

Non-Teaching Staff Growth

Personnel Analysis • SFSD • 2019–2025

Prepared by: Stuart Willett — Candidate, Sioux Falls School District
Board of Education

willett4sfsd.com

Since 2019, non-teaching administrative and support staff in the Sioux Falls School District have grown approximately 17% while student enrollment declined roughly 1%. This document examines what that growth means for the budget and for students.

+17%

Non-teaching staff growth since 2019

-1%

Enrollment change since 2019

+22%

Budget growth over the same period

WHY THIS MATTERS

Staffing is the largest driver of any school district budget — typically 75–80% of operating costs. When non-teaching staff grow at 17 times the rate of enrollment, it signals that resource growth is concentrated outside the classroom.

This is not an argument against support staff. It is an argument for proportionality. Every dollar allocated to administrative overhead is a dollar not reaching a teacher, a reading specialist, or a student.

Non-teacher staff grew 17x faster than enrollment. The same board that approved this growth is asking for another four years.

STAFFING GROWTH BREAKDOWN

Staff Category	Growth Since 2019	Enrollment Context	Assessment
Non-Teaching / Admin	+17%	Enrollment -1%	Disproportionate growth
Teaching Staff (FTE)	Modest / low	Enrollment flat	Growth did not reach classrooms
Admin Leadership	Not fully public	Public under SDCL 1-27-1.1	Audit required

Support / Paraprofessional	Component of 17%	Some tied to mandated services	Requires itemization
Instructional Coaches	Component of 17%	May have instructional value	Outcome data needed

WHAT THE AUDIT SHOULD ASK

- For each position created since 2019: what was the stated justification, and what outcome data supports it?
- What is SFSD’s administrative cost per student compared to Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Brookings?
- How many FTEs are in central office roles vs. building-level instructional support?
- Which positions were created as temporary and became permanent without re-authorization?
- Are any roles duplicated across buildings that could be consolidated without affecting students?

COMMITMENT

Stuart Willett's commitment: no teacher layoffs. Fiscal discipline means scrutinizing administrative growth, not cutting classrooms. The audit begins with the 17% — not with the people teaching your children.