

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 48 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

## South Dakota K–12 Enrollment Trends (2000–01 to 2024–25)

Over the past quarter-century, South Dakota’s public and participating private school enrollment has seen significant shifts, shaped by rural population changes, metro-area growth, and the opening of new districts.

### Early 2000s: Gradual Decline

At the start of the 2000s, statewide enrollment hovered near 128,000 students. From 2000–01 to 2005–06, totals trended downward, with annual drops generally between 0.9% and 1.6%. This decline reflected shrinking rural populations and smaller incoming kindergarten cohorts in many parts of the state.

### Late 2000s: Fluctuations and Adjustments

From 2006–07 to 2010–11, enrollment moved up and down modestly, but 2010–11 marked the largest single-year drop in the dataset — more than 15,000 students (-12.6%). This appears linked to district reclassifications or reporting changes rather than a sudden demographic collapse.

### 2011–12 to 2019–20: Steady Recovery

The years following 2010–11 saw consistent, modest growth. By 2019–20, South Dakota’s total enrollment reached 115,510, nearly 9,000 above the post-2010 low. This growth was driven primarily by suburban expansion, especially in fast-growing communities like Harrisburg, Tea Area, and Brandon Valley.

### 2020–21: The Big Jump

Between 2019–20 and 2020–21, enrollment surged by 20,474 students (+17.7%) — a spike almost certainly tied to changes in data reporting or inclusion of additional schools/programs, rather than a one-year population boom.

### 2021–22 to 2024–25: Plateau

In the past four years, enrollment has stabilized between 137,000 and 138,000 students, with only minor yearly shifts. Growth in suburban and metro areas continues to offset rural declines.

### District-by-District: Biggest Gains and Losses

#### Top Growth Districts

Tea Area — Opened in 2002, now enrolls 2,509 students after starting from zero. This is one of the most dramatic growth stories in the state.

Harrisburg — From 802 students in 2000–01 to 6,182 today (+671%), fueled by suburban Sioux Falls expansion.

Sioux Falls Christian — From 323 to 1,447 (+348%), reflecting private school growth in metro areas.

Brandon Valley — From 2,533 to 5,073 (+100%), supported by new housing developments.

Northwestern, Sioux Falls, Hamlin, and Brookings — Saw gains of 25–34%, indicating steady, sustained growth.

#### Stable Districts

Groton (+5%), Aberdeen (+9%), Ipswich (+1.7%), and Langford (+0.4%) have remained essentially steady.

Pierre has slipped just 0.5% in 25 years, showing long-term stability.

#### Largest Declines

Redfield (-30.7%), Doland (-29.6%), Roncalli (-24.7%), and Sisseton (-23.5%) lead in losses, reflecting rural depopulation and smaller graduating classes.

Clark, Deuel, and Britton-Hecla saw drops between 12–17%.

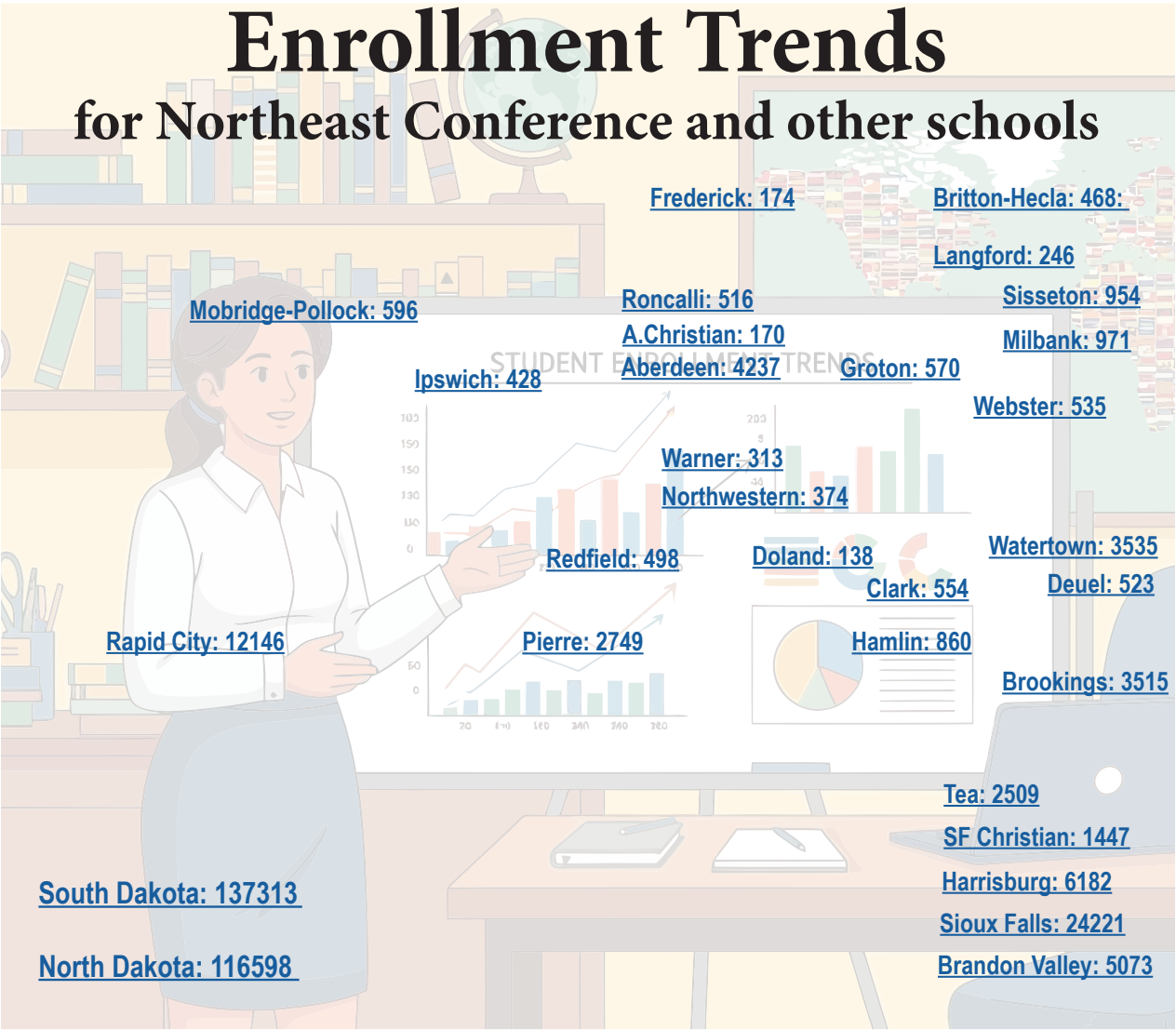
Rapid City — Despite being a major metro, fell by nearly 10% from 2000 to 2024–25.

#### Key Takeaways

Suburban Boom: Harrisburg, Tea Area, Brandon Valley, and Sioux Falls-area private schools have grown rapidly, benefiting from population shifts toward the Sioux Falls metro.

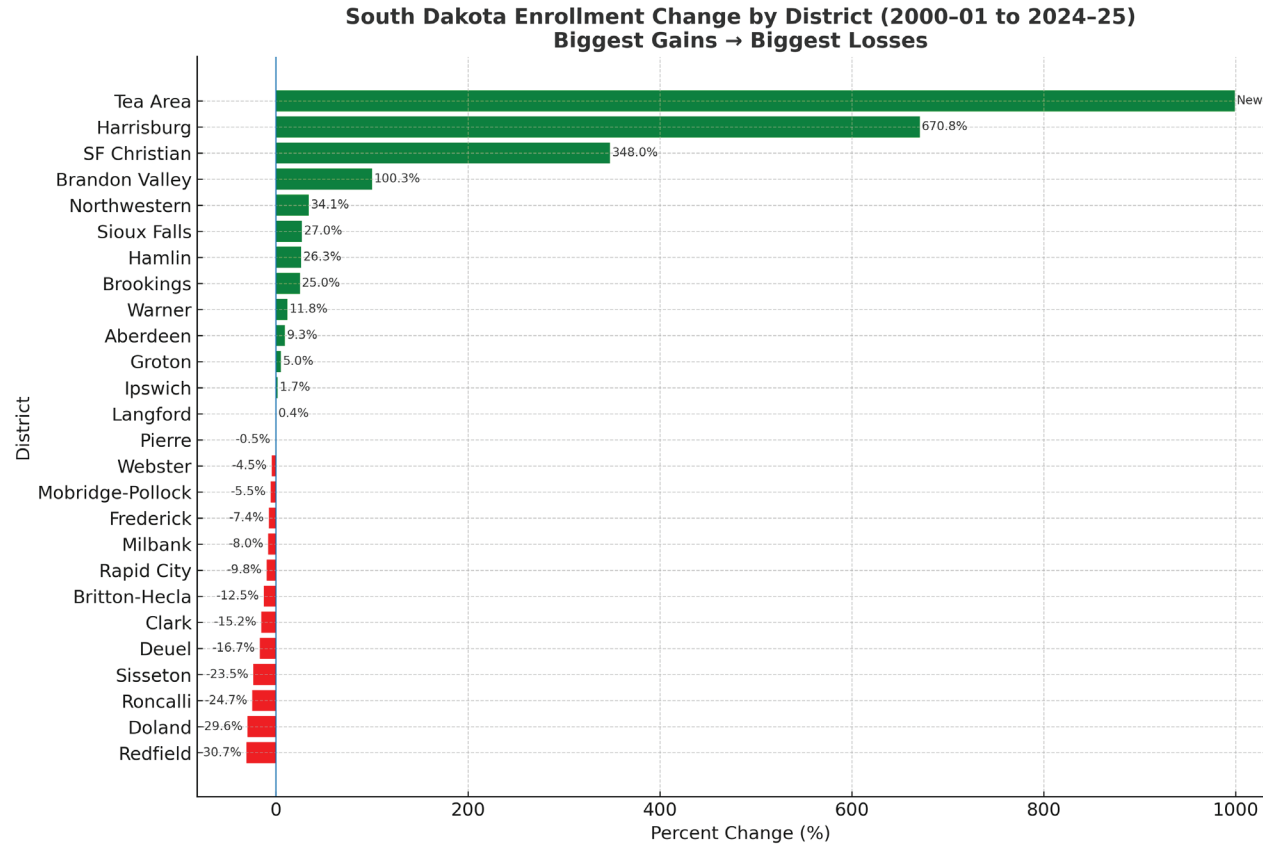
Rural Decline: Many smaller districts, especially in the northeast and central regions, have seen steady erosion in student numbers due to declining rural populations.

New District Impact — Tea Area’s rise from zero to 2,500+ students in just over two decades is a defining feature of the state’s education map.



2024 Enrollment Figures  
From the South Dakota Department of Education  
and the North Dakota Department of Education

The narratives and charts were generated by ChatGPT



Continues on Page 6



# Groton Tigers Gear Up for Football Season with Strong Numbers and Fresh Faces

GROTON – The start of football season brings renewed excitement in Groton, where the Tigers enter the fall with solid numbers, a mix of returning talent, and a new crop of underclassmen ready to step into key roles. Head coach Shaun Wanner, beginning his 39th season at the helm, says the team is in good shape as they prepare for Friday’s opener.

“We’ve got good numbers — 40 kids out this year,” Wanner said in a preseason interview with GDI Live. “We lost a few from Langford and Groton, but anytime we can get into the 40s, that’s a good number for us.” The roster includes nine players from Langford and 31 from Groton, giving the program solid depth.

This year’s schedule required some last-minute adjustments after Sisseton moved to a junior varsity-only slate. The result is an opener against longtime rival Webster, set for 7 p.m. Friday in Groton.

“They’re always well-coached, and we’ve never had blowouts with them,” Wanner said. “It’s usually a one-score game, and I expect another competitive matchup.”

Groton also added Winner, the defending state champions, to fill the gap. Despite Winner’s reputation, Wanner welcomed the challenge.

“Win or lose, we’re going to get a lot of points from them because they’ll win eight or nine games,” he said. “It’s better than not playing somebody. If we only had seven games, it would have hurt us.”

The Tigers are fortunate to have three of their first four games at home, giving fans an early look at the team.

Groton’s strength lies in its line play, where four of five offensive starters return. On defense, several experienced defensive backs — Ryder Johnson, Keegen Tracy, and Lincoln Johnson — bring stability.

The skill positions, however, will be filled by new faces. Freshman quarterback Asher Johnson takes over under center, with classmate Jordan Schwan at tight end and Anthony Tracy contributing on both sides of the ball. Sophomore Ryder Schelle steps in at running back to replace the graduated senior core.

“We’re probably going to start two or three freshmen along with some sophomores,” Wanner said. “They’re good kids, they’ve had success in junior high, and now we’ll see how they perform under the lights.”

The Tigers’ staff remains largely intact. Coach Kurth leads the defense, Coach Erickson handles line play, and Michael Alberts returns from Langford. New to the program is Quentin Bierman, a University of Sioux Falls alum who has been working with players in the weight room and now joins officially as a line and special teams assistant.

“It’s good to have consistency year after year,” Wanner said. “Now I’m starting to mentor some of the younger coaches too.”

Fans will notice improvements at the field, including a new crow’s nest, additional storage, and an upgraded scoreboard sound system. Wanner hinted he may call plays from the crow’s nest this year.

Off the field, the veteran coach feels reinvigorated after undergoing heart surgery last November.

“I feel like I’m 30 years old again,” he said with a smile. “My numbers are good, and I’m finally listening to my wife about diet and health. The key is I still enjoy coming out here every day.”

With three home games early, a veteran offensive line, and a talented but young group of skill players, the Tigers are entering the season with cautious optimism.

“Our kids are excited,” Wanner said. “We’ve been working hard in two-a-days, battling the humidity, and now it’s time to get on the field and compete.”

The Groton Area Tigers kick off their season Friday at 7 p.m. against Webster in Groton.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT from the video interview on GDLIVE.COM.



**You can watch the interview on GDILIVE.COM. The link is the black bar.**

## A Shuffled Schedule

## Strength in the Trenches, Youth at the Helm

## Coaching Continuity and New Blood

## Facilities and Health on the Rise

## Looking Ahead

## Groton Area girls shut out Garretson

The Groton Area girls soccer team got its first win Tuesday at Garretson with a 4-0 win. Coach Matt Baumgartner said, “After a 40 minute lightning delay, we got started and attacked early and often. Ryelle Gilbert opening the scoring in the 6th minute after Jerica Lockes’ quick throw in found McKenna Tietz in the penalty area who found space and slotted a nice pass across for Ryelle Gilbert to tap home. The second half finished with a smart score from McKenna Tietz and Jerica Locke with two of her own brilliant plays to cap the scoring out at four. “

“Next game up is Friday in Groton 4pm kick-off vs 0-1 Belle Fourche and Saturday is the

big game of the weekend vs. 2-0 St. Thomas More at the NSU Pavilion, free admission is being granted so we’d love to see a packed crowd at 11 a.m. and for the 2-0 Groton boys at 1 p.m.!”

Final: Groton Area 4, Garretson 0  
1st Half : Groton Area 1, Garretson 0  
(1) Ryelle Gilbert assisted by Tietz  
2nd Half: Groton Area 3, Garretson 0  
(2) Tietz assisted by Ashlynn Warrington  
(3) Jerica Locke assisted by Mia Crank  
(4) Jerica Locke assisted by Brenna Imrie  
Jaedyn Penning with the shutout victory and 5 saves in between the pipes.

# Boys beat Hot Springs, Girls lose to Sioux Falls Christian

The Groton Area soccer teams were in opposite sides of the state on the southern side on Saturday with the girls losing to Sioux Falls Christian, 2-0, and the boys going 2-0 on the season with a 5-1 win over Hot Springs.

In the boys game, Ethan Kroll had two goals and one assist and Karson Zak had three goals. Easton Weber and Axel Abeln each had an assist.

Sioux Falls Christian scored one goal in each of the halves to pull out the win.

Coach Matt Baumgartner said, “Girls soccer started the game aggressive and finished aggressive; the mid portion of the game wasn’t in our favor today. Lots to work around with the departure of what I would say 7 super seniors that led the seniority for 2 years prior to this year’s chapter.

We want to be a team that plays more aggressive this year and become somewhat of a nuisance to other teams on how we command the game, press to win the ball back with intensity and perform the type of soccer we know we’re capable of.

This year’s team is led by Senior captains Jerica Locke and Jaedyn Penning and we expect good energy and positive performances from them both!”

The soccer teams will be at home this weekend. Belle Fourche comes to town on Friday with the girls playing at 4 p.m. and the boys at 6 p.m. Then on Saturday the teams play at Northern State University with the girls playing at 11 a.m. and the boys at 1 p.m.

## Groton Boys Open Season at Sioux Valley Invitational



**The boys golf team is pictured above. Left to right they are Jarrett Erdmann, Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Liam Johnson, Hayden Harder and Bentley Ehresmann.** (Courtesy Photo)

The Groton Area boys’ golf team teed off their fall season Thursday at the Sioux Valley Invitational in Volga, finishing fifth in a strong 11-team field.

Roncalli captured top honors with a team score of 306, while Madison placed second at 328. Sioux Valley Blue was third with 331, followed by Brookings JV at 347. Groton Area rounded out the top five at 349. Other team scores included Sisseton (359), Parker (368), Sioux Valley Gold (377), Redfield (391), Sioux Valley JV (414), and Milbank (422).

Leading the way for Groton was Jace Johnson, who tied for 10th place individually and was a medalist. Johnson shot an 83 on the par-72 course, carding a 42 on the front nine and a 41 on the back nine.

Jared Erdman tied for 18th with an 86, rebounding from a 46 on the front with a 40 on the back. Jayden Schwan placed 23rd after shooting 88, including rounds of 46 and 42. Liam Johnson tied for 26th with a 92, posting scores of 49 and 43.

Rounding out the Groton lineup was Bentley Ehresmann, who tied for 57th with a 110, shooting 56 on the front and 54 on the back.

The Tigers will look to build on their opening performance as the season continues. The next meet is the Northeast Conference meet August 26 at Lee Park in Aberdeen.





### New Sound System at Doney Field

Everyone has been complaining about the sound system at the football field. Well, there should be a dramatic improvement this year. The box that has the GT on it is part of the new sound system. According to Superintendent Joe Schwan, the district invested \$50,000 in the purchase and installation of the sound system. The money came out of the Capital Outlay Fund. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Brown County 4-H Royalty:  
King Hunter Kern  
Queen Ashlynn Warrington  
(Photo from Robyn Warrington's FB Page)



Service Signs was doing some weld-  
ing and upgrading to the scoreboard  
to make room for the new speakers on  
Thursday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

### Leaf Spot Fungi attacking the Lilac bushes

There have been reports of leaves on Lilac bushes turning brown. Leaf Spot Fungi is on the attack of these bushes and there is nothing you can do about it right now.

According to Aaron Kiesz, Aberdeen City Forester, "We're seeing a lot of sickly Lilacs." He said that the Leaf Spot Fungi is common during warm, humid, rainy growing seasons. He said the bushes will be fine in the spring. There is a preventive chemical (fungicide) that can be used in the spring, but he said that is not necessary unless the bushes go two years with the fungi. He would recommend a treatment if they get the fungi two years in a go so the plants do not get so stressed out.



This row of Lilac bushes across the alley  
from the high school parking lot has a severe  
case of the Leaf Spot Fungi. The leaves have  
turned brown and are dropping. It may look  
bad now, but the bushes will spring back to  
life in the spring. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The following is from Google AI:  
Lilac leaf spot, primarily caused by the fungus Pseudocercospora, manifests as brown or black spots on leaves, leading to yellowing, twisting, and eventual leaf drop. While not usually fatal, repeated infections can weaken lilacs, potentially causing branch dieback. Management focuses on sanitation, air circulation, and potentially fungicide application

**Causes:**

**Fungal pathogen:** Pseudocercospora is a common culprit, but other fungi like Septoria can also cause similar symptoms.

**Weather conditions:** High humidity and moderate temperatures, especially in spring, favor fungal growth.

**Spore spread:** Fungal spores overwinter on fallen leaves and can be splashed onto new foliage in spring.

**Management:**

**Sanitation:** Rake and dispose of fallen leaves, as they can harbor fungal spores. Avoid composting infected leaves.

**Pruning:** Improve air circulation by pruning back old, crowded branches and removing dead wood.

**Fungicides:** In severe cases, preventative fungicide applications in spring (when leaves emerge) may be necessary. Always follow label instructions carefully.

**Resistant cultivars:** Consider planting lilac varieties known for their resistance to leaf spot diseases.

**Improve drainage:** If your soil is poorly drained, consider amending it with organic matter or improving drainage.



Three straight days of cloud bursts  
over Groton resulted in 2.75 inches of  
rain. On Aug. 15 we had .39, Aug. 16 was  
.98 and Aug. 17 was 1.38. In addition  
.31 fell on Aug. 13. Making the weekly  
total 3.06. For August we have received  
4.48 inches of rain. The August average  
is 2.39.

### Weekly SUDOKU

5					7	1	6	
		1					4	3
7	4	6		3	1	5		
					4			
			8	5		9	7	
9	7	8		2		4		5
	5	2		4				7
4		7		1	2			6
1	9		6	7				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way  
that each row across, each column down and each  
small 9-box square contains all of the  
numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.





The Minnesota Vikings hosted the New England Patriots this past week, starting with two joint practices before meeting Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium for preseason game number two. New England left town with a 20-12 win, but the week wasn’t without its bright spots.

The practices told two different stories. On Wednesday, the Patriots had the upper hand, but the Vikings bounced back on Thursday and got the better of them. Friday was a rest day before Saturday’s game. And with so many connections between these two teams, it had the feel of a reunion. Kevin O’Connell spent time in New England as a player under Bill Belichick. Former Viking Garrett Bradbury is now a Patriot, joining Stefon Diggs, Joshua Dobbs, Vederian Lowe, Parker Romo, and Khyiris Tonga. There was plenty of catching up throughout the week.

The game itself was rough. Part of that came down to Mike Vrabel’s decision to play most of his starters after New England struggled in Thursday’s practice. Even then, Minnesota’s backups held New England’s starting offense out of the end zone on the first drive. Vrabel sent his starters out again, and this time they scored, giving them a chance to sit the rest of the night. At halftime, the Patriots led 14-3.

Minnesota chipped away in the second half, trading field goals with New England to keep it close. The Vikings finally got a spark late in the fourth when Myles Price returned a kick 81 yards to set them up at the eight-yard line. They had to settle for a field goal, but it cut the deficit to one score. With under two minutes left, undrafted rookie Max Brosmer led a drive down the field and nearly tied it. His final throw into the end zone was intercepted, and although the ball came loose as the defender went to the ground, replay showed he was down by contact. The comeback fell short, but it was at least an exciting finish to an otherwise sluggish night.

Quarterback play was shaky across the board. Sam Howell, acquired to back up J.J. McCarthy, started and only completed one of five passes for 13 yards with an interception. Brett Rypien was better, going 7-of-11 for 83 yards. Brosmer looked the most comfortable, completing 15 of 27 for 156 yards. His lone interception came on the final desperation throw, so it wasn’t damaging. Still, the Vikings can’t feel good about their depth behind McCarthy, and I wouldn’t be surprised if they explore other options.

The ground game didn’t get much going. Xavier Scott, coming off a strong performance last week, ran 10 times for just 28 yards, though he

did add three catches for 44 yards. Ty Chandler only saw three carries but managed 12 yards.

With Justin Jefferson still sidelined and Jordan Addison suspended for the first three games, the wide receiver competition remains wide open. Tim Jones stood out with five catches for 68 yards, Jashaun Jones added four for 39, and rookie Tai Felton had two for 32. Jalen Nailor missed the game with an injury.

Defensively, Minnesota didn’t force a turnover or register a sack. Gabriel Murphy, Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Jonathan Harris, and Dwight McGlothern each notched a tackle for loss.

The stock report is pretty clear. Myles Price boosted his case with the long kick return and solid punt returns, putting himself in strong position to claim the returner job. On the flip side, Sam Howell’s stock took a major hit. The team brought him in expecting stability at backup quarterback, but so far he hasn’t delivered.

The Vikings wrap up preseason this Friday night in Tennessee against the Titans, kicking off at 7 p.m.

### The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460  
Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285  
Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)  
News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)  
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]  
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.  
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.  
**Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445**  
© 2025 The Groton Independent



What did it take to produce the graphs and information for last weeks population edition and today’s enrollment edition? Working with ChatGPT has been a challenge, to say the least.

The population ones were not bad as AI (Artificial Intelligence) was able to pull the data from the US Census Bureau. The enrollment figures - well - that was a different story. AI told me I had to pull the data and create a spread sheet and then feed the data, school by school, into AI where it would create the graph and commentary.

So for hours on end, I ended up pulling up 25 years worth of spreadsheets for 28 schools and the state totals. Oh, make that 50 spread sheets as there were separate files for the public schools and

the private schools like Roncalli, Aberdeen Christian and Sioux Falls Christian.

The population ones were nicely done through AI with a table on top, a graph under it and commentary at the bottom. Trying to do that with enrollment through AI - not so much. It would maintain no consistency in design. It would be good for a bit, then it would wander off in another direction. I finally gave up on the one sheet design and told it just to generate the graph. And even that proved to be a challenge. It would be good for a while. Then all of a sudden it created a blue lined graph and I wanted black line. One graph had just the dots and no line intersecting them. Then it would have the dates vertical instead of at an angle like the others were. A few times it would list every five years on the date part instead of every year. It seemed like there was always something I was tweaking.

At one point it said we had been chatting for a while and should we take a break. I was trying to figure out who needed the break - me or AI?

I hope you have enjoyed these special editions. It’s been fun and challenging doing them.

### GDILIVE interview into a story via AI

I did an interview with Coach Waner Saturday morning and posted it online through GDIlive.com. Then I came up with the idea of, “I wonder if I could take that interview and have a story for the paper. So I asked ChatGPT if that would be possible, and of course, it said yes. Then it proceeded to tell me the step-by-step process.

So basically I took my video, loaded into my program, stripped the audio out of it, took that audio and uploaded it to a program that would make a transcript out of it. I copied the transcript, plopped it into ChatGPT and it made the newspaper story for me. All of that done in about half an hour, which wasn’t bad as it was my first time doing this. Future interviews could be done in as little as 10-15 minutes.

I hate to say it, but it came out, I thought, absolutely great. It’s fascinating what you can do with AI technology today.

### The Groton Independent

**Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition**  
**Subscription Form**  
All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax  
☐ Black & White .....\$48.99/year  
☐ Colored .....\$79.88/year  
☐ Colored .....\$42.60/6 months  
☐ E-Weekly\* .....\$31.95/year  
\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
**Groton Daily Independent**  
**www.397news.com**  
**Subscription Form**  
This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.  
☐ 1 Month .....\$15.98  
☐ 3 Months.....\$26.63  
☐ 6 Months.....\$31.95  
☐ 9 Months.....\$42.60  
☐ 12 Months .....\$53.25  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
The following will be used for your log-in information.  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Password \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Mail Completed Form to:  
Groton Independent  
P.O. Box 34  
Groton, SD 57445-0034  
or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

### LARSON DIGGING, INC.

**is hiring: CDL Drivers and Laborers**  
*Full time or Part time*  
**Laborers start at \$20 per hour**  
*Experience and/or CDL is additional compensation*  
1011 S. Madison St.  
units #9 & 10  
Milbank, SD 57252  
Call: Terri Swenson, Office Manager 320-305-9758 or Damian Pillatzki, Owner 605-228-6836  
**APPLY TODAY!**

### BAT REMOVAL

**10-YEAR WARRANTY**  
HARMLESS BAT REMOVAL  
BAT-PROOF & CLEAN UP  
FULL ATTIC RESTORATION  
**CALL TODAY!**  
**605-736-0904**  
**TheBatGuysBatRemoval.com**



Classifieds  
and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter  
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
4th consecutive week is free

**605/397-NEWS (6397)**  
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

ASSISTANT TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR/ Network Administrator needed full-time, salary TBD, with benefits; year-round, starting immediately. Apply online: [www.csd.k12.sd.us](http://www.csd.k12.sd.us) Custer School District, 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730 605-673-3154. EOE

JERAULD COUNTY will be accepting applications for a full-time maintenance worker. For application, please contact the Highway Office at 605-539-9671 or the Auditor's Office 605-539-9301.

LAND

IN SEARCH OF PASTURE for 50-300 Pairs. 5th Generation, SD, ranchers looking to expand. Long term lease preferred but would consider short term. Call (605)690-1997

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR MOBILE HOMES TO MOVE. Salvage homes. Will also do professional re-blocking and leveling, anchors. Single or double wide. Free estimates. Other homes available. We deliver and set up. (605) 770-9211.

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 605-397-7460.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR  
RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Trellis Pension and Retirement Rights Project - Upper Midwest Region to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Community Living, Trellis staff provides assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

**CALL US TODAY 1.866.783.5021**

6th  
SEPTEMBER

WOMEN'S  
Brunch

A SPECIAL EVENT  
FOR WOMEN

Guest Presenter

SHARON PIATT

Saturday, September 6, 2025  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Rose Hill Church  
12099 Rose Hill Road  
Langford SD 57454

“Why Pelvic Health  
Matters:

More Than Just Kegels”

In our research and clinical practice experiences, a common theme emerges from people living with pelvic floor issues -- “I wish someone had told me about this sooner.” Through interviews and conversations, we’ve documented the stories of individuals who didn’t know what questions to ask, didn’t realize their symptoms were treatable, and often assumed they were alone. In her practice, Staci sees these realities unfold in the clinic every day, as both male and female patients arrive with frustration, confusion and a long history of being told that their concerns are normal, inevitable or simply something to live with.

Pelvic floor disorders such as urinary incontinence, constipation, pelvic pressure, pain with intercourse and pelvic floor dyssynergia (poor coordination) are more common than most people realize. These symptoms affect millions of adults. Nearly one in four women and one in eight men in the U.S. will experience some form of pelvic floor dysfunction in their lifetime. Yet these issues are often dismissed, hidden or normalized. Although not uncommon, we want to emphasize that dysfunction in the system is not normal. It is treatable. Conversations around pelvic health often begin only after childbirth, surgery or the slow accumulation of symptoms that have significantly affected quality of life. By that point, the affected person is often dealing not only with physical discomfort, but with years of self-doubt or embarrassment.

The pelvic floor is a group of muscles that sits at the base of the pelvis. These muscles are responsible for more than most people are ever taught. In both men and women, the pelvic floor supports the bladder, bowel, abdominal and reproductive organs. It helps control continence, allows for sexual function, and plays a role in basic breathing, posture and core stability. Despite all of this, most people grow up never learning about their pelvic floor, how it functions, or how to care for it. This lack of awareness isn’t just a missed opportunity for treatment; it’s a missed opportunity for prevention.

Every human has a pelvic floor. Pelvic health should be part of basic health education, not a niche topic reserved for specialists. Young people deserve to understand how their bodies work, and that includes the pelvic floor. Learning about healthy habits, such as avoiding excessive straining, practicing coordinated breathing during physical exertion, and developing strength, coordination and flexibility throughout the hips and core, can make a meaningful difference later in life. And for those planning for pregnancy, knowledge of pelvic floor function before and during pregnancy can support smoother recovery and reduce complications down the line. Gaining understanding of how the pelvic systems change with age, after surgery, or with the hormone changes of peri- and post-menopause also offers people a chance to create change and retain optimal function.

Kegels are often the only pelvic health advice people hear, but the solution is rarely that simple. Some individuals need strengthening; others need help learning to relax and coordinate pelvic floor muscles properly. Pelvic health is not a “one-size-fits-all” issue, and that’s why education before symptoms emerge is so important.

When problems do arise, they’re worth bringing up. Leakage, pressure and pain are common, but they’re not normal or untreatable at any age. Pelvic health physical therapists and other providers trained in this area can offer effective, individualized care. But even better is helping people know enough to ask questions earlier, build healthy habits sooner and prevent dysfunction before it starts.

Pelvic health matters. And the earlier we begin talking about it, the better.

Patti Berg-Poppe is a professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Her research focuses on pelvic health, including postpartum recovery and pediatric pelvic floor dysfunction, as well as motor control and learning in special populations. She has led interdisciplinary studies on the effects of intrapartum pelvic trauma on sexual function, return to participation and family well-being and has published on exercise interventions for conditions like diastasis recti and dysfunctional voiding in children.

Staci Wietfeld is a board-certified orthopedic clinical specialist and certified pelvic rehabilitation practitioner. She specializes in treating complex musculoskeletal conditions and pelvic floor dysfunction, integrating advanced manual therapy and patient education to promote recovery and well-being. In addition to her clinical practice with Avera Health Systems in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, she contributes to research and public education on pelvic health and physical therapy.

Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust

**A  
subscription  
to the Groton  
Independent  
makes a  
great gift!  
605-397-7460**



**Dr. Patti  
Berg-Poppe**



**Dr. Staci  
Wietfeld**



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Lion" star  
Patel  
4 Obi  
8 Banshee's  
cry  
12 Hot temper  
13 Nick and  
Nora's pet  
14 Conceal  
15 Pompeii vol-  
cano  
17 Altar vows  
18 Three, in  
Rome  
19 Fairy tale  
maidens  
21 Protein-rich  
grain  
24 Nanny's  
charge  
25 Boot brand  
26 Egg quaff  
28 "Tiny Alice"  
playwright  
32 Mr. Guinness  
34 Online guffaw  
36 The Emerald  
Isle  
37 Name on a  
vacuum  
39 Conk on the  
head  
41 Kilmer of  
"The Doors"  
42 Highland hat  
44 Goodies  
46 Weapons  
store  
50 Entirely

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
			18				19		20			
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
				42		43		44		45		
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 51 Active sort  
52 Birthing  
experts  
56 Jai —  
57 Soon, poeti-  
cally  
58 Ecol. watch-  
dog  
59 Apportion  
60 Wimbledon  
units  
61 Half dozen
- count  
5 "Do — say!"  
6 Poker variety  
7 Tears into  
8 Tea kettle  
noisemaker  
9 Staffer  
10 Pop star  
11 Minus  
16 Ornate vase  
20 Extinct bird  
21 Campus area  
22 Unightly  
23 ISP giant  
27 Sailor  
29 Clams and  
oysters, e.g.  
30 Part of Q.E.D.
- 31 Congers  
33 Exclusive  
group  
35 Parcel of land  
38 A Bobbsey  
twin  
40 Seafood order  
43 May honorees  
45 Yale grad  
46 Cain's dad  
47 Actor's quest  
48 Membership  
49 Queue  
53 Speck  
54 Roof orna-  
ment  
55 Jazz band  
instrument

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



# Enrollment

Continued from front

Stable Anchors: A handful of districts — Groton, Aberdeen, Pierre — have held their ground, balancing modest growth and loss.

Statewide Stability — Despite these local shifts, total enrollment in 2024–25 is slightly higher than it was 25 years ago.

## The Dakotas

Both Dakotas are bucking the national trend of declining K–12 enrollment in many states.

North Dakota’s growth is faster and steadier, while South Dakota’s growth is strong but concentrated in specific metro regions and influenced by administrative factors.

In both states, rural areas face ongoing challenges with declining numbers, consolidations, and smaller graduating classes, while metro and suburban areas struggle to keep up with expansion demands.

## South Dakota

Enrollment grew from 121,015 in 2008–09 to 137,313 in 2024–25.

Net gain: +16,298 students (+13.5%).

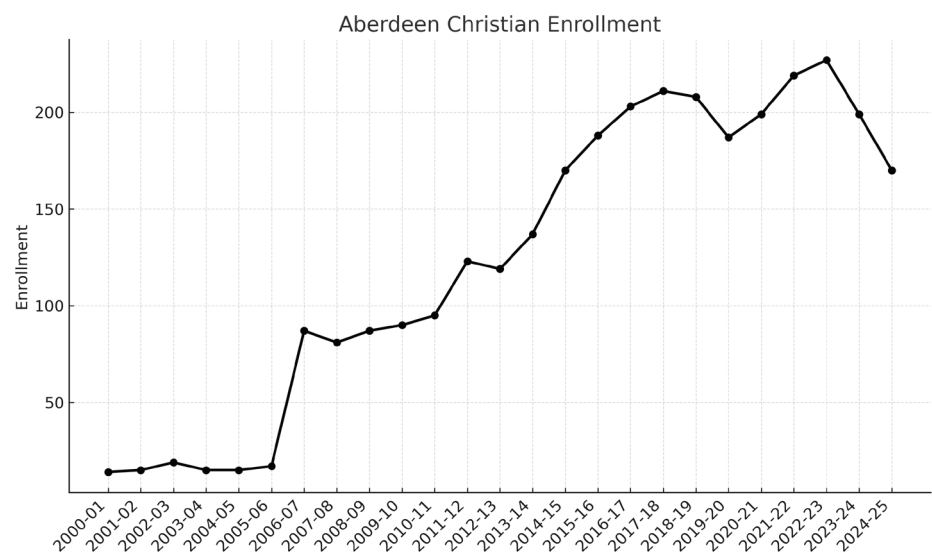
Growth has been uneven, with modest gains most years but a dramatic jump between 2019–20 and 2020–21, when enrollment rose by over 20,000 students — likely due to a shift in reporting or classification that brought additional programs into the count.

## North Dakota

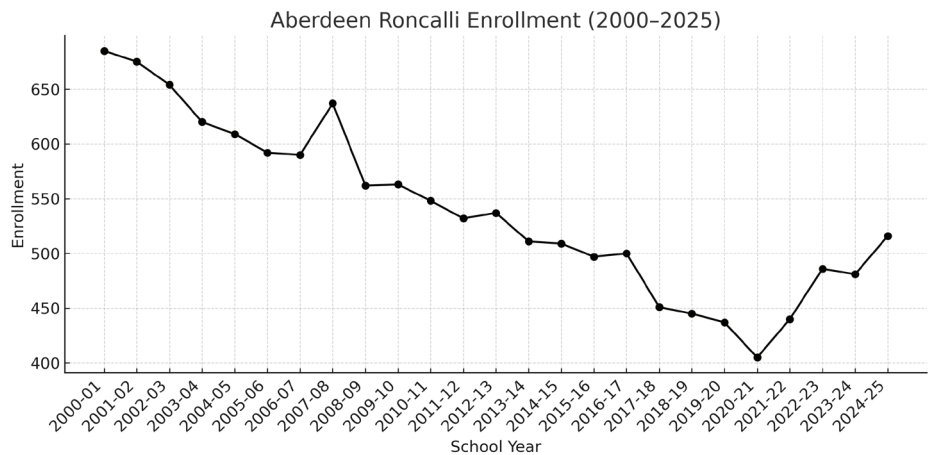
Enrollment climbed from 93,406 in 2008–09 to 116,598 in 2024–25.

Net gain: +23,192 students (+24.8%).

Growth has been steady and consistent, averaging about 1,450 students per year since 2008–09, without major spikes or drops.



Aberdeen Christian enrollment in 2000-01 was 14 and is now 170 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 227 and the lowest was 14. Overall, the trend shows significant growth from a small base. This growth far exceeds the city’s population increase, pointing to a strong rise in interest in the school.



# MEYERS

## TRACTOR SALVAGE


ABERDEEN, SD

1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines  
400+ Reground Crankshafts  
500+ Tractor Tires  
300+ Rebuilt Radiators

Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!

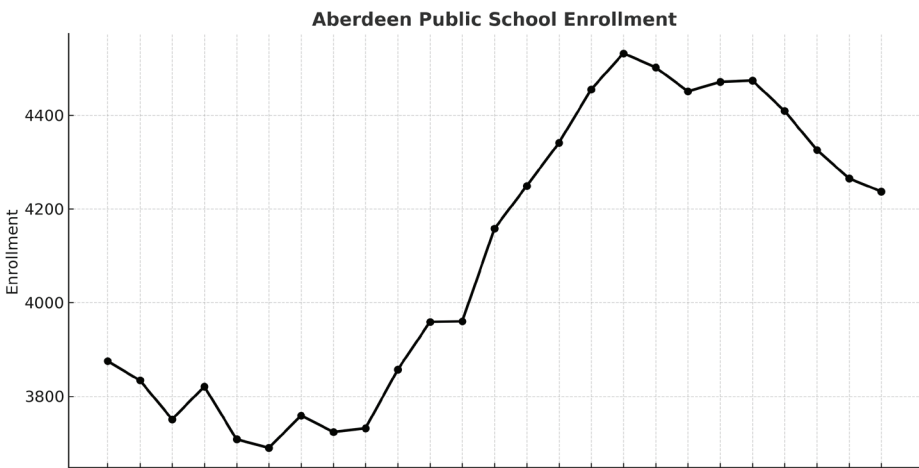
WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE



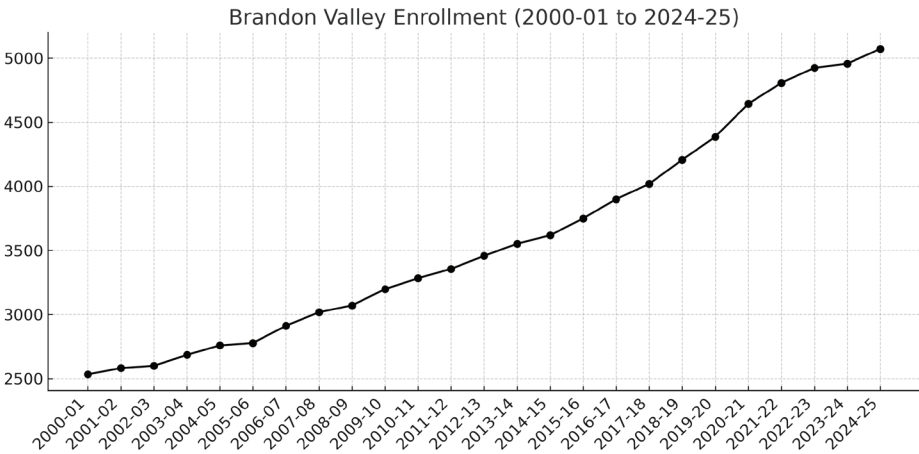
Phone (605) 225-0185

5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

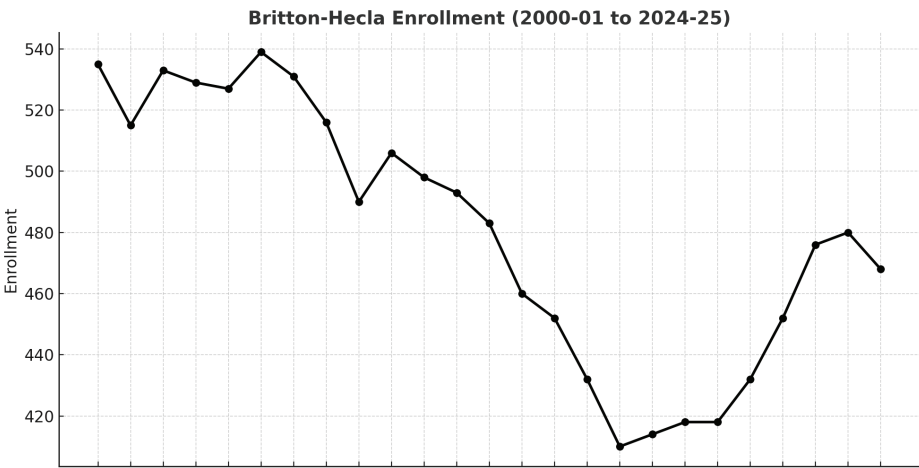
Aberdeen Roncalli enrollment in 2000-01 was 685 and is now 516 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 685 and the lowest was 405. Overall, the trend shows an overall decline with some rebounds. The drop in students is somewhat sharper than the city’s overall population change.



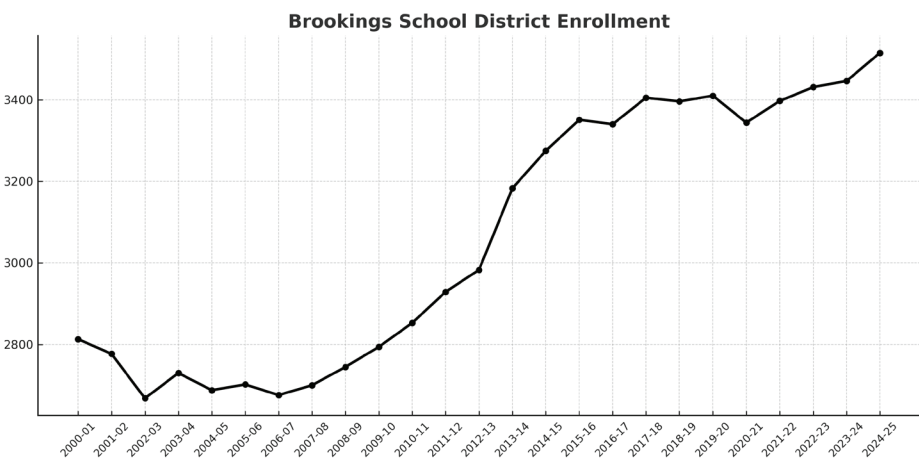
Aberdeen’s K-12 enrollment peaked in the early 2010s but has seen a gradual decline since 2016–17. The district’s numbers have generally stayed above 4,200 students for the past decade, with the latest count at 4,237 in 2024–25. While the drop from 2016–17 levels is noticeable, Aberdeen remains one of the state’s largest districts and is still well above early-2000s levels. Continued monitoring will determine if the recent stability signals a leveling-off or a potential rebound.



Brandon Valley has experienced strong, sustained enrollment growth, rising from 2,533 students in 2000–01 to 5,073 in 2024–25. The district’s largest increases have come in the past decade, driven by both new housing developments and its reputation for quality education. Even in years of broader economic slowdown, Brandon Valley has maintained steady upward momentum in student numbers. Compared to the city’s population growth, school enrollment has tracked closely, indicating that new families moving into the community are contributing directly to the district’s expansion.

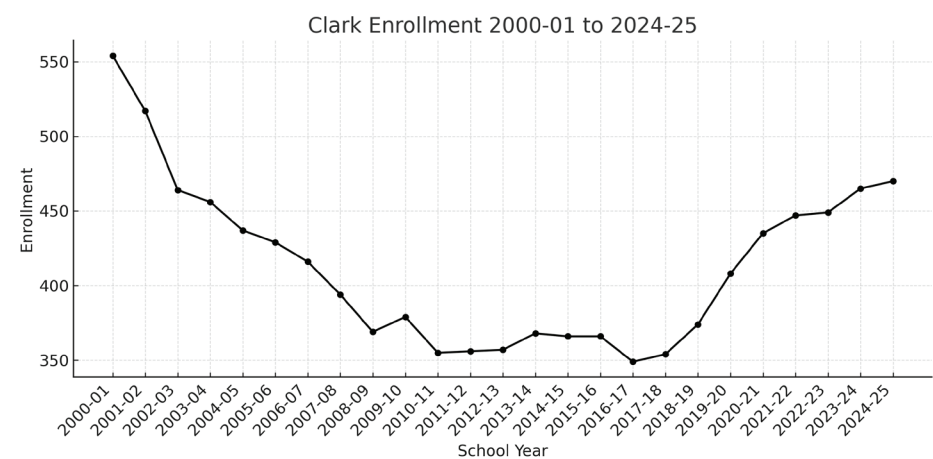


Britton-Hecla’s enrollment has fluctuated over the years, with a high of 539 in 2005–06 and a low of 410 in 2016–17. The 2024–25 total of 468 represents a modest decrease from last year but remains above the 2016–17 low point. The long-term trend shows resilience despite periodic dips. Maintaining steady enrollment will depend on both local population changes and the ability to attract new families.

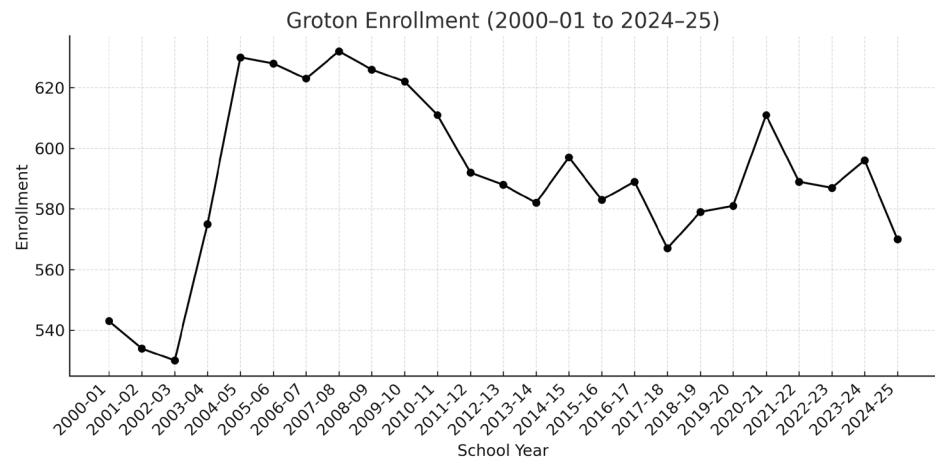


Brookings enrollment grew steadily in the early 2000s, reaching a recent high of 3,515 in 2024–25. While there were small dips in the mid-2010s, the overall trend has been upward. Brookings remains one of the state’s larger and faster-growing districts. Strong community growth and higher education influence have contributed to the district’s sustained rise.

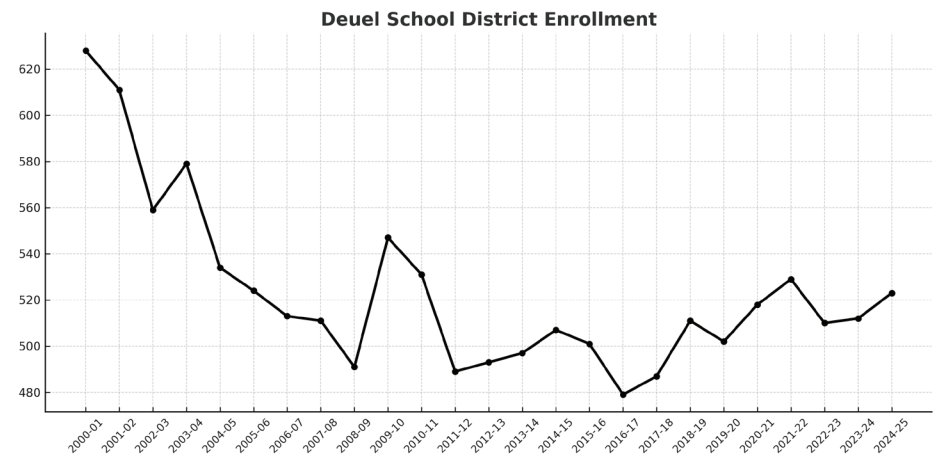




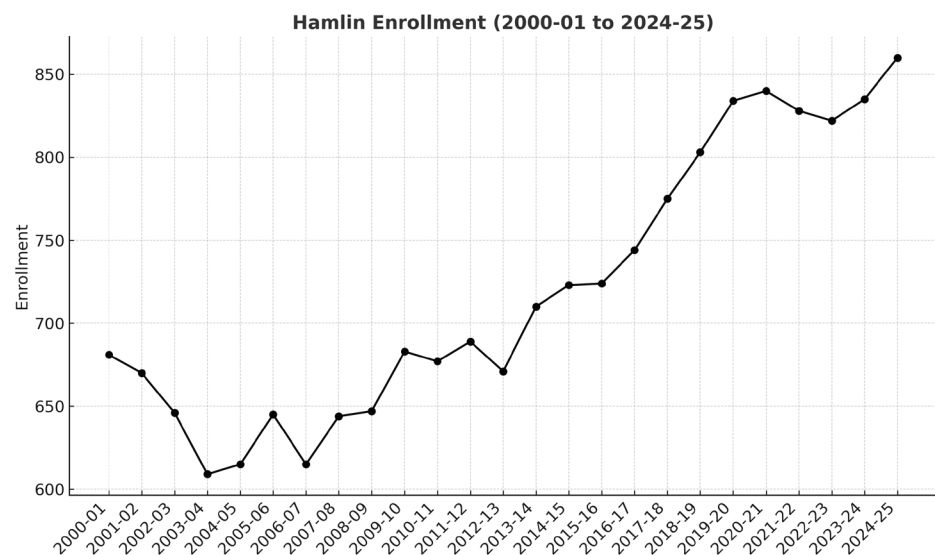
Clark’s numbers have trended downward since the early 2000s, when enrollment was over 500. The 2024–25 figure of 470 is higher than the mid-2010s low of 349, showing a rebound in the past decade. Recent stability may point toward a period of steadier enrollment. This recovery suggests that the district has weathered its lowest point and could see modest gains if current trends continue.



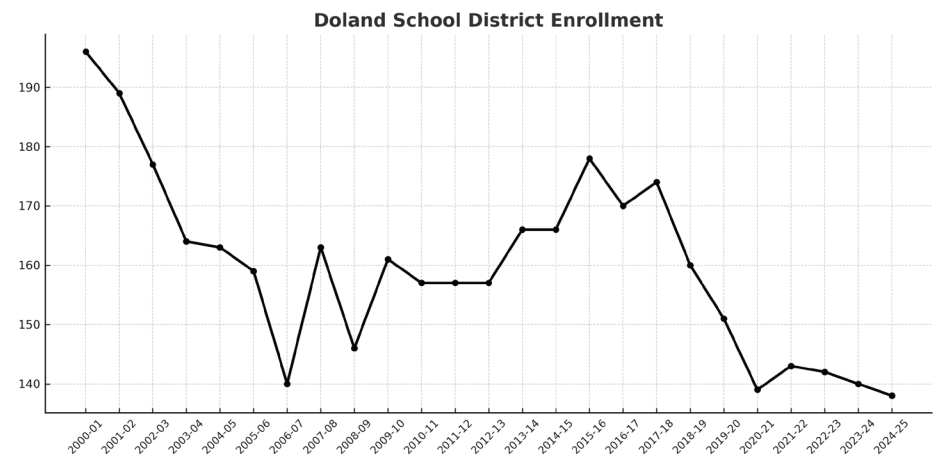
Groton’s enrollment has moved in cycles over the past 25 years, peaking at 632 students in 2007–08 and reaching its lowest point in the early 2000s. The 2024–25 figure of 570 marks a decline from recent highs in the early 2020s. While the trend has edged downward since 2020–21, Groton’s numbers remain stronger than they were two decades ago. Local growth patterns and retention rates will likely shape whether the district returns to earlier peak levels.



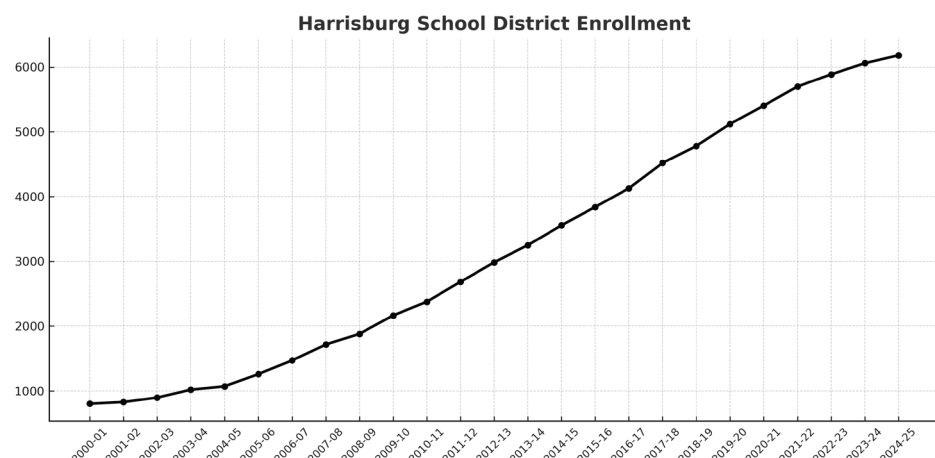
Deuel’s enrollment has seen gradual fluctuations, with the highest total in 2000–01 at 628 and the lowest in 2011–12 at 489. The 2024–25 total of 523 is consistent with the past several years, suggesting a relatively stable trend since the early 2010s. While not returning to early-2000s highs, the district has avoided major declines. Future changes may hinge on regional economic conditions.



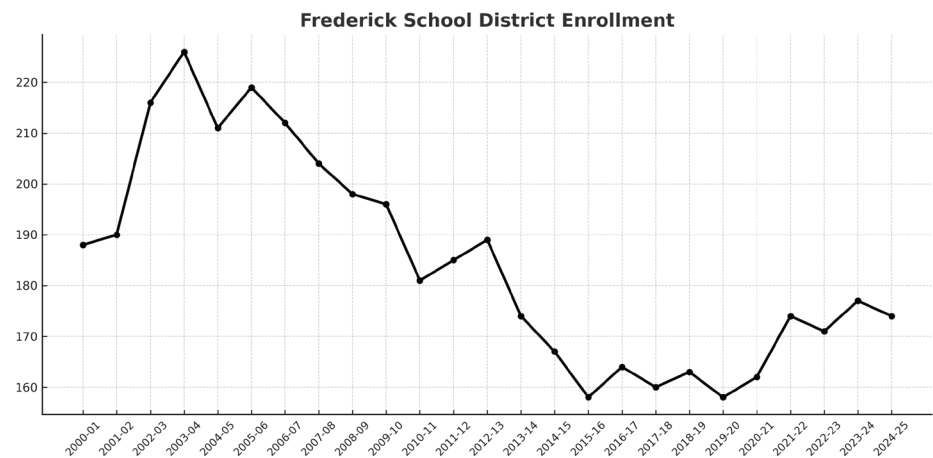
Hamlin has experienced strong long-term growth, climbing from 681 in 2000–01 to 860 in 2024–25. While there were a few dips along the way, particularly in the early 2010s, the overall pattern remains upward. Hamlin is among the state’s steadily expanding districts. Its growth is likely tied to both community development and proximity to larger population centers.



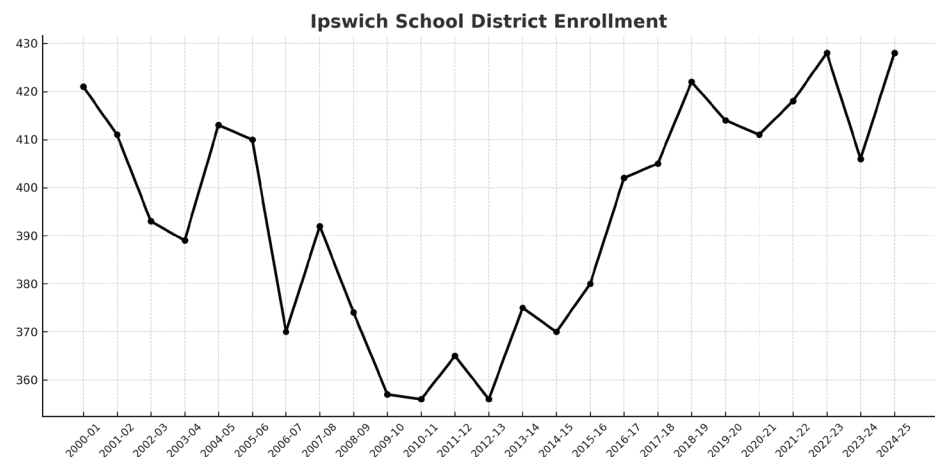
Doland’s enrollment has steadily declined from 196 in 2000–01 to 138 in 2024–25. While the trend is downward, the rate of decline has slowed in the past decade. Small enrollment gains in certain years suggest that fluctuations are still possible. Long-term sustainability will likely depend on maintaining community vitality and attracting young families.



Harrisburg has seen explosive growth, increasing from 802 in 2000–01 to 6,182 in 2024–25. This makes it one of the fastest-growing districts in South Dakota. The trend shows no signs of slowing, with consistent year-over-year increases for more than two decades. Much of this growth is fueled by suburban expansion and family in-migration.

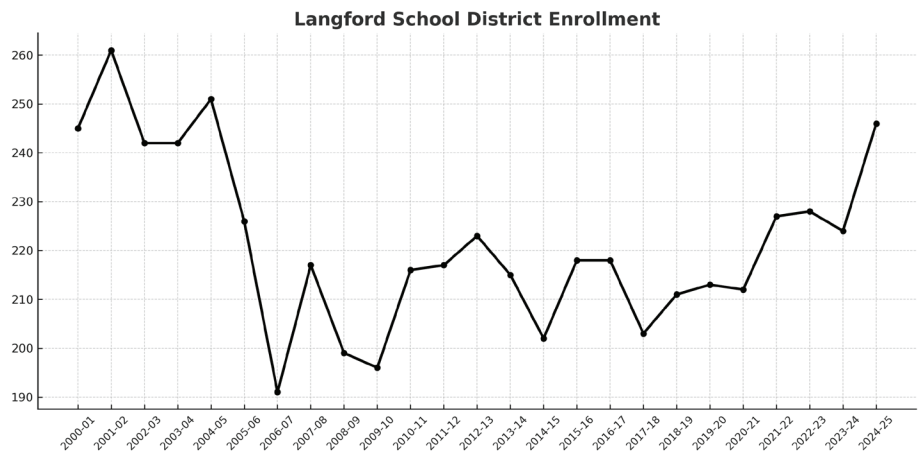


Frederick saw its largest enrollment in the early 2000s, peaking at 226 in 2003–04. Since then, numbers have generally trended down, with the 2024–25 figure of 174 representing a modest decrease from last year. The district has held relatively steady in the 160–180 range over the past decade. This consistency indicates a level of stability rare for smaller districts.

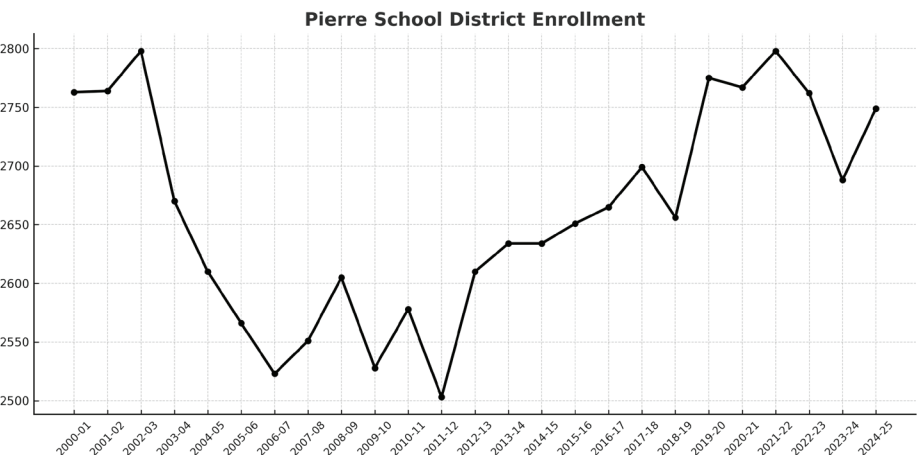


Ipswich’s enrollment has fluctuated between 350 and 430 for most of the past 25 years. The 2024–25 count of 428 is near the upper end of that range. The district’s numbers have been generally stable over the past decade. Stability at this level suggests a balance between graduations, new enrollments, and local retention.

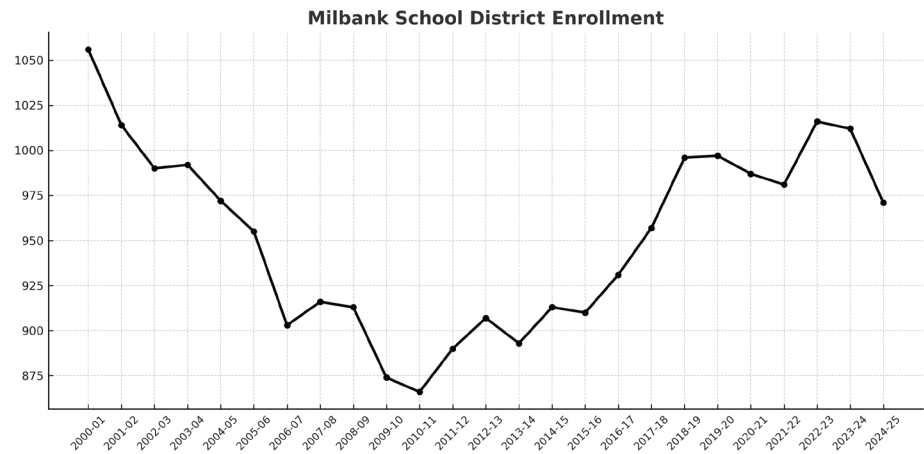




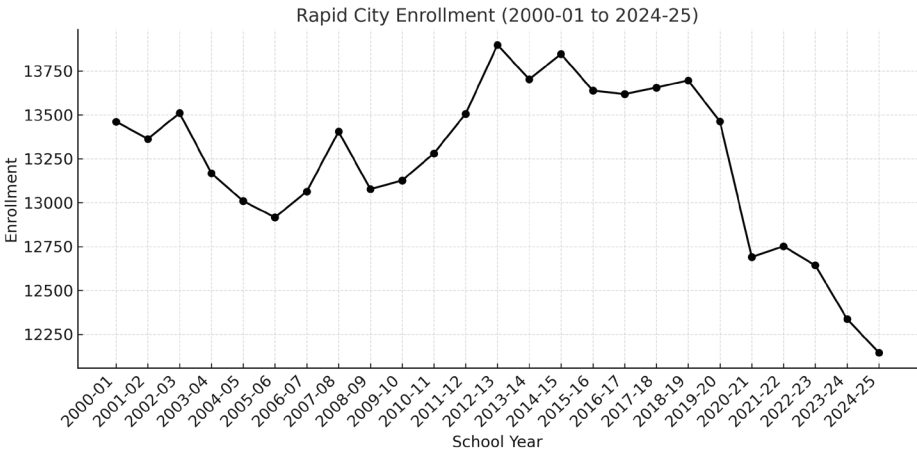
Langford’s enrollment has remained relatively steady in the low-200s over the past 15 years. The 2024–25 figure of 246 is the highest since 2004–05. This represents a notable increase from the low point of 191 in 2006–07. Sustained improvement could indicate the start of a gradual upward trend.



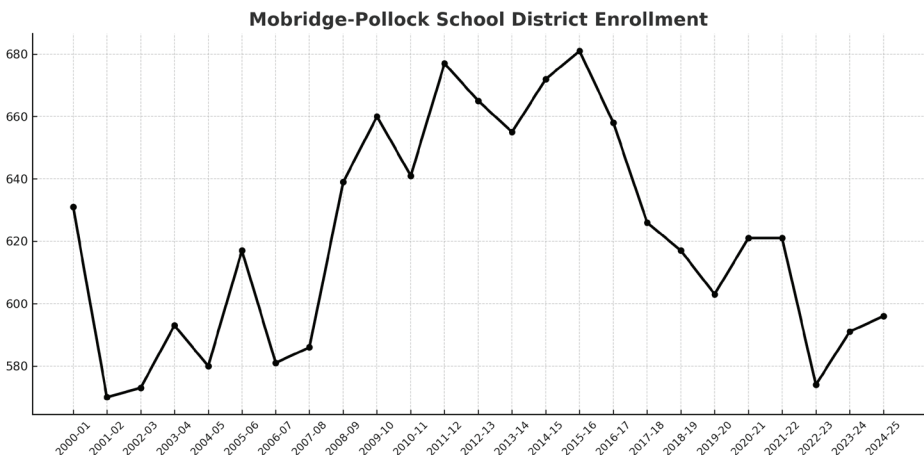
Pierre’s enrollment has stayed fairly stable over the past 25 years, ranging between 2,500 and 2,800 students. The 2024–25 total of 2,749 is consistent with the district’s long-term average. Small fluctuations have occurred, but no sustained growth or decline is evident. This stability provides a predictable planning environment for district operations.



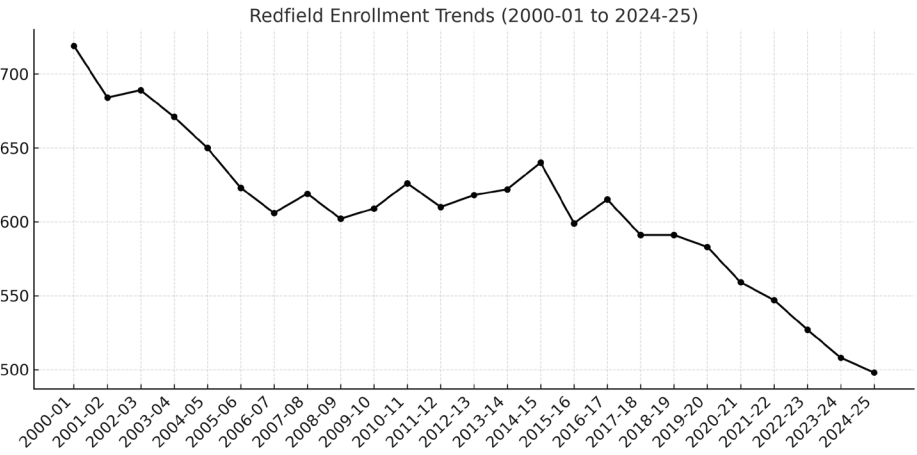
Milbank’s enrollment peaked at 1,056 in 2000–01 and has trended downward since, though the past decade has been more stable. The 2024–25 figure of 971 is slightly below last year’s total but well within the district’s typical range for the past ten years. The district has maintained a relatively consistent base enrollment despite earlier declines. Future stability may depend on continued local economic support.



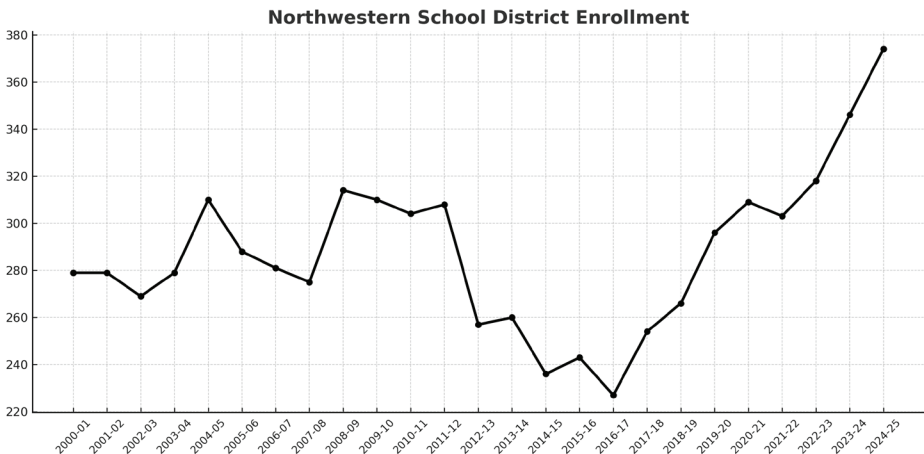
Rapid City enrollment in 2000-01 was 13,461 and is now 12,146 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 13,898 and the lowest was 12,146. Overall, the trend shows declining enrollment since the early 2010s. This decline is sharper than the overall population change, suggesting fewer families with school-aged children.



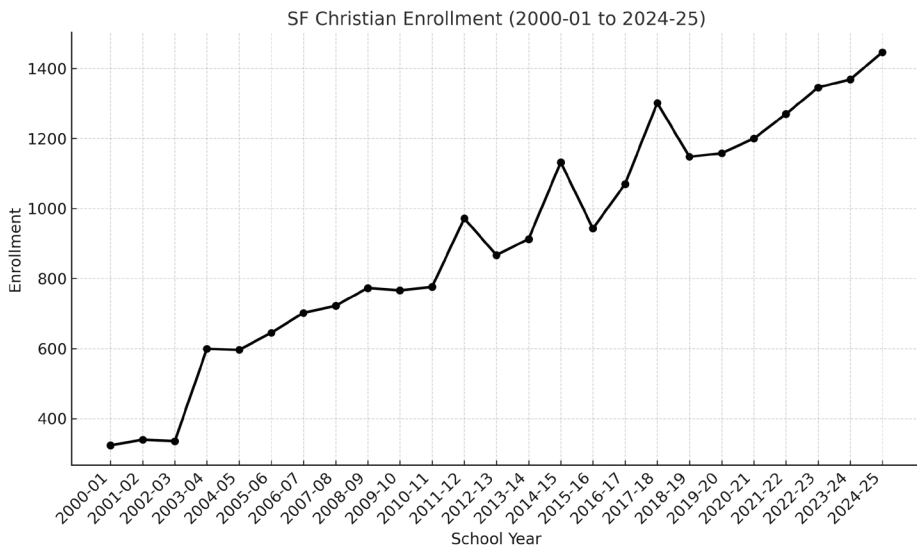
Mobridge-Pollock’s enrollment has varied over time, peaking at 681 in 2015–16. The 2024–25 count of 596 is slightly higher than the early 2000s but lower than the mid-2010s peak. The past five years have shown general stability. Maintaining this level may depend on both economic conditions and student retention.



Redfield enrollment in 2000-01 was 719 and is now 498 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 719 and the lowest was 498. Overall, the trend shows a consistent decline over the years. Enrollment has dropped faster than the surrounding population, indicating a possible shift toward other districts or private schooling.

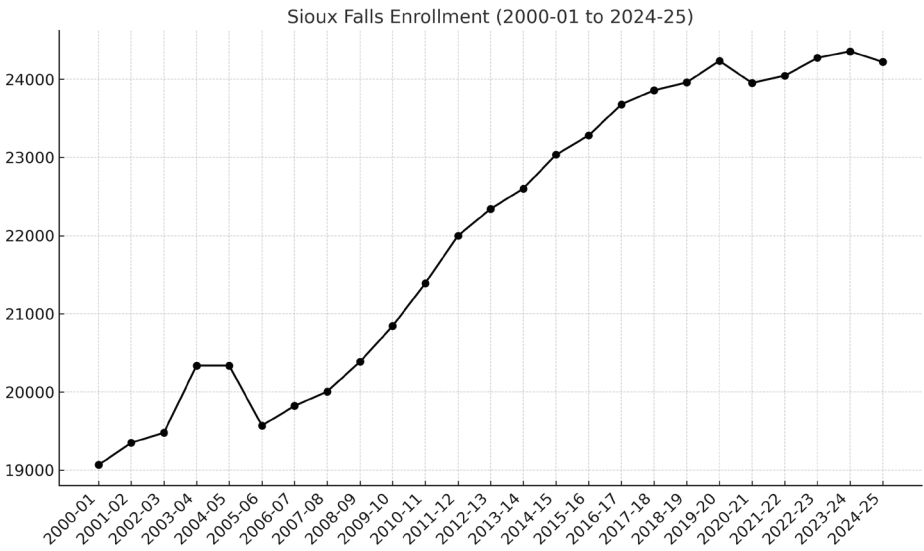


Northwestern’s enrollment has grown significantly in the past decade, rising from 227 in 2016–17 to 374 in 2024–25. This marks a major turnaround from the declines of the 2000s and early 2010s. The recent trend is sharply upward. Such growth in a rural district is notable and may serve as a model for other small schools.

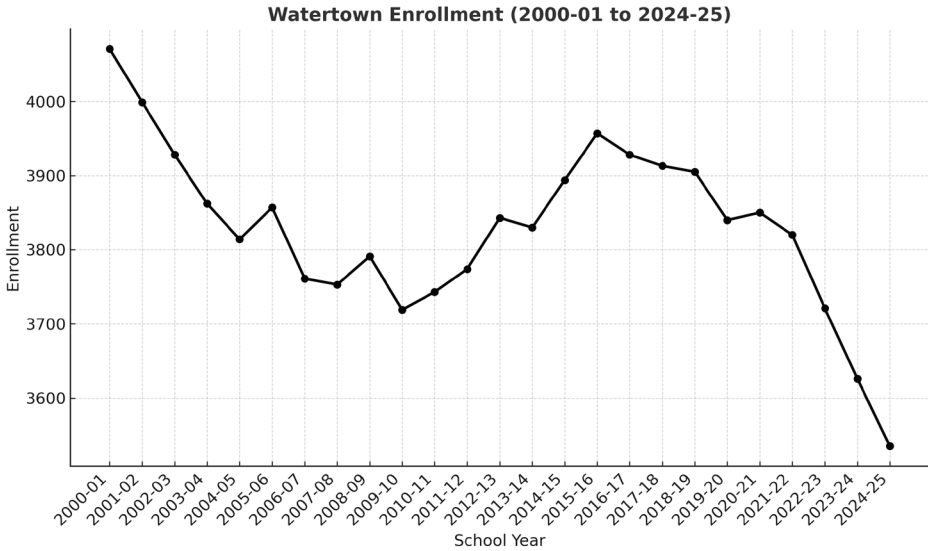


SF Christian – SF Christian enrollment in 2000-01 was 323 and is now 1,447 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 1,447 and the lowest was 323. Overall, the trend shows steady and strong growth. This increase has outpaced Sioux Falls’ population growth, suggesting increasing preference for private Christian education.

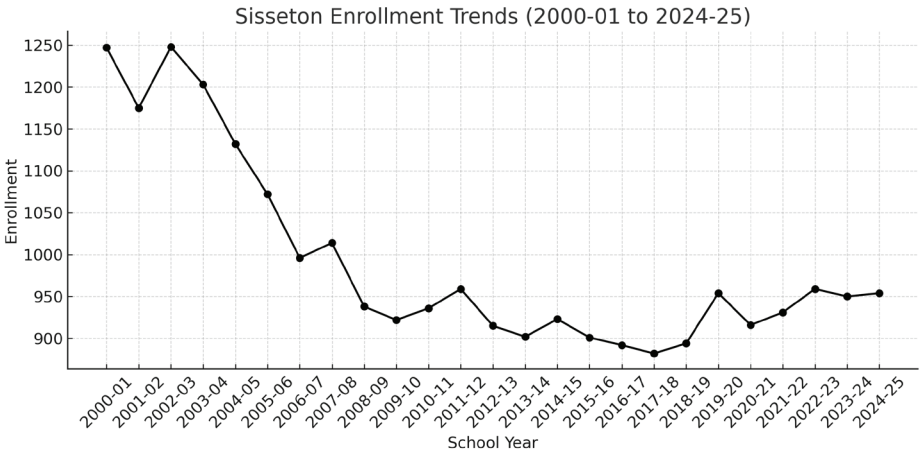




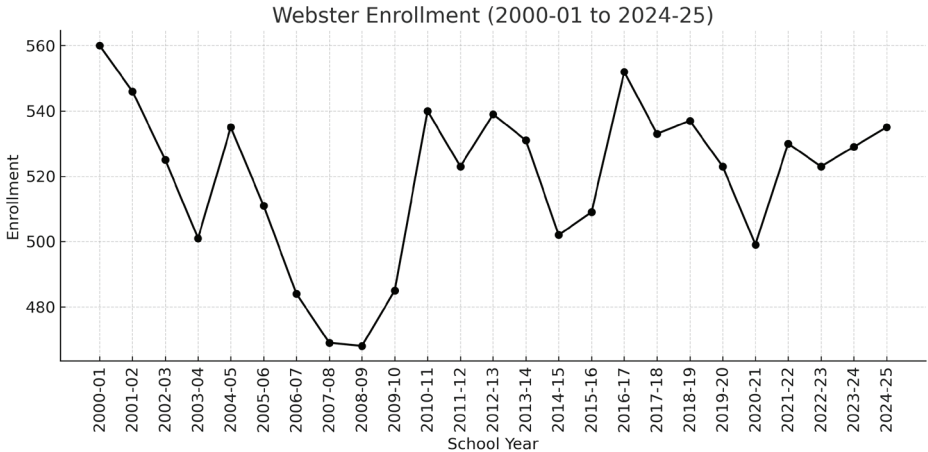
**Sioux Falls Public Schools enrollment in 2000-01 was 19,066 and is now 24,221 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 24,358 and the lowest was 19,066. Overall, the trend shows a steady increase in enrollment. Growth in school numbers closely mirrors the city’s rapid population growth, with both showing strong upward momentum.**



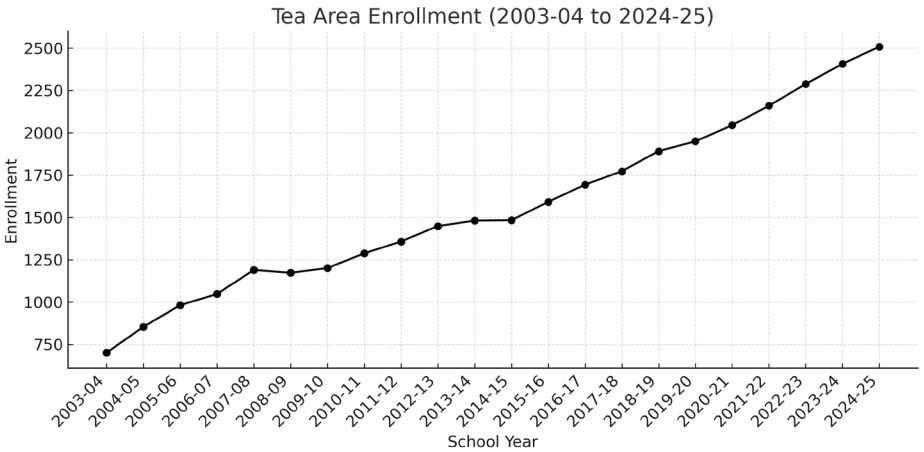
**Watertown enrollment in 2000-01 was 4,071 and is now 3,535 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 4,071 and the lowest was 3,535. Overall, the trend shows a gradual long-term decline. This decrease has been sharper than the city’s modest population changes, suggesting demographic shifts within the community.**



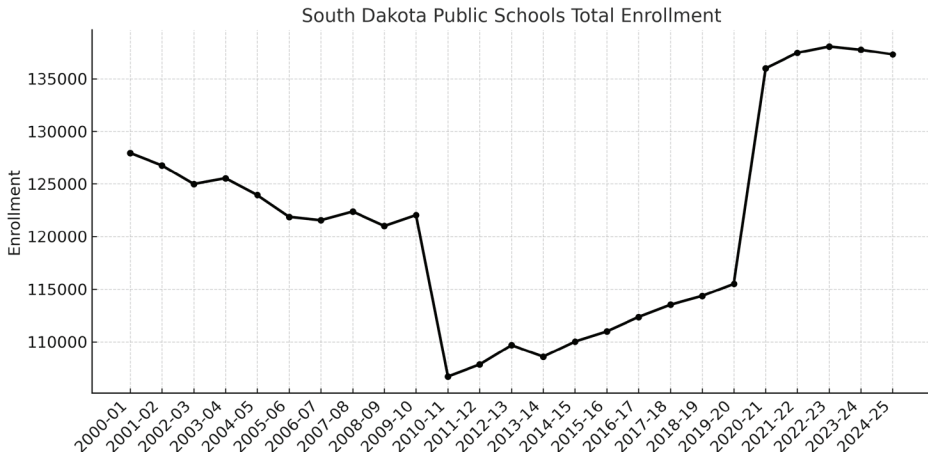
**Sisseton enrollment in 2000-01 was 1,247 and is now 954 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 1,248 and the lowest was 882. Overall, the trend shows a long-term decline with minor fluctuations. Enrollment decline has outpaced the general population decline, suggesting other contributing factors.**



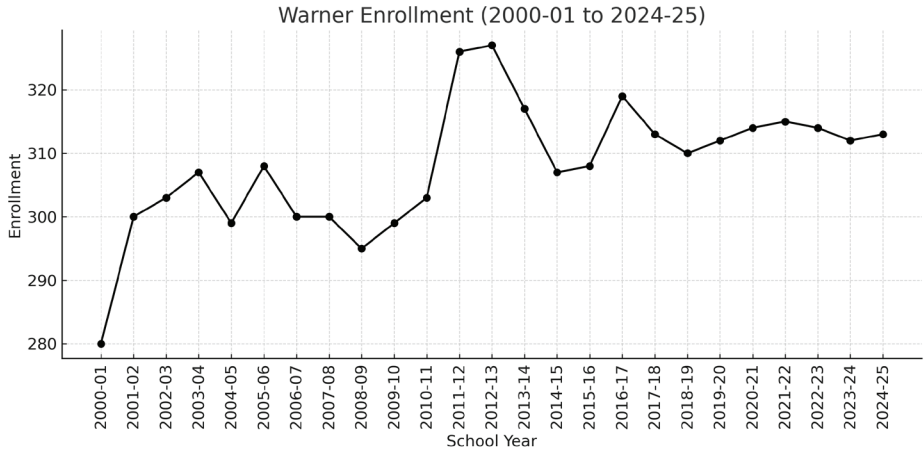
**Webster enrollment in 2000-01 was 560 and is now 535 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 560 and the lowest was 468. Overall, the trend shows relative stability with slight decreases. Enrollment trends appear consistent with the town’s modest population decline.**



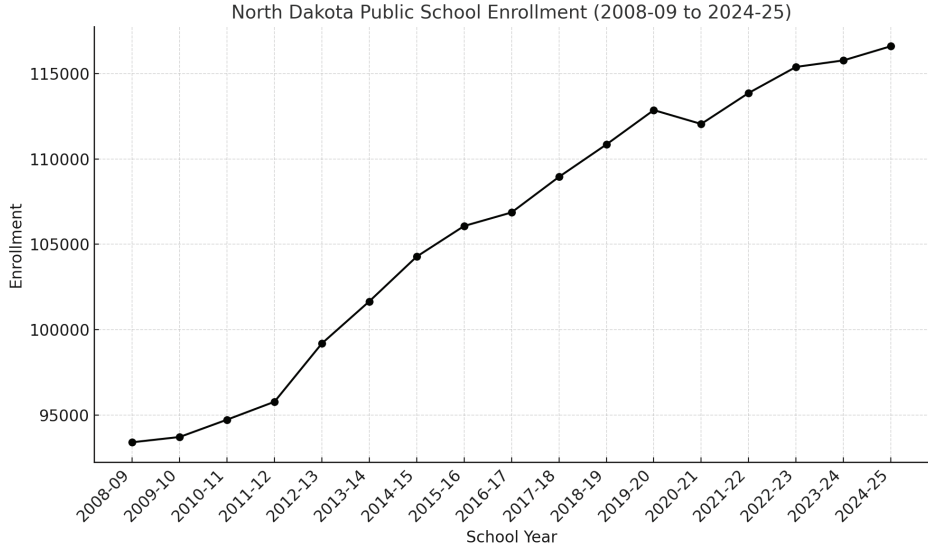
**Tea Area enrollment in 2003-04 when the school was opened was 701 and is now 2,509 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 2,509 and the lowest was 701. Overall, the trend shows rapid and consistent growth. School growth has been even faster than the community’s population boom, reflecting its appeal to young families.**



**South Dakota’s public school enrollment has shown steady long-term growth since 2000–01, when it stood at 127,950 students. Enrollment dipped slightly in the early 2010s, reaching a low of around 106,693 in 2010–11, but began a sustained rebound afterward. By 2024–25, the total reached 137,313, marking a net gain of more than 9,000 students over 25 years. Compared to the state’s overall population growth, school enrollment has grown at a slower pace, suggesting that while the state is adding residents, the proportion of school-aged children has remained relatively stable.**



**Warner enrollment in 2000-01 was 280 and is now 313 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 327 and the lowest was 280. Overall, the trend shows mostly stability with slight growth. This is roughly in line with the community’s slow population changes.**



**North Dakota’s public school enrollment has grown steadily since 2008–09, when numbers were at 93,406. The state saw consistent year-over-year increases, surpassing 100,000 students in 2013–14 and reaching 110,000 by 2018–19. Even during the 2020–21 school year, when many states experienced significant drops due to the pandemic, North Dakota maintained strong numbers and quickly returned to growth. By 2024–25, enrollment hit 116,598 — an increase of over 23,000 students in 17 years, reflecting a 25% rise. This growth rate outpaces North Dakota’s overall population growth, indicating strong retention of families and possibly an influx of younger households into the state.**





UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 11, 2025  
President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Strom, Weber and Weismantel. Absent: Lerseth-Fliehs, and Harder. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

Hubsch read the Oath of Office statements to Tigh Fliehs for a three-year term as a school board member.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded Strom to approve consent agenda items July 14, 2025, board minutes, and July 2025 financial reports, bills, lunch report, transportation, lane change for Brooke Torrence from BS to BS+15, and open enrollment applications #26-06, #26-07, #26-08. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 283,734.42 Net Benefits 75,018.84; Advance Auto Parts – repairs, 34.99; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 395.41; Amazon – supplies, 366.14; ASBSD – workshops, 1,134.04; Auto Value – parts, 81.97; Quintin Biermann – coaching reimbursement, 35.00; City of Groton – utility, 18,178.74; Comfort Inn – conference lodging, 549.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 5,157.25; DA Services – arena floor waxing, 4,452.00; Dacotah Bank – supplies, 1,490.53; Dakota Supply Group – lights, 810.95; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,444.00; EMC – insurance, 27,418.67; Full Circle Ag – oil/washer fluid, 176.38; Geffdog – coaching apparel, 2,450.00; Good Shred – shredding, 43.50; Greg’s Repair – tire, 50.00; Groton Chiropractic – DOT Physical, 125.00; Groton Ford – repairs, 1,273.15; Hauff Mid-America – basketball supplies, 2,509.15; Lance Hawkins – coaching reimbursement, 35.00; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 2,937.31; Rebecca Hubsch – coaching reimbursement, 70.00; JW Pepper – music, 63.99; Jones School Supply – honor roll certificates, 90.00; Jostens – yearbook, 1,998.84; Ken’s Fairway – board supplies, 24.06; Lakeshore Learning – title supplies, 182.84; McLeod’s – cumulative folders, 94.39; Medco Supply – athletic training supplies,

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver’s Ed	Custodial
July 1 2025	\$2,040,189.25	\$1,428,182.14	\$467,407.02	\$132,355.01	\$33,290.36	\$25,301.61	\$272,964.84
RECEIPTS.....							
Local Sources.....	\$654,442.89	\$63,409.72	\$8,437.31	\$1,165.00	\$12,443.83		\$35,086.71
County Sources.....	\$3,885.80						
State Sources.....							
State Aid.....	\$42,955.00						
Wind Farm.....							
Mentor Teacher Program .....							
State Apportionment.....							
State Reimbursements.....							
Bank Franchise.....							
Federal Sources .....							
Sale of Assets.....							
Due from Govt/Others.....							
Transfer In/Out .....							

TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS .....	\$701,283.69	\$63,409.72	\$8,437.31	\$1,165.00	\$12,443.83	\$0.00	\$35,086.71
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$2,741,472.94	\$1,491,591.86	\$475,844.33	\$133,520.01	\$45,734.19	\$25,301.61	\$308,051.55
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$230,203.86)	(\$473,091.52)	(\$7,741.71)	(\$5,915.47)	(\$3,440.46)	(\$3,000.81)	(\$34,805.67)
JOURNAL ENTRIES.....	(\$151,232.22)		(\$49,381.13)		(\$6,315.74)		

July 31. 2025 .....	\$2,360,036.86	\$1,018,500.34	\$418,721.49	\$127,604.54	\$35,977.99	\$22,300.80	\$273,245.88
---------------------	----------------	----------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

GENERAL FUND		SPECIAL EDUCATION		FOOD SERVICE		OST	
Payroll		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll	
Instruction .....	\$283,734.42	Instruction	\$37,868.37	Instruction	\$1,139.81	Instruction	\$9,181.88
Employee Benefits .....	\$75,018.84	Employee Benefits	\$11,522.82	Employee Benefits	\$3,714.94	Employee Benefits	\$844.96
Total.....	\$358,753.26	Total	\$49,391.19	Total	\$4,854.75	Total	\$10,026.84
Driver's Education.....							
Payroll.....							
Instruction .....	\$2,074.33						
Employee Benefits .....	\$360.35						
Total.....	\$2,434.68						

1,917.81; Nasco – FACS supply, 381.73; Northern State University – soccer rental fee, 300.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 625.25; Northwestern Energy – utility, 961.83; Performance Office Papers – paper, 7,536.00; S&S Lumber – building supplies, 1,354.31; Savvas – English workbooks, 1,036.80; Scholastic – scholastic magazines, 4,169.09; School Datebooks – planners, 1,507.19; School Specialty – supplies, 10,868.60; Sarah Schuster – background check, 45.15; Sheyenne Transport – DOT inspection/repairs, 2,281.60; SD United Schools Association – dues, 500.00; Swank Movie Licensing – licensing, 633.00; Sway medical – 2024-2025 overage, 95.76; Taylor Music – drumsticks, 320.00; Titan Machinery – repairs, 1,352.69; Wageworks – admin fee, 93.50; Webster Area – dues, 850.00; Webster Auto – repairs, 447.39. Total General Fund - \$469,703.26

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 1,047.90; Amazon – equipment, 1,166.56; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 9,093.07; Dacotah Bank – equipment, 3,741.92; Elsevier – A&P Textbooks, 4,288.25; Follett – books, 345.60; Follett – books, 734.10; Forte – renewal, 778.26; Hauff Mid-America – equipment, 7,319.15; Hewlett-Packard Financial – computer leases, 19,360.96; Hudl – subscription, 9,200.00; Lakeshore Learning – title equipment, 22.99; Marco – Newline Boards, 19,810.00; Maximum Promotions – banners, 1,602.00; McGraw-Hill – textbooks, 37,767.65; Medco Supply – CTE kits, 114.30; Menards – crows nest/weight room, 1,861.47; NCS Pearson – aim-

sweb, 1,500.00; NWEA – MAPS software, 12,923.50; Performance Outlet Paper – paper, 11.00; Planbook – subscription, 882.00; Push Pedal Pull – weight room, 8,849.00; Renaissance – AR Subscription, 6,481.60; Riverside Technology – gumdrop tech, 1,600.00; S&S Lumber – equipment, 575.35; Savvas – textbooks, 127,443.55; School Specialty – equipment, 268.58; SD Federal Property Agency – van/equipment, 15,100.00; Titan Brands – weight room, 2,411.63; Two Trees – renewals, 8,881.06. Total Capital Outlay - \$305,181.45

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 37,868.37 Net Benefits 11,522.82 Avera – PT/OT, 7,229.88; Custodial Fund – supplies, 20.23; NCS Pearson – KTEA-3 Forms, 637.77; School Specialty – supplies, 449.13; Schwab Audiology – Hearing aid verification, 375.00. Total Special Education – \$58,103.20

ENTERPRISE: Net Salary 1,139.81, Net Benefits 3,714.94 Food Service: Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 7,818.30; Amazon – calculator, 95.63; Performance Foodservice – food, 1,188.97. Total Food Service - \$13,957.65 ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 9,181.88, Net Benefits 844.96 Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 175.25; Dacotah Bank – movie tickets for staff, 34.51; Ken’s – supplies, 594.07. Total OST: \$10,830.67

CUSTODIAL: 34,805.67 Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no members present, the board continued with the agenda.

The board conducted its first reading of recommended

policy changes: BBB School Board Elections (amendment), GCDB/GDDB Background Checks (amendment), GCDBC Background Checks – Volunteers and Employees of Contractors (new). Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the 2025-2026 school board goals. Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to adopt the 2025-2026 school board goals. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan: Attended the ASBSD/SASD Joint Convention and accepted the Little Red Schoolhouse Award, and discussed breakout sessions attended. Federal Title funding will be released, and the District will be eligible for \$13,190 in Title IV funding and \$29,326 in Title IIA REAP funding in addition to the initial Title I allocation of \$103,298. Schwan met with Co-Op Architects regarding a need for comprehensive facilities plans for the middle/high school. Schwan will be working on an RFP for the next step to assess the needs of the building. Staff development will have a half-day on August 13 and a full day on August 18, which will include back-to-school open house activities. Additionally, the new Crow’s Nest is coming along nicely. The new sound system will be installed next week.

B. Schwan noted that JK-5 have a current enrollment is at 270 students. OST is on its final week of summer program and will reopen on August 19th at 7 am and from 3 pm-6 pm. The back-to-school open house and picnic will be from 4-6 pm, and parents and students can come

and enjoy a free picnic together. The Homecoming picnic will be on Friday, September 5th, with buses running as usual after the parade.

S. Edwards noted that 6-12 has a current enrollment of 303 students. Schedules were released on August 8, and the schedule change day is Tuesday, August 12th. Back-to-school open house is Monday, August 18, from 4 pm to 6 pm. Staff will be attending the back-to-school workshop at NSU, and the new curriculum for social studies and science has arrived.

B Hubsch reported the District’s State Annual Report was submitted and deemed complete as of July 31, 2025. The District has purchased a 2014 Chevy Passenger Van, which is expected to be released soon and delivered to the school within the next couple of weeks. AFLAC and Global Life representatives will be visiting the staff in the next couple of weeks, and Hubsch will attend the SD Association of School Business Officials Conference at the end of September. The district’s annual audit, conducted by Cahill Bauer and Associates, will be on-site September 30-October 2.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to adopt the FY2026 District Budget and authorize the business manager to file tax requests with county auditors. Motion carried.

The board conducted its first reading of recommended policy changes: ABAC Relations with Parents (Amendment), DLC Expense Reimbursements (Amendment), DLC-R Expense Reimbursements (Amendment), EEA-R Student Transportation Services: Chartered Transporta-

tion (New), JNB Delinquent Student Fees, Fines, and Charges (New). No action was taken.

Moton by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to approve the resignation of Lois Krueger, part-time Maintenance Team Member, effective August 18, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by Fliehs, seconded by Weber, to approve work agreement for Anje Hinkelman, part-time Food Service Team Member/part-time Maintenance Team Member at \$15.64/hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve the amended school lunch prices for 2025-2026. Motion carried. Breakfast: K-5 \$2.85, 6-12 \$3.35, adult \$3.75. Lunch: K-5 \$3.60, 6-12 \$4.10, Adult \$5.25. Seconds K-12 \$2.00, Second Milk \$0.50.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel, to approve fall 2025 volunteer coaches: Boys Soccer: Kelsie Roberts, Girls Volleyball: Jenna Strom, Carla Tracy. Boys Football: Dalton Locke, Quintin Bierman. Motion carried. Strom abstained from voting.

Moved by Strom, seconded by Weismantel, to approve the listing of surplus items, and declare the list of items at no value for disposal. Motion carried.

Moved by Strom, seconded by Fliehs, to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President  
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published Aug. 20, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$172.47 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25922



**605/397-2311**  
**www.grotonford.com**

**Harry Implement**  
“Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!”



**(605) 395-6421**  
**Ferney**

## Service Notice: Arlowene Hitchcock

Services for Arlowene Hitchcock, 98, of Conde will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 29th at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ferney. Pastor Bob Moeller will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Arlowene passed away August 17, 2025 at Avantara Groton.



**Hanlon Brothers**  
**Gravel Hauling**  
New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60’ reach trackhoe  
**605/395-6531**

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

5	3	9	4	8	7	1	6	2
8	2	1	9	6	5	7	4	3
7	4	6	2	3	1	5	8	9
3	1	5	7	9	4	6	2	8
2	6	4	8	5	3	9	7	1
9	7	8	1	2	6	4	3	5
6	5	2	3	4	9	8	1	7
4	8	7	5	1	2	3	9	6
1	9	3	6	7	8	2	5	4

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

DEV	S	A	S	H	W	A	I	L
I	R	E	A	S	T	A	H	I
V	E	S	U	V	I	T	I	D
T	R	E	D	A	M	S	E	L
Q	U	I	N	O	A	T	O	T
U	G	G	N	O	G	A	L	B
A	L	E	C	L	O	L	E	I
D	Y	S	O	N	B	O	P	V
T	A	M	T	R	E	A	T	S
A	R	S	E	N	A	L	L	
D	O	E	R	M	I	D	W	I
A	L	A	I	A	N	O	N	E
M	E	T	E	S	E	T	S	S



**Weismantel**  
**AGENCY**



**Marty Weismantel**  
**605/396-7341**  
**weisag@nvc.net**

**Groton Chiropractic**  
**Clinic**  
Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton



Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285

Open 24/7

**Living Heart Fitness Center**

When arthritis tries to slow you down,  
exercise can keep you moving. - Mayo Clinic





NOTICE TO:  
THE UNKNOWN EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, PERSON OR REPRESENTATIVE, HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES OF HANNAH CHRISTINA GREEN whose last known address was Round Rock, Texas  
TAKE NOTICE that on the 21st day of December, 2020, Lot Eighteen (18), Block Five (5), original plat of the Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota. EXCEPT the North 42 feet of said lot heretofore conveyed by deed to the Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota, was sold at County Treasurer's tax sale for delinquent taxes on said premises, to the County of Brown in the State of South Dakota, and said County of Brown is still the holder thereof and the right of redemption will expire and a Deed to said property will be made at the expiration of sixty days from the completed service of this notice.  
Dated this 8th day of August, 2025.  
/s/Patty VanMeter  
Treasurer of Brown County, South Dakota  
Published Aug. 13 and 20, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$0.00 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublic-notices.com](http://www.sdpublic-notices.com). 25838



AUGUST 12, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING  
Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
PUBLIC COMMENT: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, wanted to let the Commissioners know that the bids for the Elm Lake Bridge Project will probably be rejected again by SD Department of Transportation. The bridge will still be replaced by the County; they will raise it but still stay within parameters. The project will be done late in 2026. Dirk also shared that Matt Heupel and himself would be in Pierre on Wednesday for training.  
ORDINANCE #307 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #307. Applicant Dennis Volzke to rezone from Residential District (R-1) to Highway Commercial District (HC) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: The 500' west of the east 700' of the north 658' in the NW1/4 of Section 11-T123N-R64W, except highway R.O.W. and except H-1; Lot C, Block 12, "Wylie Park Estates 5th Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 11-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1421 24th Avenue NW & 1920 N Hwy 281; Aberdeen Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
ORDINANCE #308 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #308. Applicant Roger Pic to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 1, "Brick Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 31-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14177 375th Avenue; Highland Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
ORDINANCE #309 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance

#309. Applicant Mina North-east LLC – Carl Hanson to rezone parcels from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG), Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) and Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lot 1 thru 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, Block 1; Lot 2, Block 4; Lot 1, Block 2; Lot 1 thru 6, Block 3; all of "Mina Lake Northeast Addition" in the S1/2 of Section 7-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13147, 13151, 13155, 13159, 13163, 13167, 13174, 13178, 13182, 13186 N Sunrise Drive; 37334 & 37345 Dusk Drive; 13135, 13184 & 13193 Feickert Drive; 37344 132nd Street; Mercier Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
WAIVE FEES FOR FALL RESIDENTIAL CLEAN-UP: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager met with the Commission asking to waive the Tipping Fees at the Brown County Landfill during the Fall Residential Clean-up from August 29 – September 13, 2025; 4 Tire Car or Pickup Limit and all loads need to be taken to the Landfill not the dump sites. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve waiving the Tipping Fees during the Fall Residential Clean-up from August 29 – September 13, 2025 at the Landfill Only. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$1,107.23. Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$7.78; Aberdeen ED \$1,059.43; Aberdeen Imaging \$116.06; Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. \$1,635.20; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$3,290.06; Black Hills Land & RV Rentals, LLC \$4,423.56; Boyce Law Firm \$780.00; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$331.05; Certified Languages International LLC \$1709.40; Day County \$340.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$3,612.00; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$165.33; Fargo Teleradiology Prof \$11.00; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$1,080.00; Jerald M. McNeary; \$3,150.00; Kuck Law Office \$2,604.00; Language Line Services, Inc \$604.08; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$ 1,320.00; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Mckenzie County Sheriff's Office \$35.74; Network Center, Inc \$136.00; Northern Plains Animal Health \$152.00; PharmChem, Inc \$1,505.70; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$117.00; Sanford Health \$560.00; SD Dept of Health \$1,775.00; Soil Technologies, Inc \$7,500.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$1,572.00; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$567.13; Tyler Technologies \$53,960.39; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association \$1,200.00; Brown County Treasurer \$888.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$600.23; i3G Media \$810.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$297.90; Midstates Group \$1,463.00. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$1,310.50; Vestis \$337.10. Repairs & Maintenance: Butler Machinery Company \$6,498.23; Dakota Doors Inc \$135.66; Dakota Electronics LLC \$165.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$62.14; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$16,025.00; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$388.72; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$410.50; Kirk's Auto \$1,005.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$778.99; Pressure Washer Central \$62.50; RDO Equipment Co \$8,277.76; Safety Service \$4,438.50; Sewer Duck, Inc \$181.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$623.00; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$17,743.68. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$50,237.59; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$5,162.93; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc \$959.65; Butler Machinery Company \$176.48; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$214.59; Century Business Products \$435.79; Cole Paper Inc \$299.88; Dakota Electronics LLC \$1,427.80; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$3,418.30; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$273.60; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$937.17; Fastenal Company \$182.40; Fordham Signs and Designs \$40.00; Geffdog Designs \$250.50; Haydn Podoll \$65.80; House of Glass \$672.00; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$154.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$121,530.60; Kes-


ler's \$157.40; Kuck Law Office \$112.20; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$91.12; Lien Transportation Company \$118,835.10; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$1,107.71; Matthew Bender & Co., Inc \$420.21; Menards \$3,617.48; Midstates Group \$170.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$60.00; Performance Oil \$405.10; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$853.47; Pressure Washer Central \$50.00; RDO Equipment Co \$1,203.62; Republic National Distributing Co. LLC \$ 1,334.00; Runnings \$1,976.48; Safety Service \$408.54; Share Corporation \$1,169.40; Steven Lust Automotive \$212.37; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$3,745.82; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$10,610.60; US Postmaster \$200.00. Travel & Conference: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce \$250.00; Holly Chavez \$14.00; Mike Hill \$14.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Scott Kolb \$14.00; SDACC \$1,760.00; United States Marshal's Service/JPATS \$4,108.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$420.96; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,561.58; Northwestern Energy \$512.48; T-Mobile USA Inc \$577.86; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$435.35. Other: SD Dept of Agriculture & National Resources \$5,122.50. Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,930.75; Auditor/Welfare \$11,419.57; Treasurer \$18,764.32; SA \$36,501.93; Public Defender \$5,384.61; Maintenance \$12,643.35; Assessor \$16,581.76; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,735.19; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$10,005.68; HR \$5,419.29; Sheriff \$60,879.24; Jail \$70,688.17; Coroner (Voucher) \$0.00; Court Security \$6,744.59; JDC \$29,739.02; Museum \$13,252.89; Parks/Fairgrounds \$10,986.80; Fair Board \$5,124.34; 4-H \$2,423.94; Weed \$6,049.39; Planning & Zoning \$8,062.16; Highway \$58,497.03; Dispatch \$33,792.87; Emergency \$5,467.57; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,583.17; Landfill \$18,048.94; Meal Benefits \$286.00; FICA \$28,007.63; Medicare \$6,550.18; HSA \$2,309.40. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:  
o Hiring of Mayson Sheldon as Brown County State's Attorney intern; wage \$460/week – effective August 4, 2025.  
o Transfer of Tracy Madsen from Brown County State's Attorney Legal Assistant to Brown County Public Defender Paralegal; starting wage \$25.43/hr. – effective August 25, 2025. Request to fill.  
o Temporary 2025 Brown County Fair Workers August 11th to 17th  
• Ticket Sellers \$14.00/hr.  
• April Larman  
• Diane Randall  
• Natasha Wells  
• Kyla Zephier  
• Fair Security @ \$40.00/hr.  
• Keith Miller  
• Andrea Carlson  
o Adding volunteer bartenders to the approved list for Work Comp purposes:  
• Roxie Bjorklund  
• Kevin Gibson  
• Marcia Reed  
• Brian Reineke  
• Traci Reineke  
• Eric Sumption  
• Warren Sumption  
o Amendment to August 5, 2025 HR Report; removed Amy Rawerts from list of hired temporary 2025 Brown County Fair Ticket Sellers, which was effective from August 11th to 17th.  
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for July 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Auditor Heupel to sign the Claim Assignments against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
LEASE AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Lease Agreement: Aberdeen Area Humane Society for lease of the Holm Expo Building on September 26-27, 2025, for the Fall Second Paw Sale. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
OTHER BUSINESS: Commis-

sioner Wiese shared that it is Fair Week, should be good weather so get out and enjoy it. Commissioner Dennert mentioned that it was \$2 Tuesday to try samples from some of the vendors.  
Chairman Sutton shared that they received a request to support a Proclamation honoring Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren during the 70th Anniversary year of "The Lawrence Welk Show's" national debut. After some discussion, it was decided to add to next week's agenda.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session for Personnel per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
The Chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.  
RECESS: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Dinger to recess until 10:30am. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
RECONVENING: Chairman Sutton shared that due to scheduling they were able to reconvene at 10am instead of 10:30am.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
The Vice Chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.  
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:37 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published August 20, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$116.22 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublic-notices.com](http://www.sdpublic-notices.com). 25923


## Groton City Council approves new electric meter bid, tables discussion of a new stop sign in town

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council moved forward on several projects during its Tuesday evening meeting, with the largest price tag totaling \$283,064. The council approved contracting with Irby to purchase a new electric metering system for the city. Irby was the only sealed bid received, though the company included two options to choose from. The city approved the proposal, which included \$283,064 for the electric meter system, along with a \$21,462.48 annual maintenance fee. Discussion about a new electric metering system stretched back nearly two years. Mayor Scott Hanlon asked Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay how long it would be before the new system was available. Gay replied his guess would be nine months to a year. Council members also tabled discussion about adding a stop sign at First Street and Second Avenue. The council had discussed possibly adding a stop sign at the intersection after plans to build a deck on a property at the intersection sparked concerns over visibility. Homeowner Karen DeVine told the council she doesn't think her proposed deck will cause issues, but said she supports having a stop sign there. Some people turning off of Highway 37 onto Second Avenue race by without slowing at the intersection. "I see it, and I support putting a stop sign there," she said. Councilman Brian Bahr asked if the police chief had any input, to which Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said the chief's opinion is the same as with previous stop sign discussion, which has been no to new stop signs. Heinrich added, though, that "as a person that lives by that intersection as well, I would agree a stop sign there would probably not be the worst idea. A lot of people fly down that road." Councilman Jon Cutler asked DeVine when the deck will be built, and she replied that the project, which had been approved with a variance by the Planning and Zoning Commission, has had that decision appealed to the council. It is going before the council at it's next meeting in September. Cutler said it makes more sense to wait until the appeal is decided and the deck is built before taking further action. That way, they can see if it really does block traffic, and, if it does, take action from there. He motioned to table the topic, which was approved with a unanimous vote. The council also agreed to transfer a piece of property to the Groton Development Corporation for the future construction of an indoor activity center. The exact location of that project is still under consideration, and the land would revert back to the city if funding can't be secured by December 31, 2026. In other business, the council heard an update on a previous discussion of adding permanent radar signs along Highways 12 and 37. No action was taken on the agenda item. • Nancy Larsen, manager of The Pantry, spoke during the public comment section of the meeting, expressing thanks for the city's support for the food pantry and Common Cents Community Thrift Store. Larsen told the council she plans to retire after three years. A volunteer will take charge for now at the thrift store, and it should be business as usual. Council members expressed their thanks for the work Larsen and the other volunteers have done. Mayor Scott Hanlon said it's a no-brainer for the city to help. "If it's for the community, it's for everyone. It makes sense." Councilwoman Karyn Babcock added, "It makes Common Sense." • The council approved working with Kogel Archaeological Consulting Services. The company will perform a survey of the area that is part of the upcoming sewer infrastructure improvement project. The cost for Kogel's service proposal will not exceed \$7,000, according to the contract.



**Free Weights  
Machines  
Stair Climber  
Rower  
Nu-Step  
Bicycle  
Treadmill  
Elliptical  
Smith Machine  
and more.**



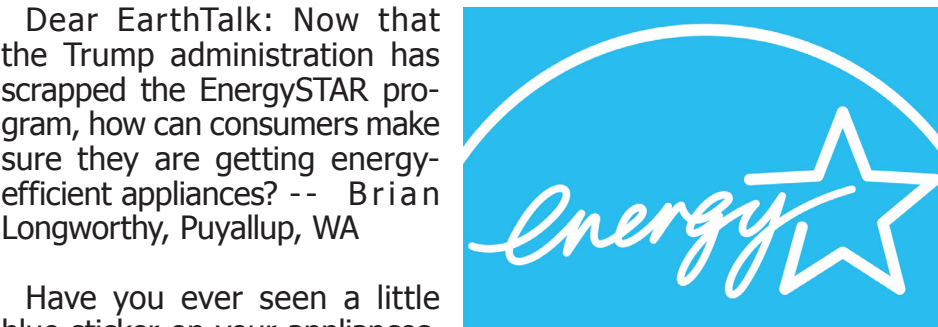
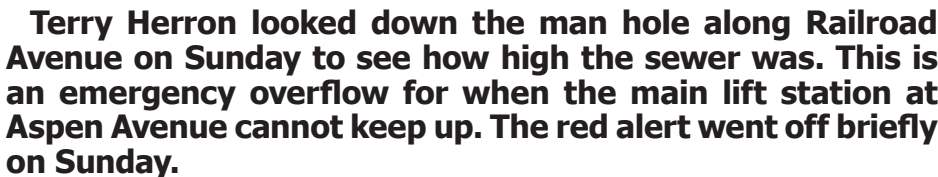
**Living Heart Fitness Center**  
15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton  
Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285  
Senior Citizens 65+  
Physical Therapy. **\$20 a month**





Groton Area's boys soccer team opened the season on the road with a 5-0 win over Custer.

Goalie Gage Sippel had six saves. Becker Bosma, Easton Weber and Logan Olson each had a goal. Karson Zak had two goals. Axel Abeln and Easton Weber each had an assist. Karson Zak had three assists.



• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).