STAKEHOLDER SURVEY REPORT

Presented To
Southwest Valley Community School District

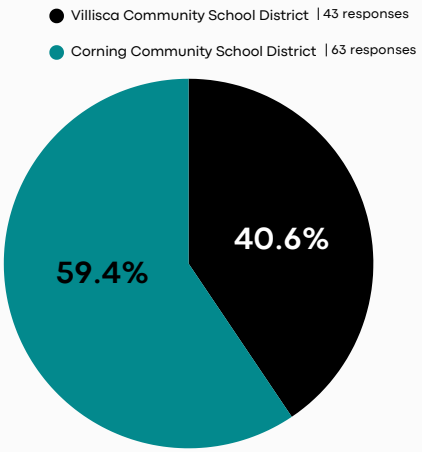
Presented In
November 2026



Purpose of the Report

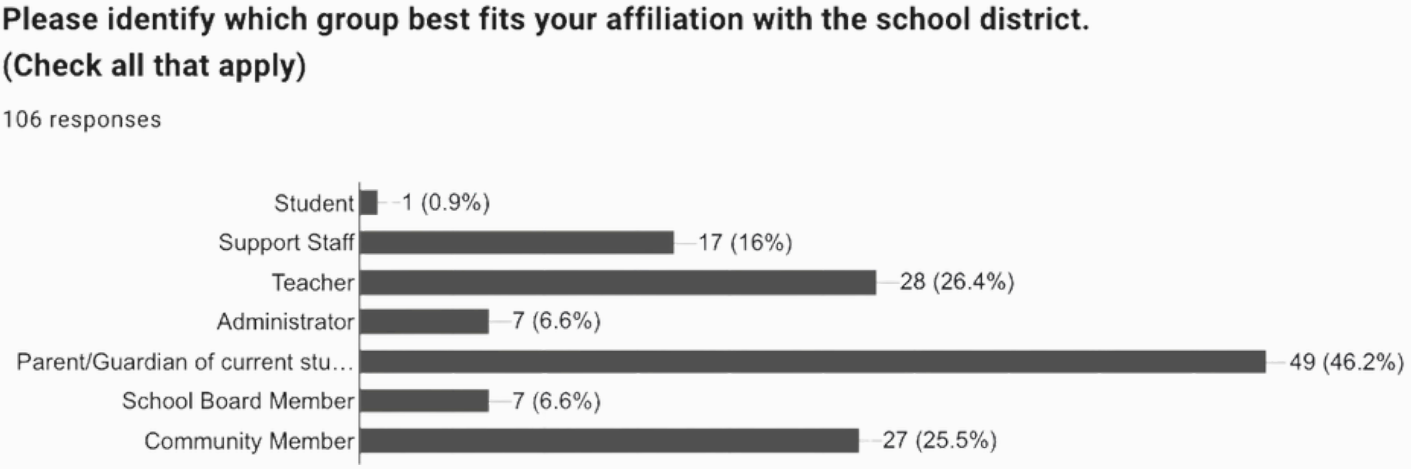
This report is intended to inform the Villisca Community School District and Corning Community School District Boards of Education about the desired qualifications constituents hope to have in the next shared superintendent.

The search team from Grundmeyer Leader Services recently conducted a survey from October 21 through November 2, 2026. The survey yielded 106 of unique responses from parents, teachers, community members, support staff, students, and others, with some respondents selecting more than one affiliation with the school district.



Of the 106 respondents, 63 (59.4%) were from the Corning Community School District, while 43 (40.6%) were from the Villisca Community School District.

The feedback from the survey report will be used to guide the hiring process to ensure the next shared superintendent is a good fit for the district and community.



Search Timeline

OCTOBER 26, 2026
APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

DECEMBER 30, 2026
APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES

JANUARY 6, 2027
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE BOARD

JANUARY 11, 2027
SEMIFINALIST INTERVIEWS

JANUARY 25, 2027
FINALIST INTERVIEWS

Strengths for Villisca CSD

- **CARING AND SUPPORTIVE STAFF**
- **STRONG COMMUNITY AND PRIDE**

“Staff cares and goes above and beyond to help students, the district, and each other.”

“Staff sincerely cares and will do whatever is necessary for students to succeed.”

“Both communities have involved members who want what’s best for local communities.”

“We should also be proud of the strong support our schools receive from the Corning and Villisca communities. Community organizations, families, businesses and volunteers consistently invest in our students and schools.”

Strengths for Corning CSD

- **CARING, SUPPORTIVE, AND COMMUNICATIVE STAFF**
- **STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
- **QUALITY FACILITIES AND STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

"A staff that works together for the success of our students."

"I feel we have a good group of elementary teachers that care and go above and beyond for our students."

"The community atmosphere - this little town gets behind the kids and donates and helps in creative ways."

"One of our district's current strengths is that we have an involved and supportive community that are engaged and want the best for our school, teachers, staff, and students."

"I think the new elementary school in Corning was a great way to provide to the staff and students as they grow and learn."

Current Challenges for Villisca CSD

- **IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
- **IMPROVED LEADERSHIP AND STAFF SUPPORT**
- **ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND STUDENT RETENTION**

"One major area of improvement is addressing the division between Corning and Villisca. There needs to be less town-versus-town mentality, fewer assumptions, and more honest communication."

"Understanding that both districts play a role in the success of each other."

"Support for teachers to do more collaboration and set the tone for school moral."

"I believe we can strengthen staff morale and leadership capacity by clearly defining roles and responsibilities, empowering teacher leaders without shifting administrative responsibilities onto them, seeking meaningful staff input, and following through consistently on concerns and ideas."

"Concern about the number of students open enrolling out of our district."

"Retention of resident students, continued academic progress."

Current Challenges for Corning CSD

- **COMMUNICATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND DISTRICT UNITY**
- **FINANCIAL AND BUDGET PLANNING**
- **STRENGTHENING ACADEMICS, STAFFING, AND STUDENT SUPPORT**

"Being kept up to date on all issues in the district. Being transparent with all issues even if they are difficult. Making sure information for the entire district is shared before sharing with the community."

"An opportunity for improvement for our district is to create consistency and transparency for us to continue to move forward, limiting the amount of uncertainty. We also need to improve the use of staff for efficiency and to better support students."

"Better financial planning, additional para support & hiring quality paras, improved academic scores."

"Improve fiscal responsibility."

"We need to work on improving our test scores while still letting the students know we care about them more than the tests."

"I feel as if we need to find ways to continue to keep the great staff that we do have within our district. Keeping our students here in our schools and always finding ways to make our school great."

Desired Skills & Qualifications

Respondents provided input on the top personal traits and professional skills and qualifications they hope to have in the next (POSITION), including:

- Is approachable, accessible, and welcoming (61.3%)
- Fosters a positive culture and climate for teachers and staff (55.7%)
- Recruits, hires, supports, develops, and retains effective staff members (54.7%)
- Demonstrates ethics, integrity and transparency (49.1%)
- Effectively manages district resources (49.1%)
- Builds community and school relations (41.5%)
- Possesses strong communications skills (40.6%)
- Holds self and others accountable for decisions and actions (39.6%)

ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST VALLEY CSD

Through a whole-grade sharing partnership, the Southwest Valley Community School District serves approximately 670 students across the communities of Corning and Villisca. The district operates two K-5 elementary schools, one in Corning and one in Villisca, along with a 6-8 middle school in Villisca and a 9-12 high school in Corning.

Advice for the Next Shared Superintendent

"Listen to learn and be willing to collaborate with other admin. Provide clear and honest communication with staff."

"Students should be the priority. They are why we're here."

"Be open minded and clear and consistent with both districts."

"Build partnerships with the community and provide staff supports throughout the school year to share concerns and suggest improvements."

"Provide direction. Inform staff about items so that they do not find out from the public."

"My advice to the new superintendent would be to listen to students, parents, teachers, and community members before making important decisions."

"Get out in all communities that make up SWV District. Be recognized as a compassionate yet effective leader."

> **BE KIND, BE FAIR, BE PRESENT.**

"Listen, watch, be visible and approachable with staff, get to know people before making big changes."

"Keep students at the center of the work. Protect the things that make Southwest Valley special—strong relationships, a wide range of opportunities, community involvement, and the ability to know students personally, while being willing to thoughtfully address areas where we can improve."

"Get out of your office, visit each building often, mingle with staff, step into EACH classroom, and learn your people's names."

For more information about the position itself or the hiring timeline, please visit the GLS website at www.grundmeyerleadersearch.com or contact the search consultant Kevin Fiene at fiene.kevin@gmail.com.

Iowa's Standards for School Leaders

(Adopted November 18, 2020. Effective July 1, 2021)

STANDARD 1. MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES
Educational leaders develop, advocate, and enact a shared mission, vision, and core values of high-quality education and academic success and well-being of each student.

STANDARD 2. ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL NORMS
Educational leaders act ethically and according to professional norms to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 3. EQUITY AND CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS
Educational leaders strive for equity of educational opportunity and culturally responsive practices to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 4. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT
Educational leaders develop and support intellectually rigorous and coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 5. COMMUNITY OF CARE AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS
Educational leaders cultivate an inclusive, caring, and supportive school community that promotes the academic success and well-being of each student.

STANDARD 6. PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL
Educational leaders develop the professional capacity and practice of school personnel to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 7. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF
Educational leaders foster a professional community of teachers and other professional staff to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 8. MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY
Educational leaders engage families and the community in meaningful, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial ways to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 9. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
Educational leaders manage school operations and resources to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

STANDARD 10. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
Educational leaders act as agents of continuous improvement to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Currently, additional resources and tools to the support the implementation of the new ISSL standards may be found at this link. Thanks to School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) for their support to school leadership in Iowa.

Adapted from National Policy Board for Educational Administration (2015). Professional Standards for Educational Leaders 2015. Reston, VA: Author.