November 2026 | Edition #36

Featuring data from The Brand-New 2026 Data Update

Source For Siouxland

DATA FEATURE

Education: K-12 Attendance

93.9% SIOUX CITY CSD

was the SCCSD K-12 attendance rate for the 2024-25 school year.

- IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 2026

94.9% SO. SIOUX CITY CSD

was the SSCCSD K-12 attendance rate for the 2024-25 school year.

- NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 2026

94.0% DAKOTA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

was the DVSD K-12 attendance rate for the 2024-25 school year.

- SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 2026



HOW ATTENDANCE INFLUENCES STUDENT OUTCOMES

Background

Regular school attendance is one of the most reliable indicators of student success. Students who miss school fall behind in instruction, and the effects are cumulative: chronic absenteeism, usually defined as missing 10% or more of school days for any reason, is strongly associated with lower reading proficiency by third grade, course failure in middle and high school, and a higher likelihood of dropping out. Absences also affect schools as a whole, through more reteaching, heavier demands on teachers and counselors, and more family outreach. Attendance rates are published on state report cards in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, so persistent declines carry reputational and policy consequences as well. Direct funding effects are modest, since these states fund districts mainly on enrollment rather than daily attendance, but the indirect costs through achievement, graduation, and retention are significant. The COVID-19 pandemic made all of this more urgent, as attendance fell nationwide and recovery has been uneven, which is why trends since 2019-20 are worth examining.

Attendance Recovery Post-Covid

Between 2019 and 2025, attendance rates in the Siouxland community school districts remained relatively stable, with a net change of approximately +/- 2 percentage points. In the Sioux City Community School District, attendance rose by nearly 1 percentage point, from 93.0% to 93.9%, despite falling 3 points to 90.0% in 2020-21. Recovery was gradual (91.4% in 2021-22 and 91.0% in 2023-24; 2022-23 is not reported) before a 2.9-point jump in 2024-25. Over the same period, Iowa grew only 0.05 points, to 93.95%, so the district moved from slightly below the state average to essentially matching it.

The South Sioux City Community School District in Nebraska followed a similar path but recovered faster. Attendance fell from about 94.4% to 90.44% in 2020-21, returned to 92.51% by 2021-22, and was above the Nebraska average by 2022-23. By 2024-25 it reached 94.89%, its highest rate in the series and about half a point above its pre-pandemic level. Nebraska as a whole ended at 92.80%, still about 1.5 points below its 2019-20 rate of 94.30%, so the district's lead over the state grew from roughly 0.1 points to about 2.1 points. This suggests district-specific factors, such as outreach, family engagement, or changes in how absences are handled, may be contributing.

The Dakota Valley School District in South Dakota previously had the highest attendance of the three, holding at 95% from 2020-21 to 2022-23 before slipping to 93% in 2023-24 and recovering to 94% in 2024-25. It is the only district that ended below its earlier peak, though its 2019-20 figure is not reported. Meanwhile, South Dakota's attendance stood far below the district at 87% by 2024-25.

ABOUT US

Source For Siouxland is the region's central resource for trusted data, helping advance a healthy, safe, and vibrant community. We track key indicators across five focus areas—Economic Stability, Education, Health, Safety, and Quality of Life. Through our annual Data Update and monthly Data Features, we collect and share local, regional, and national data to help community leaders, nonprofits, and funders make informed decisions.

INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SFS LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Catholic Charities· Great Plains ToP· Growing Community Connections· Helios Foundation· One Siouxland· SHIP· Siouxland Community Foundation· Siouxland District Health Department· United Way of Siouxland

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