



[Summit County GOP Women](#)

FACT SHEET

Summit School District (SSD)



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August 2023

1. There has been no recovery from Covid after 2 years of in-person schooling.
2. According to Colorado Department of Education (CDE) 2023 data, 71.9% of SSD 3rd to 8th graders do not meet math expectations (only 28.1% proficient).
3. SSD 3rd to 8th grade math scores improved 0.4% in 2023, but they declined 8.2% compared to pre-Covid (2019). They are 4.8% below the Colorado average.
4. 80.1% of SSD 7th graders do not meet math expectations (19.9% proficient).
5. 59.1% of 3rd to 8th graders do not meet English Language Arts (ELA) expectations.
6. SSD 3rd to 8th grade ELA scores declined 0.2% in 2023, declined 8.2% compared to pre-Covid (2019), and they are 2.8% below the Colorado average.
7. According to "Great Schools.com," third grade is the crucial year when students make the leap from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."
8. SSD 3rd graders are only 39.1% grade proficient.

Subject	Grade	2019 Proficient	2022 Proficient	2023 Proficient	Change '22-'23	Change '19-'23	SSD vs Colorado
ELA	3-8	49.1%	41.1%	40.9%	-0.2%	-8.2%	-2.8%
Math	3-8	32.4%	27.7%	28.1%	+0.4%	-4.3%	-4.8%

9. SSD CDE accreditation scores have fallen every year since 2014.
10. Based on just released test scores, accreditation will likely not improve.
11. The current accreditation score for the district is the lowest in history (since 2009).
12. SSD's accreditation was temporarily lowered to "Improvement Plan" in 2022.
13. Summit Middle School and Dillon Valley Elementary were lowered to "Improvement Plan" in 2022.
14. Silverthorne Elementary remains the lowest rated school in the district with a "Priority Improvement Plan" rating, meaning the state will oversee improvement.

Year	2014	2016	2017	2018	'19, '20, '21	2022
Accreditation Score	81.5	70.4	69.3	67.4	66	55.9

15. Last year Summit Daily reported that English Language Learners (ELL) (Hispanic) students' academic performance was in the bottom 2% of all Colorado students.
 16. In 2023, only 7.9% of SSD Middle School Hispanics are at grade level for math.
 17. SSD adopted a Strategic Plan that has 3 "pillars": Equity, Academics, and Outreach.
 18. The overwhelming amount of energy and resources have gone to the "Equity" pillar.
 19. All 3 academic officer positions were eliminated, and multiple equity and transformation admin positions have been added.
 20. SSD eliminated advanced 8th grade science because of "equity" concerns.
 21. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) and Finance Committee voiced their concern that all the reserve funds had been spent and strongly recommended more money be spent on academics, less on equity. (Their concerns were ignored by the board, and the budget was passed without any cuts.)
 22. SSD has adopted and is transforming the school district around what they call the "Pathway to the Profile" or the "Future of Learning."
 23. The path to the profile's goal is to emphasize soft, unmeasurable skills (curiosity, courageousness, global awareness, diverse perspective, and preparation).
 24. Graduation requirements have been changed (3 credits added) to require "Path to the Profile" classes, as well as a senior project to graduate. (This starts with incoming freshmen.)
 25. SSD recently adopted nXu identity based Social Emotional Learning (SEI) curriculum.
 26. Modules 1 and 2 of nXu are to "Guide students through big transitions by exploring IDENTITY. . . ." This does not appear to be about health; it is more identity politics.
 27. SSD passed a resolution calling for the inclusion of LGBTQ representation in grades K-5 curriculum despite significant concern from parents about parental rights.
 28. At the end of last school year, Summit School District had an \$11.8M budget reserve. They squandered the money and are considering hiring freezes, salary freezes, substantial cuts, and selling land next year if additional funding is not found.
 29. Reserve budget was estimated to be depleted then go negative starting next year. The board did not make any cuts; they lowered their cost growth factor to make the books appear to meet minimum reserve requirements.
 30. SSD awarded \$528K to a board member and his theater company to provide bilingual after-school theater lessons instead of directing the money to strong academic programs that teach students to read and write English.
 31. In May and June 2023, approximately \$10K/month was spent on donuts, coffee, and lunches for staff (largely admin) including sushi for Superintendent Byrd.
 32. Superintendent Byrd received a \$13K raise, now makes \$223K, received a \$500/month car allowance, and hired his wife. The Byrd family now makes well over \$300K/year.
 33. New teachers were given a \$183/month (4%) raise while senior teachers (including union leaders) were given a \$1600/month (20%) raise to \$112K/yr.
 34. 13 mostly teacher positions were eliminated to cover new administrators' and the Byrds' salaries.
 35. \$500K was spent on K-5 math curriculum chosen using an "equity rubric."
 36. Superintendent Byrd hired a new communications officer and communications consultants to "shape the narrative."
 37. The narrative appears to be to convince parents that SSD is focused on academics by repeatedly saying the word "academics" - not by any real commitment to academics.
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