



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

Dr. Summer Schultz, Superintendent

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Superintendent Report

April 14, 2025

A RESPONSIBLE DISTRICT:

BHS Science Area Renovation Update

Summary of Previous Work:

- The Brookings School District (BSD) reviewed proposals from multiple architectural firms and selected COOP to lead the renovation of the BHS science area.
- BHS science teachers, administrators, and Facilities Director Keith met with COOP representatives to inform the preliminary concept planning necessary for feasibility conversations and early design development.
- The Brookings Board of Education formally approved moving the project forward.

Next Steps:

- Schematic design phase begins:
 - Incorporating input from educators, students, and stakeholders to determine educational specifications.
 - Exploring the possibility of creating a standalone, 21st-century science lab—a space intentionally designed to support advanced, real-world learning experiences beyond the traditional high school environment.
 - Identifying innovative programming and potential partnerships that could be embedded into the space's function and design.
- Community and workforce collaboration:
 - Engaging students, local businesses, industries, and higher education institutions to explore sponsorships and collaborative opportunities aligned with workforce development and STEM initiatives.
- Design and Board review timeline:
 - Concept development is scheduled for review in July, with Board of Education action anticipated in August (tentative).

Construction Outlook:

- A finalized construction schedule will depend on the selected contractor. Initial estimates suggest the renovation will likely extend beyond a single summer.
- To ensure cost efficiency and minimize disruption to instruction, the renovation may be implemented in two phases, allowing portions of the space to remain operational.

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School Start Time Committee Summary: The School Start Time Committee has completed its study on staggered start times for district schools, focusing on three priorities: transportation, safety concerns, and financial implications. (Attachment: Start Time Committee Update)

Strategic Plan Perception Surveys: Year 2

The Parent/Caregiver Experience Survey is open! Your feedback helps us celebrate what's working and identify areas for improvement.

This is Year 2 of our data collection, and your voice will help finalize our District Scorecard and guide future planning.

🔗 Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6KJHZBN>

📅 Open through **Tuesday, April 15**

✅ All responses are anonymous

Thank you for helping shape the future of the Brookings School District!

ACT Expectations Coming for 2026: (attachment)

A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE:

Virtual Event: Understanding Social Media's Impact on Teens

BROOKINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 05-1
JOIN US FOR A LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL MEDIA'S IMPACT ON TEENS

Join us and learn:

- Understand the emotional and behavioral impact of social media on teens
- Learn how to recognize harmful patterns and hidden risks
- Gain practical steps to help your child use social media safely & responsibly

APRIL 3, 6 PM

<https://www.smart-social.com/watch/0518a4m9gk8>
SmartSocial.com

Register Now!

Special Guest:
Dr. Summer Schultz
Superintendent

Special Guest:
Mr. Zach Thomas
Asst. Principal
Brookings High School

Assistant Principal Zach Thomas agreed to co-host a Smart Social virtual event with me on April 3. We had over 140 individuals registered, and the event was part of our work to assess student use of cell phones and social media, including the emotional and behavioral impact that can be harmful to them. Although we are analyzing cell phones in schools, we recognize that education must expand to a broader capacity of use outside the school day.

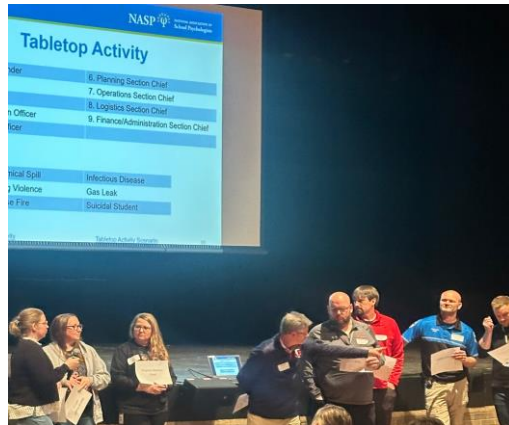
Collaboration with the City of Brookings — District leaders recently met with City staff to discuss upcoming residential developments and how projected growth may impact school capacity and attendance boundaries. These ongoing conversations are a crucial part of our long-range planning efforts, reflecting our shared commitment to aligning educational services with the evolving needs of our growing community. We value our partnership with the City and appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively in support of all Brookings residents.

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School Safety and Crisis Preparedness: The Brookings School District hosted PREPaRE training, allowing several staff members to attend and collaborate. The South Dakota School Crisis and Response Hub exists to provide professional development and consultation to South Dakota school districts, enabling them to respond effectively to and prevent crises. Their work focuses on promoting physical and psychological safety for students facing challenges such as suicide, natural disasters, community or targeted violence, and unexpected deaths.

Federal Funding was cut for this program as of April 3, 2025.



“Fearless Foster” leads his team through a simulation training.

Staff Recognition Ceremony: May 7 @ 6:30


Brookings School District +
Brookings Education Association

STAFF RECOGNITION CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Social Hour with light appetizers	Ceremony
BHS Commons 5:45-6:30PM	Bell Auditorium 6:30PM

A Celebration of the Retirees and
Honorees of the District



A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN:

**11th Grade State Assessment
Starting Spring 2026:
ACT**

- Applies to all juniors in public SD schools
- All juniors will be required to take ACT for math, English, reading, writing & science during the spring testing window
- Test will be free
- Results will be used to measure student performance on school & district's Accountability Report Cards
- Students can choose to retake ACT again but at expense of the student and retakes will not affect school's accountability