

SPIRIT LAKE

High School Principal Year End Report 2023-2024

As we conclude the 2023-2024 academic year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress our school community has made. Our collective efforts have yielded significant achievements in key areas, underscoring our commitment to fostering a nurturing and stimulating educational environment.

One of our primary goals this year was to enhance student attendance. I am pleased to report that we have seen a substantial improvement in this area. Through targeted interventions, consistent communication with families, and the dedicated efforts of our staff, we have created an environment where students are motivated to attend regularly. This improvement is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire school community.

In today's rapidly changing world, equipping our students with 21st century skills is more crucial than ever. This year, we placed a strong emphasis on integrating these skills into our curriculum. Our students engaged in a variety of projects and activities that developed their critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication skills. These experiences have not only enriched their academic journey but have also prepared them for future success in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we remain committed to building on our successes and addressing areas for growth. We will continue to prioritize attendance, further develop our 21st century skills curriculum, and expand our J-Term and Life Skills programs. Together, we will strive to create an even more vibrant and supportive learning community.

In closing, we want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and hardworking students. Your efforts and commitment have made this year a resounding success. We are confident that, together, we will continue to achieve great things and prepare our students for a bright and successful future.

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Student Enrollment Data:

Grade	Ending Enrollment	Count Day
9th grade	98 students	96 students
10th grade	97 students	96 students
11th grade	120 students	117 students
12th grade	112 students	110 students
Total:	427 students	419 students

Behavior Issues:

Each year poses different behavioral challenges and we do our best to grow and learn from them. We don't use suspensions or detentions as a one size fits all solution when students make poor decisions. The conversations we have with students and families go a long way when it comes to building strong relationships after behavior issues. Poor social media relationships and conversations continue to cause issues in our school setting. Vaping continues to be a problem amongst our student body and it's not uncommon to find a vape on a student or to get complaints about students vaping in the restrooms. We continue to educate our students around the effects of vaping and tobacco use while holding strong on our school policies. Officer Vos continues to be a terrific asset to our school and his rapport with our students is excellent!

Attendance:

The majority of our student body don't have attendance issues and that's why SLHS will have attendance percentages in the low to mid 90's. We are constantly chasing the 5% of students who have poor attendance and those rates of 60% drop our averages. The average daily attendance (ADA) percentages for the 2023-2024 school year are listed below.

9th: 95.38%
10th: 94.89%
11th: 95.37%
12th: 95.91%
Total: 95.39%

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Our attendance rates are roughly 2% better than previous years. Our administrative team and our teachers will continue to work towards engaging students and having meaningful conversations with them about their learning. We want to make sure our students are leaving SLHS understanding the importance of showing up everyday to learn. We found success in meeting with the students and parents once we witnessed a negative trend with attendance(5, 8, 12) . Mr. Bolluyt did a fantastic job meeting with students and parents and keeping them up to speed with the follow through by the student.

Graduation and Dropout Data:

Four Year Cohort Graduation Data:

SLHS cohort ending 2023-2024: ????	State average: ????
SLHS cohort ending 2022-2023: 88.8%	State average: 87.4%
SLHS cohort ending 2021-2022: 92.2%	State average: 87.8%
SLHS cohort ending 2020-2021: 92.6%	State average: 90.2%
SLHS cohort ending 2019-20: 96.9%	State average: 91.8%

Each year there are multiple factors that can cause this number to rise or fall, including transitional planning and/or placement, alternative students who do not graduate with their graduating class, students who dropout of high school to pursue a high school equivalency (due to outside factors, placement in treatment facilities or they do not make it in public school). Although many end up finishing their education and receive a diploma, if they do not earn a diploma in the “expected” graduation year, it negatively impacts our graduation rate.

Five Year Dropout Data

The numbers below demonstrate the Spirit Lake Community School District dropouts and dropout percentage during the last five years:

? dropouts in the 2023-2024 school year-	????	State average: ????
8 dropouts in the 2022-2023 school year-	1.36%	State average: 2.12%
12 dropouts in the 2021-22 school year -	2.12%	State average: 2.12%
4 dropouts in the 2020-21 school year-	.71%	State average: 1.97%
3 dropouts in the 2019-20 school year -	.5 %	State average: 1.5%

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Yearly, we have a number of interventions in place to help serve the at-risk students including advisor-advisee, structured study hall, peer tutors and alternative programming. When issues arise, we do the best we can at SLHS to hold individual meetings with students and parents to discuss options and try to find the “best fit” model that we are able to provide within Spirit Lake Community Schools. Ultimately, in any given year we have circumstances that negatively impact our dropout rate.

Summary:

Our data remains strong but we do have some areas we will continue to focus on during the 2024-25 school year. Attendance is our number one concern going into 2024-25 as we don't want to see another dip in attendance. We're looking forward to a stronger Life Skills program during our 2024-25 school year. Now that we have a couple years under our belt, we can make adjustments and build on our previous successes. The long-term implications of our programming will have a positive impact on our school culture and growth of students after high school.

For the 2024-2025 school year, we have made the decision to remove phones from the classroom to create an environment that fosters focused learning and minimizes distractions. By eliminating the constant allure of social media, messaging, and games, we aim to help students engage more deeply with their studies and participate more actively in class discussions. This policy is designed to enhance their academic performance and overall well-being, ensuring that their time in school is spent developing critical thinking skills, building meaningful relationships, and preparing for future success.

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2024-2025 High School Building Goals

Building Goal:

In order to maintain and improve our attendance rates for the 24-25 academic year, the SLHS staff are building a tiered process for improving our attendance. Tiered plans will include check-in and check-out strategies and interventions for the following core attendance goals. **(2023: 95.38%)**

Teaching and Learning Goal:

Foster a supportive and interactive school environment by promoting **positive relationships, enhancing face-to-face communication, and reducing reliance on cellular devices** during school hours. By focusing on these objectives, Spirit Lake High School aims to create a more connected and engaged school community, fostering an environment where students can thrive academically and socially.

Achievement Goal:

Spirit Lake High School will increase the percentage of students in grades 9-11 who score at proficient or above in ELA and Math ISASP tests.