



# Brookings School District

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

Dr. Summer Schultz, Superintendent

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**December 9, 2024**

***A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE:*** Engage all families and community groups in the Brookings School District in collaborative partnerships that enhance the learner's experience.

**BSD Website Work:** Samantha Turnquist has done an exceptional job updating our district website and sharing information via social media. This has been a year-long working goal for her, yet substantial changes have already been made. We encourage stakeholders to download the district app, as more immediate information (weather-related closures) will be shared on that platform first. If you haven't looked at our updated website, please take a moment to do that.

**Find Us**  
Brookings School District 05-1  
2130 8th Street South  
Brookings, SD 57006  
Phone: 605-696-4700  
Fax: 605-696-4704

**Schools**  
Brookings School District 05-1  
Brookings High School  
George S. Mickelson Middle School  
Camelot Intermediate School  
Dakota Prairie Elementary School  
Hillcrest Elementary School  
Medary Elementary School

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**Committee Updates and Formation:** (Document Attached)

I have asked PTA leadership to share information and recommend participants for two district committees being formed, Wellness and School Start Times. The document *PTA Committee* provides additional information.

***A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN:*** Ensure experiences and opportunities so all Brookings School District learners are academically, socially, and emotionally successful.

BHS Student Evian Johnson scheduled a meeting with me last month to visit about her advocacy work surrounding dyslexia, and she also had some questions about BSD's literacy priorities and structure. It was an excellent meeting for many reasons. First, I could share with her the extensive work we have done in the last year to develop a literacy plan based on the science of reading, which has been both supported and encouraged by the South Dakota Department of Education. But even more importantly, Evian was able to share her journey with me. Evian

joined me for Camelot’s “Educator for A Day,” we taught students a Koosh activity, which has been helpful for self-regulation and learning practices. Dr. Vaux has asked Evian to share her story with the entire staff, as it’s a great example of how our current students can be a key asset to our continuous improvement work.



***A GREAT PLACE TO WORK:*** Ensure a positive culture within the Brookings School District through intentional relationships, retention, recruitment, and communication.

**School Calendar Committee Updates:** Last week, the teacher representatives working on the Calendar Committee met with me to narrow down the survey questions to guide the next calendar draft. The survey will be discussed at the December 12 Administrative meeting and sent to employees and BSD families the following week. I hope to have a draft to the BOE for approval by the January meeting or work session.

**Engaging Leadership Podcast:** CT Leong and Dr. Jim Kanichira asked to interview me for the Engaging Leadership podcast. I shared some of the great work we are doing at Brookings School District and a few insights into my educational journey. Below is a screenshot of the Engaging Leadership podcast, a link to the episode online, and the Spotify link.

- [Engaging Leadership](#)
- <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6LXE4RI1PAy9I9CGSGDJHx?si=7oqYcv5OTJ-NqqJzaI72rg>

**Podcast**  
**Engaging Leadership**  
 CT Leong, Dr. Jim Kanichira

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**About**

What's the secret sauce to building a high-performing school district? Is it strong leadership? Is it excellent educators? Is it a committed community? It's all of the above. K-12 public schools are the hubs of communities all over the country. The best districts have excellent leadership that serves their teams and their communities. Each week we share the stories of K-12 leaders who are transforming their schools, their students, and their communities.

**Empowering Communities and Classrooms: Leadership Lessons in Action**  
 Engaging Leadership

Join CT as he explores leadership lessons in action with Dr. Summer Schultz, Superintendent of Brookings School District. Discover how Dr. Schultz leverages community collaboration, prioritizes...

Dec 6 • 39 min 42 sec

***A RESPONSIBLE DISTRICT:*** Align Brookings School District resources, facilities, and processes to strategic plan priorities.

**Advocacy:**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session begins January 14. The Governor's Budget Address highlighted several areas that could impact K-12 public education. Below is a summary of leadership roles, my pre-scheduled dates in Pierre, and potential federal and state areas of interest.

<b>HOUSE LEADERSHIP:</b>	<b>SENATE LEADERSHIP:</b>
Speaker: Jon Hansen, Dell Rapids Speaker Pro Tempore: Karla Lems, Canton Majority Leader: Scott Odenbach Spearfish Asst. Majority Leader: Marty Overweg New Holland Whips: Jessica Baumuller, Alexandria Les Heinemann, Flandreau Bethany Soye, Sioux Falls Greg Jamison, Sioux Falls Brandei Schaeffbauer, Aberdeen	Senate President Pro Tempore: Chris Karr Sioux Falls Majority Leader: Jim Mehlhaaff Pierre Assistant Majority Leader: Carl Perry Aberdeen Whips: Sue Peterson Sioux Falls Kevin Jensen, Canton Randy Deibert, Spearfish Tom Pischke, Dell Rapids
<b>Democrats:</b> Minority Leader: Erin Healy, Sioux Falls Assistant Minority Leader: Eric Emery, Rosebud Whips: Kady Wittman, Sioux Falls Nicole Uhre-Balk, Rapid City	<b>Democrats:</b> Minority Leader: Liz Larson, Sioux Falls Ast. Minority Leader: Jamie Smith, Sioux Falls Whip: Red Dawn Foster, Pine Ridge

1. Pre-scheduled dates I will be attending the Legislative Session:
  - Brookings Day at the Capitol: January 22, 2025
  - Superintendent’s Legislative Reception: February 5, 2025.
  - SDUSA Coffee and Kolaches: TBD

2. Senator Rounds Introduces Bill to Abolish the USDOE  
Senator Rounds has introduced the [Returning Education to Our States Act](#), which seeks to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. If enacted, the bill would allocate \$200 billion in funding and shift the department’s responsibilities to other federal agencies and state governments. Achieving passage will require a supermajority vote in the Senate, presenting a significant legislative hurdle.

3. Highlights from the Governor’s Budget Address  
Recent updates reveal that South Dakota’s revenue collections are lagging by more than \$24 million. In response, Governor Noem proposed a 1.25% funding increase for the “Big Three” sectors—K-12 education, healthcare, and state employees—a rate significantly below the current 2.5% estimated CPI.

Additional key proposals needing further analysis and discussion in the coming weeks:

- Reductions in funding for South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
- Directing the Board of Regents to identify \$2 million in budget cuts.
- Decreased funding for the high school Dual Credit program.
- A \$1 million reduction to the State Library budget, which supports schools and public libraries with access to an online library database.
- Allocate \$4 million to establish Educational Savings Accounts
- Deduct \$5.3M from the TANF program (EBT/food stamps).

### **Continuous Improvement:**

The Brookings School District Strategic Plan identifies our purposeful mission and measurable priorities, supported by four foundational pillars. A district team must complete the next stage, the implementation plan, which turns the priorities identified into initiatives and action steps supported by progress monitoring systems.

1. **Finalizing our Organizational Scorecard:** This key tool operationalizes the strategic plan and focuses on actions that deliver the best stakeholder results. Organizational Scorecards create a clear "line of sight" across the district, ensuring all stakeholders understand how their roles contribute to the district’s priorities.
  - a. Foundation Pillars have been established, along with initial work to highlight Key Annual Goals. These goals allow us to measure the progress being made under each pillar annually. As expected, some areas can be measured more easily than others, and the committee's first task will be to identify information systems and progress monitoring measures for the remaining focus areas.
  - b. Strategic Actions will be finalized at each level of implementation. This work identifies action steps to meet the goals. As you’ve seen in administrative reports

and updates, certain areas of the scorecard are already being implemented, so the work will focus on areas that still need additional development.

## 2. Investing, Communicating, and Continuous Evaluation:

- a. Identify ways to communicate the final plan and how the district will share implementation strategies and annual scoring for each goal.
- b. Collaborate with BOE members to establish tactics and timelines that accurately reflect stakeholder perceptions for the **Responsible District Pillar**. This work will occur during the January work session or with BOE representation during committee meetings. The success of this pillar is critical, as a shared understanding of the strategic planning process should inform resource allocation by clearly defining priorities and aligning overarching goals for maximum focus and impact.

