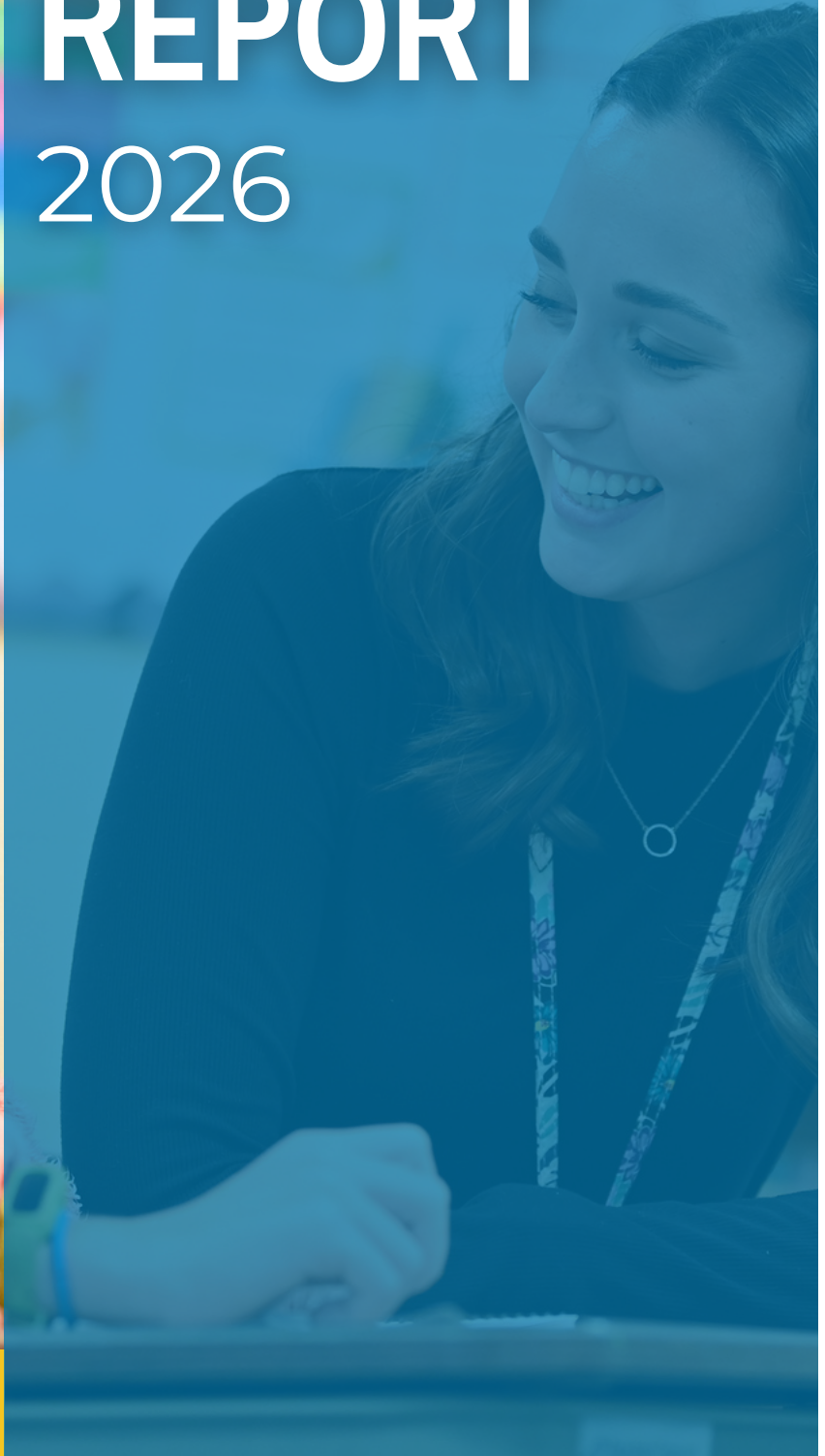




SHEBOYGAN AREA
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

COMMUNITY REPORT 2026



Dear SASD Families and Community Members,

Every page of this report tells a story—of a 5th grader earning a President's Award, of seniors signing commitments to colleges and careers, of teachers investing in students long after the final bell. These stories are the heart of the Sheboygan Area School District, and the numbers that follow are proof of what happens when a community shows up for its schools.

This year our students grew academically, and participation in sports, activities, and college-level classes increased. Four of our elementary schools earned state recognition. Our graduation rate climbed again. Through it all, we stayed focused on what matters most: making sure every child, in every neighborhood, has what they need to thrive.

None of this happens without you—our families, staff, and community partners. Thank you for continuing to invest in the SASD.

Dr. Jake Konrath

Superintendent, Sheboygan Area School District



SASD

 by the numbers

Every number represents a student, a staff member, or an opportunity. Together, these figures provide a snapshot of the people, programs, and impact that make the Sheboygan Area School District a vibrant place to learn and grow.

- 1 Early Learning Center
- 12 Elementary Schools
- 5 Middle Schools
- 2 4K-8 Schools
- 5 High Schools



1,552 Staff 9,111 Students





Overall Score 63.7
Meets Expectations

In the most current Department of Public Instruction state report card, the SASD demonstrated an **increase in each of the four priority areas** and **gained 2.5 points** in the overall score.

Additionally, 19 schools increased their scores, and 5 schools improved their accountability category. The following schools improved their overall score by 3 points or more: Cooper, Etude Middle, Etude High, Horace Mann, Jackson, Jefferson, Longfellow, South, Urban, and Wilson.

Grant, Jackson, James Madison, and Wilson Elementary Schools were named 2024–25 Wisconsin Schools of Recognition for demonstrating above-average student achievement while serving a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students. They are among only 95 schools recognized statewide.





ACHIEVE

Learn

Learning that leads to success.

Student achievement is about more than test scores—it's about building knowledge, developing confidence, and helping every learner reach their full potential. Across every grade level, SASD students continue to make meaningful academic growth, supported by dedicated educators, engaging learning experiences, and a commitment to excellence.



Students who demonstrated typical or high growth on Star Tests in Spring 2026:

67%
Elementary
Reading Growth

65.5%
Middle School
Reading Growth

68.8%
Elementary Math
Growth

62.1%
Middle School
Math Growth

Students across the district continued to make strong academic progress, with nearly two-thirds meeting or exceeding expected annual growth targets.

The nationally normed Star assessment considers growth levels above 50% to be above average.

INDEPENDENT VALIDATION

An independent analysis conducted by the ECRA Group, a K-12 analytics and research firm, identified the Sheboygan Area School District as outperforming the comparable group average in every category of overall proficiency and achievement scores, while serving the second-highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

PEER DISTRICTS FOR COMPARISON

Peer districts in Wisconsin were selected based on similar enrollment levels and the percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

2024-25 Data

Source: ECRA Group K-12 Data and Analytic Solutions

Indicator	Peer Group Average	SASD
ELA Proficiency	41.2%	43.4%
Math Proficiency	38.7%	45.4%
Achievement Score	54.5%	59%
ELA Achievement Score	55.6%	58%
Math Achievement Score	53.2%	59.9%

Academic Success

113

5th-grade students earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

248

Juniors scored at or above the state average ACT score of 19.

90

Juniors scored a 25 or higher on the ACT.

23

Juniors scored a 30 or higher on the ACT.



GROW

Explore

Discovering interests, building confidence, & expanding possibilities.



Education is about more than academics. Through the arts, athletics, career exploration, extracurricular activities, and enriching experiences, students build confidence, develop new skills, and discover opportunities that prepare them for lifelong success.



Dual-Language Program

SASD's Dual Language program provides instruction in both English and Spanish from 4K through middle school at the Early Learning Center, Sheridan Elementary School, and Horace Mann Middle School.



Field Trip Enrichment

Elementary students participated in field trips to the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Weill Center, Sheboygan Marsh, Sheboygan County Historical Museum, Heritage School, and other local destinations.



Access to Technology

More than 9,000 one-to-one Wi-Fi-enabled devices support student learning across the district, and more than 350 elementary students participated in coding clubs.

Beyond the Classroom

- **446** 5th-grade students and over **700** middle school students participated in band and orchestra programs.
 - More than **550** students in grades 5-12 performed in the 46th annual SASD String Festival.
 - Our district-wide choir for 4th- and 5th-graders nearly doubled in size, with over **160** participants. Nearly **200** middle school students participated in choir.
 - **240** students in grades K-12 had their artwork featured at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center.
- Participation in middle school athletics increased 27%, with students able to choose from **seven** different interscholastic sports.
 - **26** interscholastic sports are offered at North & South High Schools, along with 89 clubs, organizations, and activities.
 - **23** high school students earned spots in national and international competitions through clubs such as HOSA, DECA, Forensics, and Debate.
 - **137** high school students traveled abroad on six school-sponsored trips.





BELONG

Connect

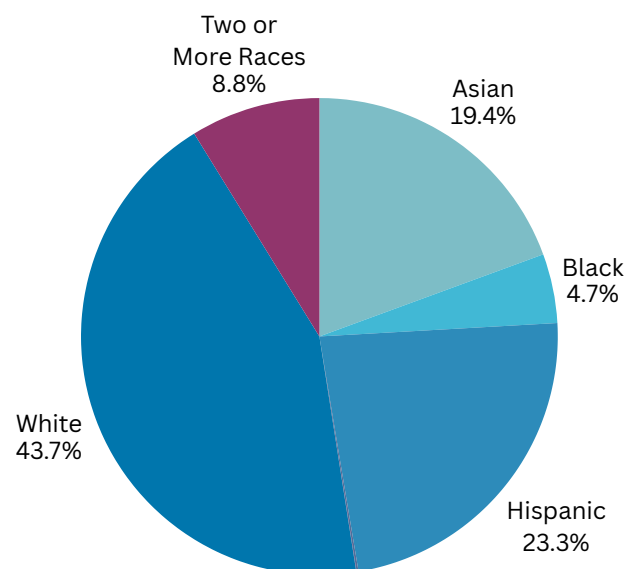
Every student and staff member deserves to feel valued, supported, and connected.

Strong schools are built on strong relationships. The SASD is committed to ensuring students have access to the services they need to thrive while fostering a workplace where talented educators and staff feel supported, valued, and equipped to make a difference. Together, these investments strengthen our schools and the community we serve.

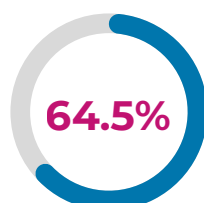
- **Special Education:** Over 300 Special Education staff, including teachers, assistants, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists, served more than 1,700 students across 12 areas of need.
- **Multilingual Services:** 80 Multilingual teachers and assistants provided language services to over 1,790 students.
- **Mental Health Support:** The PATH program connected over 500 students with mental health support and in-school therapy sessions throughout the year.
- **Help for the Unhoused:** Through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program, SASD supported nearly 300 homeless students and their families.
- **Before- and After-School Care:** Eight elementary schools served over 500 students and families through KidStop before- and after-school programs.
- **School Nutrition:** Over 1,440,000 meals, including breakfast, lunch, and supper, were served to students free of charge, a 9% increase over last year.
- **Summer School:** Summer school enrollment grew by 14%, with over 3,000 students strengthening core academic skills, exploring enrichment courses, or earning high school recovery credits through summer programming.

35 Languages spoken by families in the SASD

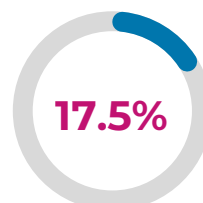
SASD STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



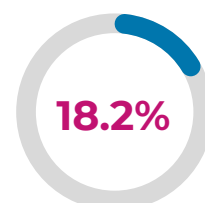
Source: SASD 2025-26 Third Friday Enrollment Report



ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED



ENGLISH LEARNERS



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Source: SASD Data Tool by the Wisconsin Policy Forum (2024-25 data)

INVESTING IN EXCELLENT EDUCATORS

Experience

- SASD teachers have an average of 14.4 years of experience, which ranks in the top half of comparable districts.

Competitive Compensation

- The average SASD teacher salary is above the state average and is in the top half of comparable districts.

Teacher Retention

- SASD has a high teacher retention rate, placing it near the top of comparable peer districts.

Source:

SASD DataTool by the Wisconsin Policy Forum

The *only* school district
in Wisconsin
named by

Forbes

as one of

2024
AMERICA'S

**BEST EMPLOYERS
BY STATE**

in 2024 and 2025



SHEBOYGAN AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

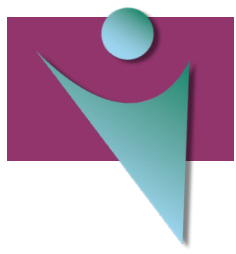
Student Attendance

Showing up is only part of the picture—how students feel once they're in the building matters just as much. The Panorama Survey helps us understand that side of belonging, asking students directly about their sense of preparedness, focus, and engagement in the classroom.

Attendance improved districtwide, with students meeting the 90% attendance threshold increasing from 68.9% to 70.9%.

- **83%** of all elementary students attend school over 90% of the time.
- **92.3%** of our middle school students attend school daily.
- **68%** of elementary students and **72%** of middle school students responded favorably on the Panorama Survey to questions about Self-Management Skills, which include being prepared, paying attention, following directions, and completing work.





READY Prepare

Preparing students and our district for the future.

Success after graduation starts long before students receive their diplomas. Through college and career pathways, real-world learning experiences, and opportunities to earn college credit, students gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue their next steps.



Graduating seniors from North and South High celebrate their future plans at the 8th Annual Signing Day.

SASD uses the research-based Redefining Ready framework to measure college and career readiness through indicators such as attendance, academic performance, dual credit enrollment, workplace learning, community service, co-curricular involvement, and ACT scores. The Career and College Readiness Report Cards provide students and schools with data to ensure graduates are prepared for success in college, career, and beyond.

- The percentage of students deemed career-ready increased to 80.5%, meaning more than 4 out of every 5 graduates met at least two career readiness indicators.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 students pursuing a two-year college pathway met career readiness benchmarks, with an increase from 81.1% to 87.2%.
- Nearly three-fourths of graduates are engaging in a dual credit course aligned to their career pathway.
- Industry Credential attainment increased from 10.5% to 11.1%, reflecting growth in students earning workforce-recognized credentials before graduation.

Advanced coursework participation among all students continues to grow.

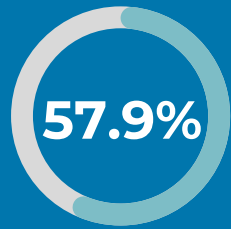
- Success in Advanced Standing/CAPP/AP courses increased from 60.4% to 63.3%.
- Participation in dual credit college courses increased from 44.7% to 48.8%.
- 87.5% of four-year college bound students participated in Advanced Standing, CAPP, or AP coursework to earn college credit in high school.



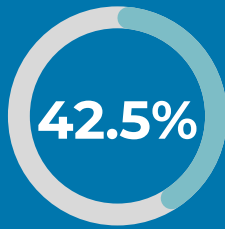
20 seniors are on track to earn an Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree through the GEAR UP Rising Phoenix program offered by UW-Green Bay.

18,353 college credits earned through partnership with Lakeland University in the last three years.
\$8.25 million in value

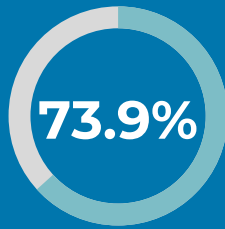
CLASS OF 2026 DATA POINTS:



Participated in 2+ co-curricular activities
150+ offered



Earned Credit for a Workplace Learning Experience



Earned College Credit through a dual credit course aligned with their career pathway.

88.1%



The four-year graduation rate increased again this year, with a 0.8% increase.

24.5%



Community Service participation increased, with nearly 25% of seniors completing 25 hours or more.



Career readiness looks different for every student. Since 1998, SASD's House Construction program has given students at North and South High Schools hands-on experience designing, building, and selling a home from the ground up.

This year marks the 28th student-built home in the SASD. It's real-world learning with students gaining genuine experience in the trades.

Just as we support our students' growth, the Sheboygan Area School District strives to offer meaningful, impactful professional development opportunities to our staff members to help them grow in their professions and make a positive impact in our community.

Leadership Development

- The **Principal Development Institute** was launched with three staff members working through district practicum experiences and administrator licensure.
- Our in-house **Teacher Development Institute** and **School Counselor Development Institute** have been revamped to embed an educator-driven action research strand. Over 160 teachers have participated in the last 10 years.
- As a culminating activity, participants presented their research at our first-ever Community Presentation Night—an inspiring evening where over 100 guests could learn from and celebrate this dedicated group of teachers.

Professional Development

- Over 15 mental health professionals from six community organizations provided professional learning experiences for staff around mental health topics.
- **121 educators participated in the SASD Mentor Program**, including 64 new teachers who were supported throughout their first year in the SASD.



Congratulations to this year's graduating class of our Teacher Development Institute!

Nineteen teachers from across the district have completed a rigorous two-year journey, earning 18 credits toward a master's degree while completing coursework aligned with district priorities.

Thank You!

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Sheboygan community for your support of the \$121 million November 2024 referendum to rebuild and remodel Farnsworth and Urban Middle Schools, which were built in the 1930s and required extensive repairs and upgrades. With 65% of voters in favor, this outcome reflects a strong and shared commitment to the future of public education in our community.

That commitment is now becoming a reality. The renderings on this page offer a glimpse of the modern, welcoming spaces students and staff will call home in the years ahead. Construction began at both schools in June 2026.

SCAN ME!



Groundbreaking at Farnsworth Middle School
June 2026



Groundbreaking at Urban Middle School
June 2026

Farnsworth Middle School



Rendering of new entrance on S. 10th Street



Rendering of exterior of the cafeteria on Union Ave.



Rendering of interior main entry

Urban Middle School



Rendering of new entrance on N. 13th Street,
with new parking lot and parent drop-off



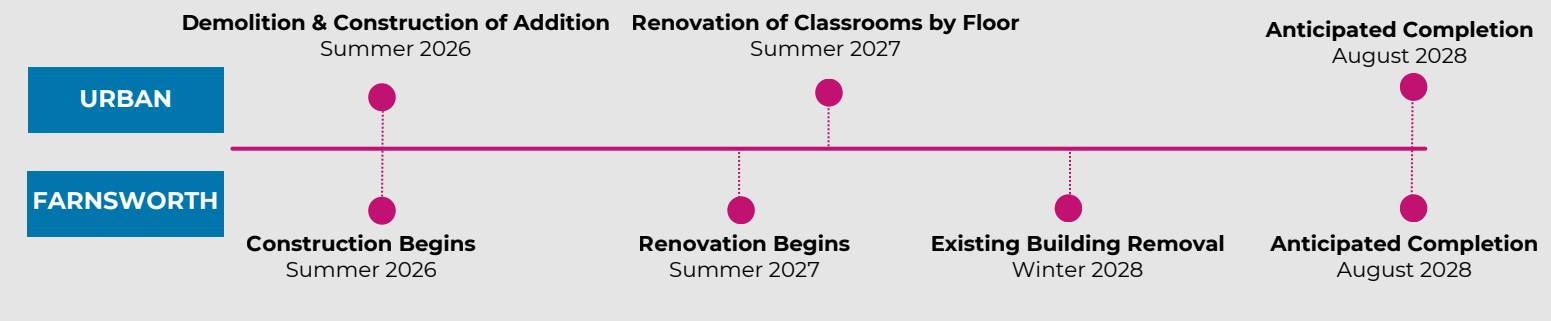
Rendering of updated courtyard entrance on
North Ave., maintaining the historical facade



Rendering of main office interior

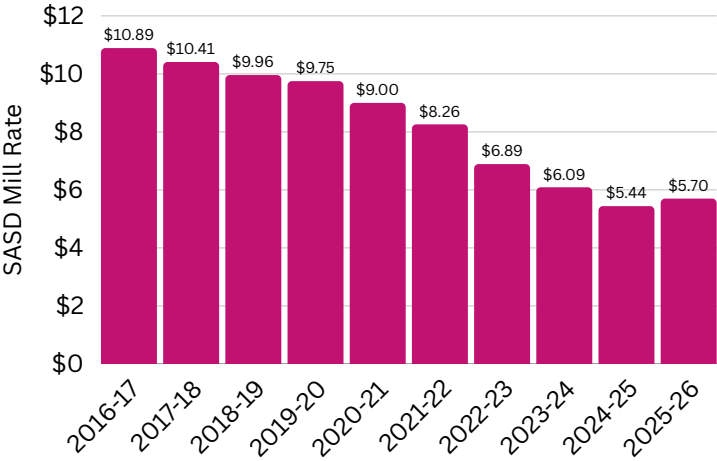


Preliminary Middle School Construction Timelines



Thoughtful financial stewardship and long-term investments ensure our schools remain strong for generations to come. The SASD maintains a strong Moody’s Aa1 bond rating and remains committed to fiscal responsibility while protecting student learning. We continue to make careful budget adjustments to ensure long-term sustainability and to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, even as state budget decisions create challenges for public schools and local taxpayers.

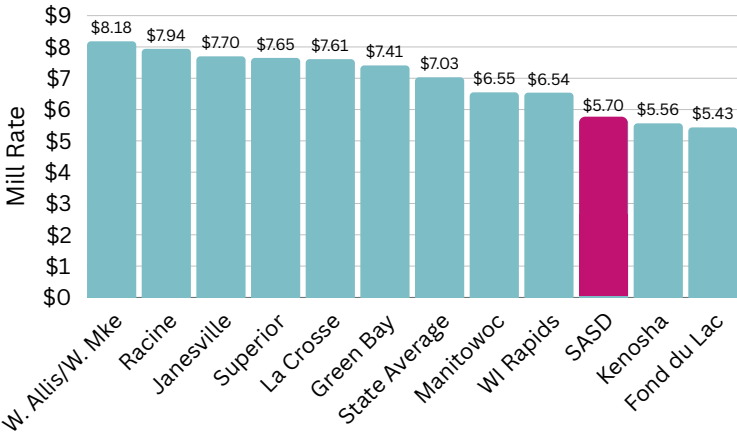
Historical View of SASD Mill Rate



The mill rate has decreased in seven of the past eight years, including 2024-25 when referendum costs were added.

The increase in 2025-26 was driven by a state budget that provided no increase in general aid, shifting more of the funding responsibility to local property taxpayers.

SASD Mill Rate Compared to Peer Districts



SASD has one of the lowest property tax mill rates compared to the state average and other comparable districts.