

SPIRIT LAKE

EXHIBIT #10

High School Principal Year End Report 2025-2026

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 school year, there is much to celebrate. This year was marked by growth, resilience, and a continued commitment to providing every student with opportunities to learn, succeed, and prepare for life beyond high school. The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report are a direct result of the dedication of our students, staff, families, and community working together toward a common goal.

Improving student attendance remained one of our highest priorities, and we are encouraged by the continued progress we've made. Through proactive communication with families, intentional interventions, and the daily efforts of our teachers and support staff, we have fostered a culture where being present matters. Increased attendance not only supports academic achievement but also strengthens relationships and student engagement, and we look forward to building on this momentum.

Preparing students for an ever-changing world continues to guide our work. Throughout the year, students were provided meaningful opportunities to strengthen essential life and career skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and problem-solving. These experiences extended beyond the traditional classroom and challenged students to apply their learning in authentic ways, helping prepare them for college, careers, and life after graduation.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we remain committed to continuous improvement. We will continue to prioritize strong student attendance, expand opportunities for students to develop future-ready skills, and enhance programs such as J-Term and Life Skills that provide meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. We are excited to build upon the strong foundation established this year while continuing to meet the evolving needs of our students.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our exceptional staff, supportive families, Board of Education, and, most importantly, our students. Your commitment, perseverance, and belief in Spirit Lake High School make our success possible. We don't claim to be perfect, but there is something special about this place, and if you spend enough time here, you can see growth that is real and meaningful.

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Student Enrollment Data:

Grade	Ending Enrollment	Count Day
9th grade	94 students	92 students
10th grade	108 students	106 students
11th grade	96 students	94 students
12th grade	105 students	104 students
Total:	403 students	396 students

Behavior Issues:

Each school year presents unique behavioral challenges, but the overall character of our student body continues to be a source of pride. Our students are good young people who, like all adolescents, make mistakes as they learn to navigate an increasingly complex world. Rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all approach through suspensions or detentions, we focus on conversations, accountability, and restoring relationships. Working collaboratively with students and families allows us to address concerns while helping students learn from their decisions.

Social media interactions continue to be one of the most common sources of conflict that finds its way into the school setting. The implementation of our classroom cell phone expectations has significantly reduced distractions and improved the learning environment throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Vaping also remains an area of concern, and while incidents continue to occur, we remain committed to educating students about the health risks associated with vaping and tobacco use while consistently enforcing school policies.

Over the past two school years, we have also responded to incidents involving weapons or look-alike weapons brought onto campus. While these situations have been isolated, they are taken with the utmost seriousness. In each case, the district acted decisively, resulting in expulsion in accordance with board policy and our commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students. At the same time, we recognize our responsibility to continue providing educational opportunities, and expelled students have been served through online programming while away from the school setting.

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We are fortunate to have Officer Vos as part of our team. His positive relationships with students, approachable demeanor, and commitment to our school community continue to make him an invaluable asset. His presence helps foster a safe, supportive school environment where students feel comfortable seeking guidance and assistance when needed.

Attendance:

Student attendance continues to be a significant strength at Spirit Lake High School. The vast majority of our students attend school consistently, allowing us to maintain an overall average daily attendance (ADA) in the mid-90 percent range each year. As is the case in many schools, our attendance data is heavily influenced by a small percentage of students who experience chronic absenteeism. While these students represent a relatively small portion of our enrollment, attendance rates below 60% have a noticeable impact on our overall averages. Our staff continues to work proactively with students and families through communication, intervention, and individualized support to improve attendance and keep students engaged in school.

The average daily attendance (ADA) for the 2025-2026 school year is listed below:

- 9th Grade: 95.83%
- 10th Grade: 95.97%
- 11th Grade: 96.36%
- 12th Grade: 97.08%
- Overall: **96.32%**

We are proud to continue building a culture where students understand that consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. We will remain committed to supporting every student while continuing to reduce chronic absenteeism and improve attendance outcomes across all grade levels.

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Graduation and Dropout Data:

Four Year Cohort Graduation Data:

SLHS cohort ending 2024-2025:	89.8%	State average: 88.8%
SLHS cohort ending 2023-2024:	86.4%	State average: 88.3%
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%

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:

9 dropouts in the 2024-2025 school year-	1.55%	State average: 2.30%
7 dropouts in the 2023-2024 school year-	1.21%	State average: 2.59%
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%

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.

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2025-2026 High School Building Goals

Building Goal:

In order to maintain and improve our attendance rates for the 25-26 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.

Year	Attendance Rate
2024 - 2025	96.22 %
2023 - 2024	95.38 %

Met Goal: 96.32% - The .10% might seem small but it equates to 105 less absent days by our students. This year we averaged 2.93 daily unexcused absences, which means the parent and student didn't report the absence. During the 2022-2023 year, right before we implemented the new attendance policies at SLHS, we averaged 7.49 daily unexcused absences. It's never a good feeling not knowing why students are missing school and our work together as a staff has really improved the communication between parents, staff, and students!

Teaching and Learning Goal:

During the 2025-2026 school year, all teaching staff will collaboratively align instructional practices and assessments with state and national standards.

Met Goal: During PD our staff worked collaboratively to vertically align instructional practices within buildings and within content areas. We did this with the help of Heartland AEA.

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.

ISASP DATA	ELA 2025 % Proficient	ELA 2026 % Proficient	Math 2025 % Proficient	Math 2026 % Proficient
Class of 2027 (11th)	84 %	??	78 %	??
Class of 2028 (10th)	88 %	??	75 %	??
Class of 2029 (9th)	82 %	??	79 %	??

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2026-2027 High School Building Goals

Building Goal:

In order to maintain our attendance rate above 96% for the 26-27 academic year, the SLHS staff will use a tiered process for maintaining our attendance. Tiered plans will include check-in and check-out strategies and interventions for the following core attendance goals.

Year	Attendance Rate
2025 - 2026	96.32 %
2024 - 2025	96.22 %

Teaching and Learning Goal:

During the 2026-2027 school year, all teaching staff will collaboratively align instructional practices and assessments with state and national standards.

Achievement Goal:

Spirit Lake High School will increase the percentage of students who demonstrate college, career, or military readiness through successful completion of rigorous coursework, industry certifications, work-based learning experiences, dual credit coursework, or postsecondary readiness indicators.

Examples include:

CNA Certifications

Welding Certifications

OHSA

CPR

ILCC Credits

ACT Completion Percentage

Career Internships

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