



ARDINAL NEWS

a community newsletter from the
South Sioux City Community Schools

“Getting the Right Results By Doing the Right Things for All Students”

Per Pupil Cost Comparisons

The South Sioux City Community Schools continues to provide quality educational services and programs to students at a lower than average cost. The following chart compares per pupil costs of public schools in Dakota County and the surrounding area as well as few other larger districts in northeast Nebraska. The school district’s per pupil cost is lower than the state average.

The Board of Education remains committed to providing students the best educational programs and services possible at a reasonable cost. The school district uses its financial resources, whether in the form of state aid or local taxpayer dollars, in a responsible manner.

Information from the
Nebraska Department of Education
2006-2007 Annual Financial Report

School District Name	Cost Per Pupil By Admission
Emerson-Hubbard Public Schools	\$9,287.60
Fremont Public Schools	\$7,895.73
Homer Community Schools	\$8,205.53
Norfolk Public Schools	\$9,448.26
Ponca Public Schools	\$8,014.65
South Sioux City Community Schools	\$8,656.23
Wayne Community Schools	\$9,094.82
Statewide Average	\$9,023.39

Free/Reduced Lunch Program

The school district participates in a federally subsidized breakfast and lunch program. Qualifying families who meet income guidelines receive free or reduced price meals for their school age children. All families are provided with the application and income guidelines. The school district reviews every completed application to determine eligibility. A random number of applications (approximately 3%) are selected for further review. Families must provide copies of pay stubs, food stamp eligibility or other income verification information to confirm eligibility.

Benefits for families who do not respond to requests for verification information are discontinued. Similarly, benefits for families whose income is determined to be beyond qualifying standards are discontinued.

Information from the Nebraska Department
of Education 2006-2007
State of the Schools Report & the USDA

Percentage of students participating in the free/reduced lunch program.

Years	State	District	National
2001-2002	31.23%	35.28%	57.60%
2002-2003	32.41%	34.31%	58.50%
2003-2004	33.93%	39.45%	59.10%
2004-2005	34.79%	44.41%	59.40%
2005-2006	34.66%	40.55%	59.30%
2006-2007	36.42%	43.23%	58.80%

Time for Learning

A very important element in the learning process is having children attend school on a regular basis. When students are present, they receive valuable information through lessons that are carefully crafted to master the content. In order to be suc-

cessful in school and later in life, students need opportunities to learn. Absenteeism can cause disruption in learning and be a symptom of other, larger problems. It reduces the amount of instruction received during the absence and then during the re-

teaching when the students return. Poor attendance is also a major indicator of more complex issues of disengagement and student motivation. It has been linked to low achievement and dropping out of school.

The possible consequences of poor school attendance include:

- Inadequate work habits
- Lower self-esteem
- Dropping out of school
- Lower grades/loss of credit
- Lack of self-discipline
- Reduced earning potential
- Frustration in learning
- Delinquency
- Potential criminal activity

As parents, there are several actions you can take to ensure that your children attend school and have opportunities to learn.

- Let your child know that you think school is important.
- Set a regular bedtime schedule. Age should not be a factor.
- Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
- Have alternate plans of transportation for getting your child to school on time when the need arises.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time daily.
- Schedule medical, dental, and other appointments before and after school hours when possible.
- Plan scheduled appointments around the school day. If appointments must be during the school day, plan them so that your child does not miss the same class every time.
- If your child must be out of school part of the day, allow him or her to miss only that time necessary for the appointment.
- Avoid taking your child on trips or scheduling activities during school days.
- View tardiness as unacceptable behavior.
- Refuse to write an excuse for anything other than a legitimate absence.
- If your child is absent from school with your permission, contact the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence.
- Talk to your child about school and what goes on there.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work.
- Support the school all you can; take every opportunity offered by the school for parents or guardians to be involved.

As children grow older, they can begin to take responsibility for their regular attendance. They should:

- arrive on time to school each day.
- attend all classes and homeroom daily.
- assume responsibility for behaviors which support regular attendance.
- come to school each day with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

Families, schools and communities must work as a team to support regular school attendance. Nothing can accomplish positive results more quickly than the collaborative efforts of students, parents, schools, and community representa-

tives working together on behalf of children. We must all work cooperatively to prepare students for a successful future.

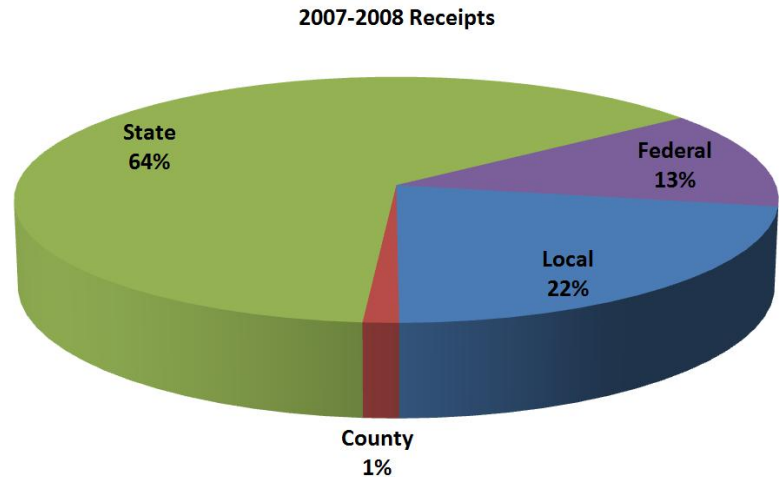
More Information from the Nebraska Department of Education
2006-2007 State of the Schools Report

Percentage of Teachers with Master's Degrees		
Years	State	District
2004-2005	37.73%	36.78%
2005-2006	39.08%	47.04%
2006-2007	39.65%	53.31%

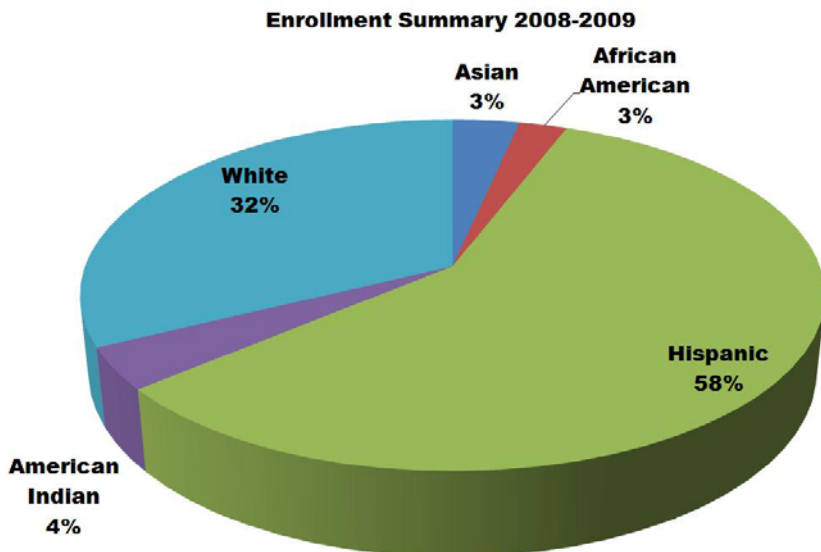
Teacher/Student Ratio	1/13.8
Average Years of Teaching Experience	14.36
Scheduled Instructional Days	
Elementary	177
Secondary	179
Attendance Rate	95.26%

School District Revenues 2007-2008

The following pie chart identifies revenue sources that support the school district's budget. The South Sioux City Community Schools receives more revenue in the form of state aid than most school districts. This increased state aid is due to the demographics of the student population, the low valuation of property in the school district and steady growth in enrollment. This higher than average amount of state aid reduces local property taxes.



Enrollment Summary 2008-2009



Cardinal Fast Facts

- 504,000 Number of meals estimated Taher, Inc will serve students during the 2008-2009 school year.
- 3,585 Number of students enrolled in the school district in K through grade 12 on Friday, September 26, 2008.
- 118 Number of students enrolled in our preschool programs at Cardinal Elementary and the Siouxland Family Center.

After School Programming Available Through Beyond the Bell

South Sioux City Community Schools will soon have a district-wide after school program for students in kindergarten through grade five. The school district is contracting with Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP) to provide Beyond the Bell for recreation, academic support and enrichment activities Monday through Friday in a variety of school sites. Funds from the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice support the program through a Safe Schools Healthy Students grant.

Beyond the Bell is a successful after school program that has served Sioux

City for nearly seven years. The South Sioux City project will draw from this experience and incorporate community-specific elements, including the reinforcement of social skills, tutors hired from the professional teaching staff of SSCCS, input from school principals, enrichment on school curriculum themes, an advisory board from South Sioux City, a focus on social-emotional learning, principles of Love and Logic, and the use of South Sioux City resources and Cardinal Connections partners. Beyond the Bell has begun taking applications for October implementation.

Cardinal Connections partners have discussed after school programming and investigated the number and kind of existing activities over the past year. Many partners made contributions that will be incorporated into Beyond the Bell for South Sioux City. The goal of quality after school programming is to provide a safe environment for students, support academic improvement, involve them in activities, programming and services to promote positive youth development and prevent violence and drug abuse. The program will be closely monitored, evaluated and results reported back to the public through Cardinal Connections.

Board of Education

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10th at the High School Library.

First Semester Calendar

Oct. 20	No School, Grades pre-K—8	Nov. 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences High School 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Please call your child's school if your child will be absent.	
Oct. 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades K-8 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Nov. 27- 28	No School, Grades pre-K—12		High School 494-2433
Oct. 21	Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades K-8 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Dec. 22- Jan. 6	No School, Grades pre-K—12		Middle School 494-3061
Oct. 24	No School, Grades pre-K—12	Jan. 7	Start of Second Semester School resumes Grades pre-K—12		Cardinal Elem. 494-1662
					Covington Elem. 494-4238
				Dakota City Elem. 987-3363	
				E.N. Swett Elem. 494-3501	
				Harney Elem. 494-1446	
				Lewis & Clark Elem. 494-1917	
				Siouxland Family Center 494-1727	

South Sioux City Community Schools

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