

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

Standard: The school provides governance and leadership that promote student performance and school effectiveness.

Sioux County Schools establishes policies and procedures that provide for the effective operation of the school. The school board, along with the administration, is constantly looking to upgrade any areas that may need to be changed to fit the needs of the time. Led by the superintendent, Sioux County School's staff members follow the lead set by the administration, and adhere to the standards set with the staff handbook and the school policy manual. All staff members are certified through the Nebraska Department of Education.

Sioux County Schools has developed committees to ensure that each program is on course for state requirements. This includes committees in core subject areas along with elective areas such as fine arts and physical education. The school district has also created and maintained a Crisis Team and a School Improvement Team. In addition to these committees, our staff members attend numerous professional activities including those in accordance with ESU 13. The staff at Sioux County Schools has also participated in book studies including: *Mindset* by Carolyn Dweck, *Talent is Overrated* by Geoff Colvin, *FOCUS* by Mike Schmoker, *Lessons Learned from the Classroom* by Hal Urban, *On Writing Well* by William Zinser, and *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. All of this is done to provide staff members with an opportunity to grow professionally each year.

Personal growth is also encouraged through participation in the Educators Health Alliance Wellness Program. This is a program designed to enhance the physical and mental well-being of staff. The school provides weight and cardio equipment, as well as exercise mats and video technology.

Sioux County Schools provides students and faculty members numerous opportunities to lead organizations and activities. Some of those activities include Wooden Weekly, Mission Mondays, FFA, athletic activities, and committees for staff members. Every year Agate Fossil Beds National Monument hosts an educational day for the elementary students. Students are expected to teach a lesson which they have researched and prepared for in advance. We also have a county track day, a national math competition, and county spelling and geography competitions which staff members direct with the help of students, parents and other staff members. Our school improvement team is a great example on how our staff members lead individual groups to create one finished product.

Our students have many leadership opportunities outside of the school as well. During the summer the FFA officers attend the COLT Leadership Conference. Sophomores can attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference. The Morrill Rotary Club has sponsored our students at the RYLA Leadership Camp. Students interested in government have attended the Unicameral Youth Legislature in Lincoln. Not all leadership is academic oriented; over the years students have given their time coaching youth volleyball and Chadron State College Hoop Shoot Basketball.

Sioux County Schools takes great pride in providing the best curricular and extra-curricular activities possible. Our students participate in a variety of activities sponsored by the NSAA, FFA, the Parks System, GEON (Geography Educators of Nebraska), VFW Auxiliary, National Geographic, and the Omaha World Herald/Scripts. Our students are also provided opportunities to visit educational places in hope of giving our students an opportunity to learn not only about our community, but the world around

them. Every effort is taken to make sure that our community is proud to be represented by our students.