

Many High School Grads Without College Degrees

Press & Dakotan

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - Many 2001 graduates of Sioux Falls public high schools have not graduated from college yet, and school board members are concerned.

Sharon Schueler, the district's coordinator of assessment and evaluation, told the Sioux Falls School Board on Monday that a recent report indicates 39.3 percent of students from the Sioux Falls class of 2001 have finished college at either a two- or four-year school.

The data prompted board member Debbie Hoffman to question how well the district is serving students if so few are finishing college after six years.

"We spend so much time talking about (advanced placement) classes and all the things we're doing to prepare these kids for college. What is the disconnect there?" she said. "We're doing all this preparation, but the actual outcome is something we don't necessarily have control over."

The 2007 National Student Clearinghouse report for Sioux Falls high school graduates from 2001 to 2007 also showed that 65.4 percent of 2007 graduates enrolled in college, compared to 66.6 percent of 2005 graduates.

"It seems like we are doing a good job of getting our kids to the door," board member Doug Morrison said.

In response to a question, Superintendent Pam Homan said the Board of Regents issues retention reports but not which schools students attended.

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