



2018-19

Ignite

Sioux Falls Public Schools



2018-19 Welcome

Dear Students, Parents, Staff & Community Members,

I hope you will agree that this is an exciting time in the Sioux Falls School District! Not only is our staff of nearly 3,400 dedicated professionals preparing to welcome back 24,000 students to another promising school year, but our community will soon have an opportunity to chart the future course of our District through a bond referendum vote in September.

Bond referendums haven't been common in South Dakota. Prior to the 2016 SD Legislative Session, the Sioux Falls School District was able to build and maintain its 35 schools through the Capital Outlay Fund. When changes were made to education funding in 2016, the District's ability to use capital outlay dollars to keep up with growing enrollment ended. Any major projects now require the issuance of general obligation bonds.

While many South Dakota schools struggle to maintain enrollment, Sioux Falls continues to grow by 200 to 500 students each year. These consistent population increases mean many of our schools are near or already at capacity.

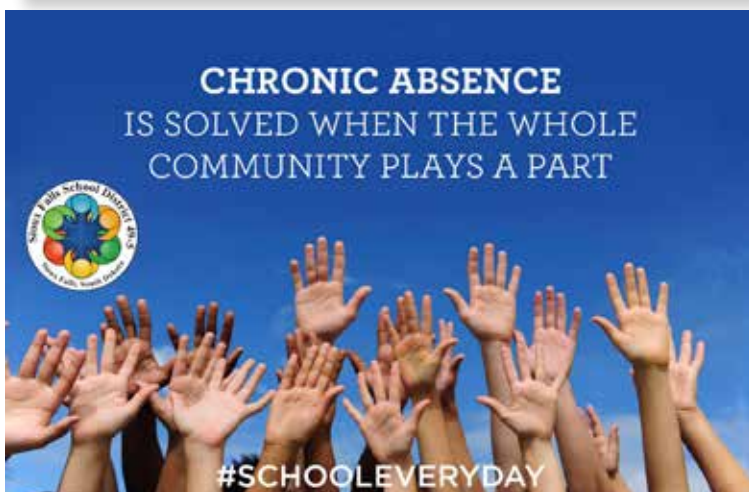
After three community engagement sessions, a task force of 30 diverse, taxpaying citizens recommended construction of a new high school, new middle school, and a new elementary school in the next four to five years. Additionally, they recommended various projects at 14 other schools and two more District facilities. The schools are: Cleveland, Hayward, Horace Mann, Jane Addams, John F. Kennedy, Laura Wilder, Lincoln HS, Lowell, Memorial, Robert Frost, Roosevelt HS, Sonia Sotomayor, Washington HS, and Whittier. Students in every corner of Sioux Falls will be impacted by the results of this vote.

A community-wide survey overwhelmingly supported the plans described. (See survey results on the next page.) On September 18, 2018 the ultimate form of community engagement will take place when each registered voter is invited to participate in an election to determine the future of the Sioux Falls Public Schools. Careful planning and purposeful conversations led us to this point. Please exercise your right by voting absentee prior to September 18 or by going to the polls on election day.

Dr. Brian Maher, Superintendent

Important Information

- First Day of School * Thursday, August 23, 2018
- School Supply Lists Available @ sf.k12.sd.us
- Download the Sioux Falls School District App
- Watch KLRN-TV: Your Sioux Falls Classroom Connection (Midco Cable Channel 20 or 595)
- Find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram



Vote Center Locations for Bond Election Tuesday, September 18, 2018

VOTE CTR.	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1-1	Peace Lutheran Church	5509 W 41st St
1-2	Memorial Middle School	1401 S Sertoma Ave
1-3	CTE Academy	4700 W Career Circle
1-4	Maricar Community Center	400 N Valley View Rd
1-5	Oyate Community Center	2421 W 15th St
1-6	Asbury United Methodist	2425 S Western Ave
1-7	First Lutheran Church	327 S Dakota Ave
1-8	Wesley United Methodist	1700 E 6th St
1-9	Kenny Anderson Comm. Ctr.	3701 E 3rd St
1-10	Morningside Comm. Ctr.	2400 S Bahnson Ave
1-11	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	5500 E 57th St
1-12	Faith Baptist Fellowship Hall	601 W 57th St
1-13	Instructional Planning Ctr.	201 E 38th St

Visit sf.k12.sd.us for a detailed map of vote center locations.

Absentee Voting Begins Monday, August 20, 2018

7:30AM-5PM Monday-Friday

Instructional Planning Center (IPC) * 201 E. 38th St.

Saturday Voting on September 8, 2018 from 9am-1pm at IPC

"to educate and prepare each student

Community Engagement Commitment

The Sioux Falls School District values its ongoing partnership with community stakeholders. As the city continues to flourish as a vibrant economic engine, those successes are resulting in increasing enrollment in the public schools. As part of the Strategic Plan, the District held three community listening sessions and convened a diverse 30-member task force to make recommendations on facility needs for the future. All residents of Sioux Falls were invited to participate in a survey to provide reaction to those recommendations.

The School Board determined a \$190 million bond is necessary to fund construction of a new high school to open by 2021 or 2022, a new middle school by 2021 or 2022, and a new elementary school by 2024. Several other projects totaling \$40 M of the \$190 M would bring equity and improve safety throughout the District.

Sioux Falls School District Levies

	Current	Proposed	Difference
General Fund	\$3.37	\$3.37	\$ -
Opt Out	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$ -
SpEd	\$1.46	\$1.46	\$ -
Cap Outlay	\$2.87	\$2.12	\$(0.75)
Bond	\$ -	\$0.88	\$0.88
	\$8.27	\$8.40	\$0.13

Current Levies in Neighboring Districts per \$1,000 Valuation

Harrisburg	\$11.66
Tea	\$11.14
Garretson	\$10.97
Baltic	\$9.84
Brandon Valley	\$9.35
Dell Rapids	\$9.18
Lennox	\$8.83
West Central	\$8.76
Tri-Valley	\$8.47
Sioux Falls	\$8.40
Canton	\$8.30

Facilities Survey Results

A survey was conducted by The Donovan Group in June 2018. Every postal customer (83,000) received an invite to participate. Responses came from 3,686 stakeholders.

I believe the district's most urgent facility needs must be addressed now.

Strongly agree **70.4%**

Agree **24.6%**

Disagree **3.2%**

Strongly disagree **1.8%**

I would vote "yes" on a referendum question if I felt it was the correct solution to address the district's facility needs related to enrollment growth.

Strongly agree **62.3%**

Agree **32.0%**

Disagree **3.3%**

Strongly disagree **2.4%**

I would vote "yes" on a referendum question if I felt it was the correct solution to address necessary maintenance and updates.

Strongly agree **58.0%**

Agree **35.9%**

Disagree **4.0%**

Strongly disagree **2.1%**

I would vote "yes" on a referendum question if I felt it was the correct solution to ensure that schools have equitable, flexible learning spaces to meet instructional needs.

Strongly agree **58.6%**

Agree **33.7%**

Disagree **5.1%**

Strongly disagree **2.6%**

I would support the recommendations as outlined by the task force, assuming a cost of \$2 per month or \$24 per year on the average home in Sioux Falls (\$185,000 taxable valuation).

Strongly agree **58.2%**

Agree **30.6%**

Disagree **6.7%**

Strongly disagree **4.4%**

Do you support building a high school on the land donated by Sanford Health?

Yes, build on the land donated by Sanford **62.1%**

The Sanford land is not my first choice, but I support the overall facility solution **28.4%**

No. Choose another northwest location **9.5%**

Where can I find more information about this plan and the upcoming vote? sf.k12.sd.us

Click on Facilities Planning on the left-side of the page.

Frequently Asked Questions

Sioux Falls has built new schools in recent years. Why is a bond needed now?

In 2016, the South Dakota Legislature put a limit on capital outlay levies for schools. The goal was to cap this levy so small, rural school districts in SD didn't have money accruing in their capital outlay accounts; but rather those funds, which may or may not have been needed to build new buildings, would be put toward teacher salary increases. The law is effective to that end, but now limits Sioux Falls from accruing the money previously used to build new schools. Thus, a bond referendum and public vote is now the only funding option for new schools in Sioux Falls.

I live in Sioux Falls but my property is assigned to another school district (Brandon, Harrisburg, Tea, etc.) Will this impact my taxes? No. The imaginary line that is the Sioux Falls city limits is not the same line that determines Sioux Falls School District boundaries. There are seven surrounding school districts that have property assigned to them where the property has a Sioux Falls mailing address. If your property is assigned to another school district, this tax will not impact you.

How is the District achieving the \$3.00 limit on the capital outlay levy? Levies fluctuate. The District's current capital outlay levy is \$2.87/\$1,000 of taxable value. It is scheduled to drop. The recommendation for funding these projects would be to drop the levy by \$0.75/\$1,000 to \$2.12. To this, a bond levy of an additional \$0.88/\$1,000 would bring the total to \$3.00/\$1,000 taxable value. This is \$0.13/\$1,000 more than taxpayers are currently contributing. This plan results in a 25-year payback and allows the District to address growth while also achieving safe, equitable facilities long-term.

*Find more FAQs online under the Facilities Planning tab

Communication - "See Something, Say Something"

Student safety is one of the highest priorities in the Sioux Falls School District. Regular communications to parents are delivered via phone, email, through social media, and local media. During an emergency, schools will not likely answer the phone as their main goal is to ensure the safety of students and staff. Remember to alert the school or law enforcement: If you see something, say something.

to succeed in a changing world."

WHO ARE WE?

We are proud to be SFSD!

From the time they are little, children hear adults tell them they can be anything and do anything they dream of if they put their mind to it. The journey is not always an easy one, but nothing worth working for is ever easy. These students exemplify the possibilities for students in the Sioux Falls School District. We are proud to be SFSD!

Ruhama Tereda – Washington High School

She was born in Ethiopia and immigrated to the U.S. at age five, not knowing how to speak English. Since then, she was elected 2017 Girls State Governor, has been the South Dakota DECA President, earned a full-ride to Duke University, and was a selected speaker for the 2018 Washington High graduation ceremony.



Damian Marlow – Lincoln High School

Coming from a tough family situation involving abuse and addiction, Damian has overcome all the odds stacked against her to score a 35 on the ACT, earn a full-ride scholarship to the university of her choice (she chose Stanford), publish a book about her journey, start a blog, and is committed to continuous growth and development.



Logan Johnson – New Technology High School

This National Honor Society member and President's Award of Educational Excellence winner was offered a job at Weisser Distributing for his senior year (and beyond) after a successful Academy of Finance (AOF) internship. He graduated with 20 college credits through New Tech High and AOF and is now a USD Coyote.



Ashley Geraets – Roosevelt High School

This senior has won 1st place in the Congressional Art Competition not once, but twice – as a sophomore and a junior – and won 2nd place the year before that. She was also the drawing champion in the SD Visual Arts Competition in 2018 and led her team to be the AA Overall Team Champions. We can't wait to see what she'll do this year!



Budget - Tax-Supported Funds \$271 Million

Student Ethnicity - 63.7% Caucasian; 37.3% Diverse

Free/Reduced Meal Info - 49.3% in Elem. (truest indicator); 44.3% District-wide

Special Education Population - 3,517 students; 14.7% of total student population

VOTE!

September 18, 2018

Progress on Strategic Plan

The District's Strategic Plan brings four Priority Areas into focus: Student Outcomes, District Climate & Culture, Staff, and Community Engagement.

Leadership are responsible for developing and evaluating initiatives to improve student achievement, attendance, graduation rates, and the general working and learning environment in each school. For the complete list of goals and the annual objectives to meet those goals, please see our website: sf.k12.sd.us

Graduation - By 2019, graduation rates will increase by 5 percentage points. TRENDING POSITIVE: The District overall four-year graduation rate has increased from 80.55% to 83.85%.

Behaviors - By 2020, the number of severe behaviors in elementary schools will decrease by 5% from the established baseline. TRENDING POSITIVE: In the 2017-18 school year, both the number of incidents and the severity of behaviors decreased in elementary schools that had Tier 2 programs, which teach students strategies to de-escalate and manage their emotions.

Staffing - By 2020, we will increase the number of racially diverse teachers by 25% to more closely match the student population. TRENDING POSITIVE: Nearly 150 high school students are taking a new course this fall to explore a career in education. Further, the teacher internship program pairs interested adults with a mentor teacher to experience the profession and encourage them to complete teacher certification requirements.

Engagement - By 2020, 100% of schools in Sioux Falls will have a parent and/or community and/or business support group. TRENDING POSITIVE: The giving spirit is alive and well in Sioux Falls and many of our schools benefit from relationships established with businesses, churches, and other community organizations. If you have a desire to positively impact students, feel free to reach out to a school and discuss with the principal.

Projected K-12 Enrollment - 23,855

Preschool - 1,000+

K-5 - 11,453

Middle School - 5,377

High School - 6,450

AP/ACT Scores - higher than state & national averages

Staff - 3,328; 4th largest employer in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

ALL CURRENT OFFICIAL NOTICES AND POLICIES CAN BE FOUND AT SF.K12.SD.US-OUR-DISTRICT/DISTRICT-POLICIES OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY SCHOOL OFFICE OR THE INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING CENTER.

NOTICE: FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) ANNUAL NOTIFICATION- Policy Regulation JRA/JRA-R

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notification of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. This does not include the right to request a change to any specific grade. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to privacy of personally identifiable information (PII) in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the School Board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks; or a service provider or vendor providing the District with online educational services or applications. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks to enroll if the disclosure is for the purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202.

NOTICE: DIRECTORY INFORMATION

FERPA requires that the District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" (information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, without written consent), unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information in certain school publications. Directory information may also be provided to outside organizations. The District classifies and identifies directory information as follows:

A. Directory Information for Use in School Publications:

The District designates the following as directory information for use by the District in school publications without prior parental written consent:

1. Student's name;
2. Grade level;
3. Student's participation in officially recognized activities or sports;
4. Weight and height of athletes;
5. Honors, awards, and degrees;
6. Information which denotes accomplishments and achievements;
7. Individual and group photographs;
8. Dates of attendance;
9. School attending; and
10. Parent/Guardian name.

Examples of the use of the above information in school publications by the District include but are not limited to: class rosters posted inside school buildings; a program showing a student's role in a music or drama production; the annual yearbook; school newspaper; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; and sports activity programs, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

B. Directory Information for Student Contact Lists and Public Requests (Outside Organizations):

The District designates the following as directory information that may be disclosed by the District without prior written parental consent to outside organizations:

1. Student's name;
2. Address;
3. Telephone number;
4. School attending; and
5. Grade level.

Examples of the use of outside organization directory information include but are not limited to: use in a parent/student contact list (e.g. buzz book, school telephone directory, school contact list); providing information, upon request, to individuals, groups or organizations outside of school (e.g. parent groups [booster groups, PTA], outside organizations serving youth, companies that manufacture class rings or supply graduation items, photographers).

In addition, the District may provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the District that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. This written notice must be given to the student's building principal/principal/administrator or the Director of Technology & Information Services/Student Records within fifteen (15) days after notice is given.

Upon directory information from either category A or B being made public by the District (e.g. a program distributed at school event or information provided to manufacturer of class rings), that specific information, unless excluded by law, may fall within the definition of a public record and be accessible to the citizens of South Dakota in accordance with South Dakota's open record laws.

RIGHT OF PARENT/GUARDIAN OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO OPT-OUT OF DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District will disclose the above identified directory information without written consent unless a parent or an eligible student "opts-out." Parents or an eligible student may elect to "opt-out" of one or both categories of directory information (Directory Information for Use in School Publications and/or Directory Information for Student Contact Lists and Public Requests (Outside Organizations)). Any such "opt-out" must be made, in writing, to the building principal within fifteen 15 days after the notice is given. Policy/Regulation JRA/JRA-R can be found on the District's website at www.sf.k12.sd.us or can be obtained from any school office or the Instructional Planning Center.

NOTICE: INFORMATION NOT SUBJECT TO SURVEY, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATION WITHOUT CONSENT/ PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND CONSENT/OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES ANNUAL NOTIFICATION – Policy ILD

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing

purposes, and certain physical exams. South Dakota Codified Law 13-3-51.2 provides greater rights to parents. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey");
 - 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 - 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 - 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents;
 - 8. Personal or family gun ownership; or
 - 9. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
1. Certain non-emergency medical examinations required for school attendance; and
 2. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The District has adopted a procedure regarding the above rights and to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes. The District will notify parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of surveys for which consent is required. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to consent (protected information surveys) or opt their child out (marketing activities and certain non-emergency medical examinations) as required by the PPRA and state law. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202. Policy ILD can be found on the District's website at www.sf.k12.sd.us or can be obtained from any school office or the Instructional Planning Center.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION – Policy/Regulation AC/AC-R

In an effort to provide a safe, respectful educational environment, the District prohibits discrimination in its policies, employment practices and programs on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, gender (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, disability, national origin or ancestry, military/veteran status, genetic information or any other category protected by law. In addition, the District shall not discriminate in the opportunities for students on the basis of parental status, marital status, or pregnancy, nor shall such students be excluded from any program or activity, including any class or any extracurricular activity. Additionally, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Prohibited acts of discrimination include racial, sexual, ethnic or other types of slurs, insults, intimidation, harassment and other conduct directed toward another person in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (discrimination based on disability); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (discrimination based on national origin or race); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (discrimination based on gender); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (discrimination based on age); and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001 (equal access to public school facilities for the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups). In addition, the District provides equal access/equal opportunity for students, employees, and the public to District programs and activities.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE – RESOLUTION OF DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

Individuals with concerns or inquiries about discrimination are encouraged to attempt to resolve the concern informally by working with the administrator most directly involved in the situation. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

• Discrimination based on a student's disability: Section 504 Coordinator: Health Services Supervisor, 201 East 38th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5898, Ph. (605)367-7933.

• All other forms of discrimination: Civil Rights Officer/Title IX Coordinator (CRO/IX), In-House Counsel, 201 East 38th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5898 Ph. (605)367-4670.

A complaint may be filed by a student, parent/guardian, employee or other citizen when it is felt that a violation of Policy AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity has occurred. Formal complaints are filed with the persons named above.

1. The Complaint Investigation Form should be completed by the person filing the complaint or the designated administrator. The form includes the following:

- Complainant's name and address
- Date(s) of the incident(s)
- Description of the incident(s)
- Name(s) of the person(s) involved in the incident(s)
- Name(s) of any witness(es) to the incident(s)
- What action, if any, has been taken
- Requested resolution of the complaint
- Signature of the complainant will be requested, but not required

2. An investigation will be initiated. This investigation may be conducted by District officials or by a third party designated by the District. The investigating party shall provide a written report of the status of the investigation within ten (10) working days to the Superintendent and the CRO/IX.

3. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision rendered by the designated administrator, he/she may appeal the decision to the Superintendent within ten (10) working days following receipt of the decision. The appeal must include the original Complaint Investigation Form, a copy of the decision from the designated administrator and a written statement as to a reason for the appeal.

4. The Superintendent or designee will review the materials submitted, investigate the circumstances and respond in writing within fourteen (14) working days from the appeal. At the Superintendent's level, the appeal process may or may not include a conference with the parties involved.

5. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision rendered by the Superintendent, he/she may request a hearing in executive session with the School Board. The request for hearing must be submitted in writing within ten (10) working days through the Superintendent's Office. The hearing will be scheduled within thirty (30) working days from the request for hearing. The involved parties will be notified in writing of the date and time of the scheduled hearing.

6. The School Board will render a decision in writing within ten (10) working days of the hearing.

7. During the investigation all parties directly involved in the complaint may have legal or other representation. If any party elects to be represented at any step of the complaint procedure, the name of the representative must be declared in writing to the Civil Rights Officer within two (2) days of the filing of the complaint, notification of any investigation, or the filing of any appeal.

The District prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports a claim under this policy or participates in an investigation of any such claim.

Policy/Regulation AC/AC-R can be found on the District's website at www.sf.k12.sd.us or can be obtained from any school office or the Instructional Planning Center. Concerns and inquiries regarding discrimination rights may be directed to the Kansas City Office, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department

of Education, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320, Kansas City, MO 64106. Telephone: (816) 268-0550; Facsimile: (816) 268-0559; Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov.

NOTICE: SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973- Policy/Regulation KED/KED-R

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) is designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability and requires that qualified individuals be provided equal access to educational programs and services.

ACCESS- Persons with disabilities may contact the building principal or site administrator at least 72 hours before the event to obtain reasonable accommodations needed to participate in District programs.

STUDENTS- Policy/Regulation KED/KED-R, Concerns and Complaints about Educational Programs for Students with Disabilities or Students with Substantially Limiting Health Conditions, outlines the District's procedure relating to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student under Section 504. Concerns/Complaints relating to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student under Section 504 should be referred to the District's Section 504 Coordinator - Supervisor of Health Services. 201 East 38th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5898; Ph. (605)367-7933.

PARENTAL RIGHTS- You have the right to: (1) Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability; (2) Have your child receive a free appropriate education; (3) Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided nondisabled students; (4) Have your child have an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities provided by the District; (5) Receive notice with respect to the identification, evaluation or placement (including a substantial change in placement) of your child; (6) Have the identification, evaluation and placement decisions based upon a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options; (7) Have your child receive appropriate educational and related services when eligible and necessary under Section 504; (8) Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's educational records, including records related to the identification, evaluation, educational program and placement; (9) Request a review of a Section 504 Team decision relating to the evaluation, educational program and placement (including any substantial change in placement) of your child; (10) Request an impartial due process hearing relating to the evaluation, educational and placement decisions (including any substantial change in placement); (11) Appeal the decision of the impartial hearing officer to a court of competent jurisdiction; (12) Have the District advise you of these rights under the federal law.

The Sioux Falls School District must identify and evaluate students who may be eligible for services under Section 504 due to the following conditions:

1. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (which includes major bodily functions); or
2. A record of having an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or
3. An impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

The District will provide prior written notice to parents before initiating or changing or refusing to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student under Section 504. Parent consent is required for all initial evaluations.

REVIEW AND IMPARTIAL HEARING PROCEDURE

-The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of a student by the 504 Team may request a review by the District's Section 504 Coordinator – Supervisor of Health Services or file a Due Process Complaint. Request for review: The District's 504 Coordinator will send a written response to the parent/guardian within ten (10) working days of receiving the request for review. That written response will specifically address the issues raised by the parent/guardian. Impartial Due Process Hearing: A parent/guardian may file a Due Process Complaint at the Instructional Planning Center addressed to the District's 504 Coordinator.

Prior to the initiation of a Due Process Hearing, the Section 504 Coordinator will offer to convene a meeting with the parents and the relevant member or members of the 504 Team and a representative of the District who has decision-making authority on behalf of the District. The purpose of the meeting is for the parents to discuss their Due Process Complaint and the facts that form the basis of the Complaint so that the District has the opportunity to resolve the dispute. If the issues raised in the Due Process Complaint are not resolved to the satisfaction of the parent within 30 days of the receipt of the Due Process Complaint, a Due Process Hearing will be scheduled. An impartial Hearing Officer will be retained to conduct a hearing. Any party to a hearing has the right to:

1. Be accompanied and advised by counsel - neither party has the right to be represented by a non-attorney at a hearing;
2. Present evidence and confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses;
3. Introduce evidence that has been disclosed to the other party at least 5 business days before the hearing;
4. Obtain a written, or, at the option of the parent, electronic, verbatim record of the hearing; and
5. Obtain written, or, at the option of the parents, electronic findings of fact and decisions.

A complete copy of Policy/Regulation KED/KED-R can be accessed at www.sf.k12.sd.us/schoolboard/policies or obtained from any school office.

Concerns and inquiries regarding Section 504 may be directed to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education, Kansas City Office, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320, Kansas City, MO 64106. Telephone: (816) 268-0550; Facsimile: (816) 268-0559; Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT: CHILD IDENTIFICATION

The District provides free, appropriate education for all children with disabilities from birth through age 21. Any eligible child within the jurisdiction of the District, including those enrolled in any public or private agency or school located in the District, should be referred to the Office of Special Services. Ph. (605)367-7689.

Documents for Public Inspection: The District is operating a project in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Any funding applications, evaluation, or reports required by the state for operation of the project are available for public inspection. Documents are maintained in the Special Services Office of the Instructional Planning Center, 201 East 38th St., and are available during business hours.



Community
Education
Classes for the
whole family!

367-7999

Stay Connected!

We know you are busy with work, running kids to practice, keeping the refrigerator stocked with food. Finding information about your school and activities should be easy. We make it that way by being everywhere you already are:

- sf.k12.sd.us
- Sioux Falls School District App
- KLRN-TV: Your Sioux Falls Classroom Connection
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- YouTube.com



Sioux Falls School District 49-5
201 E. 38th St.
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Vote Centers - Convenient and Economical

By School Board President Kent Alberty

Sioux Falls is a great place to live and work. Several publications have honored our community in the past year. Forbes magazine ranked Sioux Falls #1 for the best small city for business and careers. Livability.com chose Sioux Falls as #5 in its list of best places to retire. Financial website SmartAsset named Sioux Falls the top city for young professionals when considering facts like cost of living, diversity, and entertainment and art establishments. No matter your stage of life, Sioux Falls is undeniably something special.

However great a city may be, there is always room for improvement. As a community, we can work together to improve voter turnout. Local races and ballot questions have consistently low turn-outs. In the April 2017 school board election, 4,360 of the 107,475 registered voters cast a ballot (4.05%). In April 2018 joint city and school board election, 32,166 of the 105,470 eligible voters went to the polls (30.5%). These are low numbers by all accounts.

The School District is committed to increasing convenience for voters. We established vote centers which allow voters flexibility. Vote centers are located throughout the city in highly accessible areas. Voters can choose any location rather than being required to vote only at their assigned precinct. We wanted to help voters make time in their daily schedules, allowing the opportunity for voters to stop on the way to work or over lunch, wherever and whenever it is convenient. Absentee voting is also available starting August 20, 2018.

This practical approach is also fiscally responsible, as fewer election workers are needed. Perhaps one day the precinct model will be feasible. Having voter turnout at a level that requires a return to precincts will be cause for celebration. Until then, as your school board president, I will continue to beat the drum for voter participation and hope that the rhetorical clanging is a reminder for you to vote in this and every other election.

Voting is not only a right; it is a responsibility. Join me at the polls on September 18.

Preschool Opportunities Provide Strong Start

Sioux Falls is a great place to raise your family! The quality of life we enjoy is rare, with low crime rates, ample parks and open spaces, easy commutes and high-quality public schools. This life is further improved by the exceptional preschool opportunities available. More than 1,100 children who meet income eligibility or have learning delays receive Early Childhood Services. Call 367-8488 for information. The Sioux Falls School District's fee-based Learning Adventures Preschool joins Sioux Falls' exceptional private providers in offering a quality early learning option for children, ages 4 and 5. The program is located at Discovery, Harvey Dunn, John Harris, and Sonia Sotomayor Elementary Schools. Call 605-367-7999 for information.