achievement data, with emphasis on formative assessments.
3. Students feel emotionally safe at school.
 - o Multiple avenues will need to be taken to improve on this metric.
 - v Involvement of our leadership organizations to approach the issue: Student Council, NHS, FCCLA, FFA; See Something, Say Something
 - v Responding to Students' Perspectives and Needs: Student Focus Groups, Annual Survey to gauge progress, Weekly Check-In form with Class Advisor(s)
 - v Establishing Consistent Routines and Procedures: Effective routines, procedures, and structures do not overly control students' choice and voice, but create predictability so students know what to expect. These types of consistent, predictable routines help reduce stress and facilitate learning for all students, including those who have experienced trauma, are on the autism spectrum, or struggle behaviorally.

Professional Development:

Sustained, relevant, usable PD on the following interrelated topics: student behavior, classroom management, and student engagement.

- o Continued training and discussions on responding effectively to misbehavior.
- o Adult learners need constructivist opportunities to learn by sharing experiences.
- o Personalized professional development – PD Goal Groups, New Teacher Meetings
- o Potential resources – First Days of School (new teacher book study), Better than Carrots and Sticks, Hacking School Discipline,

Transition to Middle School

Transition to Middle School: The MS/HS Principal, MS/HS Counselor, and JK-12 Dean of Students plan a Back to School meeting to review expectations and tips for success along with helping students examine their schedules to see how to get to their lockers and classroom.

Transition to High School

The MS/HS Counselor and MS/HS Principal meet with 8th grade students in December to discuss changes from Middle School to High School along with developing their personal learning plans for their high school careers.

Special Education Data

Sioux Valley Special Education RDA Final Year Validation Interview completed during the 2020-2021 school year. We also had our SPED comprehensive review during the 2021-2022 school year, with the school doing an internal review as required for the 2022-2023 school year. **Attached.**

ARSD Waivers and Waiver Review

Sioux Valley School District currently has the following waivers from administrative rule, as authorized by ARSD 24:43:08:03 and ARSD 24:43:08:08.

24:43:08:03. Application for waiver. An application for a waiver shall be made using a form provided by the Department of Education. The form shall require the district to specify the administrative rule or policy for which the waiver is sought and the school that will implement the waiver; the form shall include a detailed description of the waiver and its effect on student learning, the reasons for requesting the waiver, the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted, an explanation of how the intent of the standard to be waived will be met if the waiver is granted, and a detailed description of the plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the waiver in achieving the outcomes specified in the application and contributing to the school's continual improvement. The plan for evaluating the waiver shall become a part of the annual review of a public school district's approved five-year district improvement plan as required by ARSD 24:43:02:03.

24:43:08:08. Evaluation of waiver. A school district or nonpublic school or program that has been granted a waiver shall implement its plan for evaluation of the waiver as required by § 24:43:08:02. A public school district that has been granted a waiver shall include a report of the waiver evaluation in its annual review of its approved five-year district improvement plan as required by ARSD 24:43:02:01.

Credit before Grade 9 – 8th grade Algebra I – Expires in 2023

Sioux Valley School District applied for this waiver in April of 2018. We had several students take advantage of the waiver during the 2018-2019 school year. Our district has not offered Algebra I in 8th grade since the 2018-2019 school year. However, our district is in the process of submitting a new application for this waiver in order to keep this option available to our students.

Teacher Certification Requirement Rules – Expires in 2023

Sioux Valley School District was unable to hire a fully certified special education teacher for the 2022-2023 school year because we did not have any fully certified applicants apply. Current teacher has an active teaching certificate, but not in special education. Current teacher is on a Plan of Intent and will be taking the necessary coursework, which should be completed by 07/01/23, to become fully certified to teach JK-12 special education.

All waivers are reviewed annually by the superintendent to ensure compliance. This is typically done in collaboration with building principals once the school year is finished.

Alternative Certification

Teacher Certification Requirement Rules – Expires in 2023

Sioux Valley School District was unable to hire a fully certified Spanish teacher for the 2021-2022 school year because we did not have any fully certified applicants apply. Current teacher has an Educator Certificate with Alternative Certification to teach Spanish I and is currently taking coursework, which should be completed by 07/01/23, to become fully certified to teach Spanish.

All alternative certificates are reviewed annually by the superintendent to ensure compliance. This is typically done in collaboration with building principals once the school year is finished.

Analysis of Demographic Data

Enrollment & Enrollment Projections

Sioux Valley Schools has a current JK-12 enrollment of 740 students for the 2022-2023 school year. Approximately ½ of the grade levels have two sections and the other half have three sections. Student enrollment at all levels appears to be on an upward trend.

Population

The population of Volga and the surrounding communities continues to grow, reflecting an increase in our student enrollment, as well. This year's student enrollment increased by approximately 50 students from the previous school year.

Open enrollment has also had a significant impact on our student enrollment. Based on the

SD DOE website, Sioux Valley currently has 66 resident students that enroll out of the district to another school district and 151 non-resident students that currently enroll into the Sioux Valley School District.

There is a private K-8 school, Volga Christian, within Volga city limits. These students will eventually filter into our District either through the extra-curricular activities or when they complete eighth grade.

Free and Reduced Lunch

The free and reduced lunch numbers for the district for 2022-2023 are as follows: elementary – 14.7%, middle school – 17.9%, high school – 9.8%, JK-12 – 13.9%.

School Profile

A copy of the SD DOE 2021-2022 Profile of Sioux Valley School District is included and can also be found at the following web address at:

<http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/2022/SiouxValley.pdf>

A copy of the school profile is attached.

Review of School Improvement Plan

As per ARSD 24:43:01:03, this plan is subject to annual review.

Sioux Valley School District 05-5

Revenue by Fund

	General	Capital Outlay	Special Education
Local	\$1,541,786	\$1,428,731	\$781,708
County	\$54,105	\$595	\$354
State	\$2,983,646	\$0	\$260,505
Federal	\$407,620	\$138,626	\$47,895
Total	\$4,987,157	\$1,567,952	\$1,090,462

Other Fund Data

	Revenue	Expenditures
Impact Aid	\$0	
Bond Redemption	\$23,879	\$23,733
Capital Projects	\$0	\$0
Food Service	\$595,719	\$431,114
Other Enterprise	\$225,101	\$171,201

Expenditure by Fund

	General	Capital Outlay	Special Education
K-12 Instruction	\$3,188,588	\$0	\$873,134
PK Instruction	\$0	\$0	\$12,097
Adult Instruction	\$0	\$0	\$0
Student/Staff Services	\$270,524	\$8,187	\$110,530
Administration Services	\$610,273	\$0	\$21,165
Fiscal Services	\$149,392	\$0	\$0
Fac./Acquis./Const. Services	\$0	\$1,189,008	\$0
Operation/Maint. Services	\$591,806	\$182,928	\$0
Transportation Services	\$165,155	\$27,100	\$4,127
Other Support Services	\$1,421	\$0	\$53,198
Community Services	\$1,536	\$0	\$0
Non-Programmed	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Service	\$0	\$608,615	\$0
Co-Curricular	\$341,649	\$15,601	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$5,320,344	\$2,031,438	\$1,074,250

Expenditure by Object Categories*

	Salary	Benefit	Purchased Service	Supply	Property	Other
K-12 Instruction	\$2,632,871	\$713,978	\$191,573	\$523,300	\$0	\$0
PK Instruction	\$0	\$0	\$12,097	\$0	\$0	\$0
Adult Instruction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Student/Staff Services	\$180,566	\$55,686	\$126,358	\$18,443	\$8,187	\$0
Administration Services	\$409,505	\$139,923	\$39,938	\$7,383	\$0	\$34,688
Fiscal Services	\$87,533	\$35,745	\$20,103	\$4,773	\$0	\$1,238
Fac./Acquis./Const. Services	\$0	\$0	\$756,170	\$0	\$432,838	\$0
Operation/Maint. Services	\$169,622	\$46,254	\$293,629	\$151,603	\$76,737	\$36,888
Transportation Services	\$81,802	\$14,782	\$26,164	\$33,884	\$27,100	\$12,650
Other Support Services	\$129,534	\$36,176	\$78,210	\$233,198	\$0	\$8,615
Community Services	\$114,731	\$11,509	\$30,170	\$15,995	\$0	\$0
Non-Programmed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$332
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$632,347
Co-Curricular	\$197,633	\$30,285	\$80,086	\$49,246	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$4,003,798	\$1,084,340	\$1,654,497	\$1,037,826	\$544,862	\$726,758

*Expenditure category data in the above table includes the sum of ALL K-12 funds operated by the district.