

## What Makes the Sigourney Community School District such a Great Place for Students?

Sigourney Community School District is highly regarded for its strong academic performance, personalized learning environment, and unique career preparation opportunities. **Key factors contributing to the district's reputation include:**

- **Exceptional Academic Outcomes:** In 2025, the State of *Iowa's School Profiles District Ratings* determined the [SCSD as "High Performing."](#) Sigourney schools consistently perform above state averages. In 2025, approximately 78%–82% of students met or exceeded proficiency levels in math, significantly higher than the Iowa state average of 71%.
- **Indian Hills Career Academy:** A standout feature is the on-campus Career Academy, which allows high school students to take free college courses through Indian Hills Community College. This provides students with a "head start" on college credits and flexible scheduling for job readiness.
- **Small Class Sizes & Individual Attention:** With a student-teacher ratio as low as 13:1 or 14:1, students benefit from a "calm and quaint" atmosphere where it is easy to connect with teachers and staff.
- **"Portrait of a Learner" Framework:** The district uses a specialized framework to develop five core competencies: teamwork, responsibility, adaptability, communication, and critical thinking. This approach aims to prepare students for real-world innovation beyond standard test scores.
- **"Savage Pledge" - A Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum:** The district's staff continues to develop and refine all areas of curriculum and has enhanced their implementation of MTSS strategies and student supports.
- **Strong Community Support:** The district maintains high levels of community involvement, evidenced by successful athletic programs (such as state-champion softball teams) and a commitment to improving clean, modern, facilities and 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculums and programs.
- **Comprehensive Student Support:** Sigourney offers specialized programs like **Project Lead The Way (STEM)** and a robust **Gifted & Talented** program starting at the elementary level. Practical supports, such as a "Second Chance Breakfast" program, are also implemented to ensure students are nourished for learning.
- **Graduation Rate:** The district is recognized for its high graduation rates (94–100% annually) and strong fine arts programming, including well-regarded theater and music departments
- **Staff Retention:** The SCSD has one of the highest staff retention rates in the region.

**Concurrent (College Credit) Programming:** Available career paths for Sigourney students include:

- **Health Sciences:** Students can pursue courses leading to certifications such as [Certified Nursing Assistant \(CNA\)](#) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- **Welding Technology:** This pathway provides technical skills in various welding processes, preparing students for immediate entry into the workforce.
- **Machine Technology:** Focused on precision manufacturing, students learn to operate advanced machinery and [CNC equipment](#).
- **Agriculture:** This program integrates modern technology with traditional farming practices, covering areas like agronomy and animal science.
- **General Education & Arts:** Beyond technical trades, students can earn Associate of Arts (A.A.) credits in fields such as business, education, and performing arts to facilitate a smoother transfer to four-year universities.

#### **STEM and Future-Ready Learning:**

The Sigourney Community School District offers a K-12 School STEM Introduction and advanced STEM opportunities (***The Savage Advantage***) focused on practical application, engineering principles, and industry-standard technology. **Key advanced STEM opportunities include:**

- **Project Lead The Way (PLTW):** The high school utilizes this nationally recognized curriculum to provide rigorous engineering pathways. Students engage in [problem-solving](#) and apply the engineering design process to real-world challenges using industry-leading technology.
- **Computer Science and Physical Computing:** Students explore [advanced computing topics](#), including 3-D printing, design, and microbiomes. Recent initiatives also introduce students to coding, [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#), and problem-solving through hands-on activities.
- **Work-Based Learning (WBL):** Sigourney partners with local businesses to provide [mentorship and hands-on experience](#) in technical fields. These opportunities allow students to apply STEM concepts in professional environments, offering a clearer path toward technical careers.
- **STEM BEST Programs:** The district participates in the STEM-BEST program, which bridges the gap between school and business by allowing students to explore engineering and technology through specialized projects and internships.

**Extracurricular Achievement** - Sigourney Community School District has achieved significant athletic and extracurricular success with historic state championships and top-tier performances across multiple sports.

- **Excellent Fine Arts Programs:** The district offers high quality speech, drama, arts, vocal and instrumental programs.

- **Softball State Champions (2024):** The Sigourney Savages won the Class 1A state championship in July 2024, marking the first title in program history. They defeated top-seeded *Martensdale-St. Marys* 3-2 in a dramatic final.
- **Wrestling Dominance:** The boy's wrestling program has a long history of regional and State success. The district recently added a girl's wrestling program and the 2025-2026 team already had 21 female participants. Reanah Utterback defended her state title in February 2025, winning the Class 1A 115-pound championship. She completed her high school career with a perfect 104-0 record against female opponents.
- **Baseball Conference Success (2025):** The baseball team climbed to a No. 2 state ranking in Class 1A during the 2025 season. They secured their first South Iowa Cedar League conference title since 2021 after a 13-game winning streak to open the year.
- **Football Postseason Consistency:** The Sigourney-Keota Cobra Football program has been a State power over the past several decades. The Sigourney-Keota football program finished the 2024 season with a strong 7-2 record and a perfect 5-0 mark in district play. The 2025 football team qualified for the State Playoffs once again with their only losses coming to other State playoff qualified teams.
- **Track & Field Record Breakers:** In 2025, student-athletes set new benchmarks, with Troy Klett recording a 4:35.29 in the 1600m at the Iowa HS State Track & Field Championships.
- **Varsity Soccer:** The District added a varsity soccer program in 2023-2024.