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# Argus Leader

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## School leaders push for funding

### District responds to property tax cap plan

**Morgan Matzen**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's time for South Dakota to fund education the same way the state affords to fund itself.

That's the overarching message from Sioux Falls School District leaders – Superintendent Jamie Nold, board president Nan Kelly, business manager Todd Vik and community relations coordinator DeeAnn Konrad – as the state continues discussing ways to give homeowners property tax relief.

The conversation was sparked from a statement the board released Aug. 8, after Republican Rep. Bobbi Andera's re-

cent comments voicing support for property tax caps and asking school boards and counties to limit reliance on opt-outs, as well as other proposals heard in Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force meetings across the state to cut education funding.

Sioux Falls' school board approved the district's latest opt-out in its June 23 meeting for \$2.1 million for 10 years, through taxes payable from calendar

years 2026 to 2035.

Nold said people, including legislators who've had a fully-funded public education, continue to attack public education on different topics, and that cutting education resources to youth would be "incredibly detrimental" to South Dakota.

"There are some statements that are

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### Additional troops could be coming to South Dakota in immigration crackdown

**Dominik Dausch**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

South Dakota is one of 19 states where President Donald Trump seeks to deploy National Guard troops to assist in his administration's aggressive immigration crackdown.

According to an Aug. 22 report by Fox News, the outlet obtained documents showing the Trump administration plans to activate National Guard troops in South Dakota, as well as Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming — a majority of which are considered red states.

This comes after Republican South Dakota

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**ABOVE:** People walk as a Louisiana National Guard, carrying his sidearm, patrols in Union Station during the back-to-school season, weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered National Guard and law enforcement to patrol the nation's capital to assist in crime prevention, on Aug. 25 in Washington. JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

**TOP:** The National Guard march out after the national anthem during the inaugural ball on Feb. 8 at the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre. SAMANTHA LAUREY/ARGUS LEADER

## 5 things to know from Sioux Falls school board meetings

**Morgan Matzen**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sioux Falls School District's Board of Education stayed busy with more than four hours of board meetings Aug. 25 between an extended work session in the afternoon, and a regular board meeting in the evening.

Conversations spanned from community learning centers and attendance to legislators visiting schools. Here are five highlights you should know.

### Community learning centers' data shows return on investment

The Sioux Falls School District's community learning centers, now in their third year, have proven fruitful as 92% of students improved their math scores and 88% improved their reading scores, according to data the district shared at the evening school board meeting.

Students attending the CLC programs before or after school also have better attendance rates compared to their peers, and higher median math and reading scores than their peers, Rebecca Wimmer, district coordinator of community partnerships and out-of-school programs, said.

This school year marks the first year of middle school programming in the CLC model elementary school students have benefited from, Wimmer said, noting the opening of the new Boys & Girls Clubs addition to George McGovern Middle School and CLC programming at Ben Reifel and

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