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Public Stance on School Vouchers in South Dakota

The definition from Oxford Languages of a school voucher states: a government-funded voucher redeemable for tuition fees at a school other than the public school that a student could attend free.

My public school experience began in the fall of 1986 when I attended an elementary School in Clark, South Dakota. My parents were educators. My mother was an elementary school teacher, and my father began as a teacher and coach and later became a principal and superintendent. Being a second-generation educator and superintendent, I have witnessed the importance of public education and understand the struggles and achievements we face in preparing students to reach their full potential by graduation.

I stand in opposition to school vouchers unless the same accountability and reporting are required from those receiving the voucher. As a South Dakota Superintendent, the following are items of accountability and data reporting required annually:

- Every calendar in the district has in Infinite Campus the correct calendar type selected and the inclusion to account for snow days, Christmas vacation, in-service days, parent/teacher conferences, etc.
- All students who attend (even for a short time) must have an enrollment record in Infinite Campus.
- All foreign exchange students must be identified by updating the citizenship field on the student's enrollment tab.
- Attendance must be entered for every PK-12th grade student and a resync of the data must be completed.
- All graduates must have their end date and state end status fields updated on their enrollment tab. If the student is a Special Education student and is graduating, we must update the SPED fields with an end date and exit code.
- EL (English Learners) students must be identified and their data entered in Infinite Campus on the EL tab.
- All students with disabilities (SPED) must be properly identified and their data entered in Infinite Campus in the SPED section.
- All students with a documented hearing loss must be identified and their data entered in Infinite Campus in the SPED section.
- All homeless students must be identified and the homeless tab updated.

- All military connected students must be properly identified by placing a check in the student of active military parent checkbox on the enrollment tab.
- All students receiving free or reduced priced lunch must be identified and have their lunch eligibility entered on the FRAM tab.
- Targeted Assistance Title I programs must identify all students receiving Title I services in Infinite Campus.
- All student enrollment overlaps must be resolved between the home district and any private and/or BIE schools.
- The Personnel Record Form (PRF) must be completed with an electronic signoff to ensure staffing information changes are made and entered in the PRF.
- The Safe, Drug and Gun Free data collection must be completed.
- The private Accountability Report Card must be accessible to the district's Accountability Team by logging into SD-Stars. All staff members who are part of the district's Accountability Team must have SD-STARS accounts with the accountability permission assigned to them.

Additionally, public schools' growth and measurement are documented and made public annually. The students must take the state assessments for specified grade levels. The teachers teach the approved state content standards. We don't get the option to deny public school enrollments and must accept all children and provide for their educational needs. Private schools and alternative instruction (homeschooling) are essential options for families to choose the best fit in education for their children. However, accountability and reporting must follow the school voucher.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kraig Steinhoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kraig Steinhoff
Superintendent of Schools