

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Presented at the December School Board Meeting

January 9, 2017

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."

### **Needs Assessment**

#### **Data Retreat Process**

A Data Retreat is held each year after test scores are made available to the District. The Data Retreat held for this school year was on **August 22, 2016, scheduled as part of the Back-to-School In-Service for the staff. The staff involved in the Data Retreat included the following: Laura Schuster, Superintendent; Michelle Beito, Elementary Principal; Carl Strombom, Elementary Counselor; Trudy Quail, Title I Teacher; Belinda Miller, MS/HS Principal; Monica Jorgenson, MS/HS Counselor; and all JK-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.**

**The Sioux Valley School Board held a board retreat on September 23, 2016. As part of the scheduled retreat, the superintendent and principals shared and explained the district's assessment results to the board, with the ultimate goal being a focus on students' academic achievement and alignment of the district's curriculum with state content standards during the 2016-2017 school year.**

## SBAC SCORES

The SBAC Scores were given to parents at Fall Registration on **August 9, 2016**, for elementary and **August 11, 2016**, for middle and high school parents. Results were also handed out to parents during Back to School Night on **August 22, 2016**. Any reports that were not received by parents were mailed.

The SBAC scores were shared with staff during in-service and further during Wednesday staff development time. **The 2015-2016 and prior year district and state results are below:**

### ELA

Grade	No. of SV Students 2015-2016	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2015-2016	South Dakota % Proficient 2015-2016	No. of SV Students 2014-2015	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2014-2015	South Dakota % Proficient 2014-2015
3	40	58%	50%	43	42%	49%
4	47	57%	50%	41	41%	45%
5	45	44%	50%	38	39%	49%
6	42	36%	51%	48	46%	45%
7	48	54%	52%	44	50%	49%
8	46	50%	52%	38	61%	48%
11	54	80%	61%	47	74%	59%

### MATH

Grade	No. of Students 2015-2016	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2015-2016	South Dakota % Proficient 2015-2016	No. of Students 2014-2015	Sioux Valley % Proficient 2014-2015	South Dakota % Proficient 2014-2015
3	40	75%	54%	43	42%	51%
4	47	51%	48%	42	55%	46%
5	45	47%	38%	39	31%	37%
6	42	31%	41%	48	31%	35%
7	48	27%	42%	44	25%	39%
8	46	37%	42%	39	33%	39%
11	54	48%	39%	47	57%	39%

Since the adoption of the Common Core Standards has occurred in South Dakota, a comparison has been made as to how the curriculum focus has shifted to the Common Core, how our students rate statewide, how the ACT scores compared to the State, and what we can do as a District to improve all scores and to maximize the learning of all students.

## **Perception**

The Sioux Valley School Board held a public listening session on November 14, 2016. The three main focus areas discussed were academics, communications, and facilities. There was also an opportunity for open discussion at the end of the listening session. The input received at the listening session is listed below:

### **Academics – Positives**

- Technology is available for those that want to use it.
- We have quality teachers in the district.
- The opportunities for dual credit classes is a real plus for our high school students.
- Good administrative support for staff.
- Glad to see that the elementary Christmas concert is being moved back to the gym due to limited space in the PAC.

### **Academics – Suggestions for Improvement**

- Match technology training for staff with available technology.
- More training for staff on what and how to teach the curriculum using the most updated research.
- Look at the format of middle school conferences to make sure we are connecting with parents.
- Look at the possibility of scheduling only conferences for at-risk students.
- Do research on attention spans at the elementary level and how much recess is necessary.

### **Communications - Positives**

- Good communication from administration and thankful for the interaction and opportunity for input from the staff.
- Opportunities are there for good communication.
- Pop ups on web sites are good.
- Love the notification system for missing assignments.
- Thank you to the school board for making the staff feel heard.

## Communications – Suggestions for Improvement

- Look at using parent notification system for bus communications (breakdowns, delays, etc.) Implement a plan.
- Need to get information out to the parents on dual credit offerings...possibly a packet of information or have a parent meeting.
- Better communication at conferences for music and physical education classes.
- Communication processes within the school could be better.

## Facilities – Positives

- Facilities are kept up well.

## Facilities – Suggestions for Improvement

- We are outgrowing the elementary school. More classrooms are needed.
- The lunchroom is very congested and is a bottle neck.
- The cabinets and shelves in the elementary classrooms need to be updated.
- Some type of system to know when the gyms are available for the various groups and making it equally accessible to the different groups.

## Other Discussion Items

- More food choices in the lunch room.
- Look at the possibility of putting a vending machine in the school so students can have healthy snacks available to them.

There were less than 10 people from the public in attendance at the listening session. The school board and administration have discussed the possibility of changing to some type of digital format as a means to gather public input in future years. The goal would be to increase public involvement and get a broader picture of the public's perception of the school district.

## **Local Test Results**

Teachers use the following assessments:

- DIBELS
- Accelerated Reader testing
- SRA tests, weekly spelling tests
- **Formative Assessments**

- **Summative Assessments**
- Quizzes and tests in the areas of science, social studies, math, and reading.

The elementary, middle, and high school have adopted Accelerated Reader as part of the reading curriculum.

## **Transition to Middle School**

The guidance counselors, Carl Strombom and Monica Jorgenson, plan a visit for the fifth grade students in late April or early May to reduce the stress caused by the transition into middle school. The physical education instructor has written procedures for bathrooms and lockers for middle school students and parents to preview. This has eased the anxiety of showering after physical education.

The elementary teachers have a **reading** folder that is given to the grade six language arts teacher. The special education teachers and teacher assistants have an on-going dialogue with the special education staff in the middle school.

The principal, Belinda Miller, conducts a meeting for all sixth grade parents and students at Back to School Night to explain the expectations for the year.

## **Transition to High School**

The principal, Belinda Miller, conducts a meeting for all freshman parents and students at Back to School Night to explain the expectations for the year and to also discuss the importance of maintaining a balance between academics and extra-curricular activities. The criteria for **meeting South Dakota DOE graduation requirements**, the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, **and the SD Regent Scholar** are also presented.

## **Analysis of Demographic Data**

### **Enrollment and Projections**

We have kindergarten and preschool screening each year at Sioux Valley. It always seems that we do not have many students at the preschool age within the community. However, by the time the JK-Kindergarten class becomes a reality, we are generally at 40 students or more.

## **Population**

The population of Volga and the surrounding communities **is growing**. There has been growth in the city of Volga itself.

**The district's enrollment increased by approximately 30 students from the 2015-2016 school year.** Open enrollment has provided approximately 90 students per year to the school district. We also have a private K-8 school, Volga Christian. 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 entire district are 20% for the 2016-2017 school year, broken down as follows: elementary – 24%, middle school – 18%, high school – 17%.**

## **School Profile**

A copy of the Sioux Valley School district profile is included and can also be found at the following web address: <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/statdigest.aspx>

## Selection of Goals

Goals were carried over from the prior school year.

Sioux Valley District has agreed upon the following goals: The K-12 students will increase their ability to read for information and understand what they have read in all curricular areas. Sioux Valley students will meet or exceed the state average in all SBAC tested categories. All lesson plans will clearly state the standards being addressed during each lesson. All teachers will assure that they have covered all required standards during the school year. Sioux Valley District will increase the ACT scores to ensure college and career readiness **by adding an Early Bird ACT Prep course and Sunday ACT seminars.**

## Assessment to Measure Student Progress on the Stated Goals

The following assessments will be used to determine student progress:

1. SBAC for math & English/language arts
2. **SBAC interim assessments**
3. Writing prompts with rubrics for writing
4. DIBELS for reading
5. ACT sub scores of juniors and seniors in English, math, science, and social science (reading).

## Intervention/Strategies

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

1. Continued use of the **reading** folder at all K-5 grade levels.
2. Practice sessions for test development for grades 3-5.
3. Continued use of math facts practice in computer lab for grades 1-5.
4. Practice and monitor the use of CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction) at all grade levels.
5. Give feedback to students in terms of their progress in meaningful and insightful ways. For example, weekly grade checks are done during Student Advisory Time, SAT, for grades 6-12.
6. **Progress monitoring for At-Risk students in reading, grades K-5.**
7. Give feedback to other teachers in terms of strengths and weaknesses of all curricular areas. (Core Standards with curricular alignment will be on-going.)
8. Continue meetings with counselors, principals, teachers, special education teachers, school psychologist, and title one teacher to monitor progress and identify intervention strategies. **(Teacher Assistant Team)**

9. The middle and high school have adopted a “no zero policy” which entails that every student will complete every assignment to ensure mastery of the content material.
10. Wednesday school is provided for all middle school students with late/missing work. We have BASE homework and computer time Monday-Thursday from 3:30-4:00
11. An eligibility list is compiled every two weeks by the Activities Director, Moe Ruesink, to ensure students are academically successful.
12. An ACT Prep Course will be offered in the spring at no cost to students **if they complete the course**. The course involves two hour sessions in each of the areas including English, reading (social science), math, and science. We currently have in place a zero hour ACT prep course for **credit (.5)** for 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **Staff Development**

**The focus of staff development for the 2016-2017 school year is on curriculum gap analysis, aligning the district’s curriculum with state content standards, and technology training & integration.**

**Other areas of professional development include, but are not limited to, working with ELL students, school emergency preparedness, and student behavior training.**

## **Instruction by Highly Qualified Staff**

All staff members are highly qualified.