

## DISTRICT PROFILE

Sioux City, Iowa

**15,000+** Students

**22** Schools

**375:1** Student to Counselor Ratio

“The Kuder program does an excellent job of bringing everything together in this sometimes-overwhelming process of exploring postsecondary options.”

– [Jeff Lucas](#)

Sioux City CSD Counselor

## Overview

Sioux City Community School District (CSD) in Sioux City, Iowa, serves as the fourth largest PreK-12 education provider in Iowa. As a Kuder® partner since 2019, Sioux City CSD has utilized Kuder Navigator and other Kuder solutions for its college and career readiness program.

The growth has been substantial for the **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** program at Sioux City CSD since the implementation of Navigator. Eighth through twelfth-grade students annually update their **Individual and Career Academic Plan (ICAP)** and the Sioux City CSD JROTC program recently elected to use Navigator’s e-Profile feature as the standard for the mandated requirement.

## Building a Better Tomorrow

Sioux City CSD is always on the lookout to ensure their students believe, achieve, and succeed. The district decided to switch from their former college and career readiness system provider to Kuder after counselor feedback reflecting on Navigator’s ease of use, simple navigation, and relevant and practical information.

Early in the academic year, students complete two assessments via their Navigator accounts (Interest and Skills Assessments) and explore potential careers. Sioux City School District maintains significant system usage throughout the year, most notably during the months following taking the assessments.

Later in the academic year, students revisit their ICAPs to research postsecondary options and courses the district offers to prepare for their future. Sioux City CSD has incorporated its career pathways into the Kuder platform. When a student completes an assessment, their results show them what pathways in the district align with their interests.



## THE KUDER SOLUTION

Navigator has served as the mainstay postsecondary planning solution for Sioux City CSD since its implementation.

“Sioux City CSD has been pleased with the Navigator system as our college and career planning platform over the past three years. The site has been a great resource for our students in planning their postsecondary options. Our students have gained a better understanding of career options for them based on their interests and skills. It has also provided them with the tools to explore degrees and programs of study to prepare them for the career options they are considering and link the degrees/programs of study to postsecondary institutions.”

– [Jeff Lucas](#)  
Sioux City CSD Counselor

## kudernavigator®

Navigator’s comprehensive toolkit provides resources beyond assessments and education and career pathways. Sioux City CSD has incorporated the e-Profile feature with its JROTC. Students can upload important documents to later share with prospective employers and college admission boards as well as leverage the e-Profile into a robust portfolio to highlight their skills and achievements.

### College Access Tools

Students in the district also have access to Kuder’s **College Access Tools**, an extension of Navigator that provides resources and activities built around the college admission process, including:

- Test Preparation and Practice Tools
- College Match
- Application and Scholarship Tracking
- Transcript and Document Requests

An often-overlooked feature that Kuder provides is a streamlined process of requesting official transcripts for seniors to use when applying to colleges that eliminates mailing paper copies. Sioux City CSD counselors have seen an uptick in these requests among participating seniors.

### Grad Plan

Kuder Navigator student **Grad Plan** is a flexible tool designed to meet state mandates for individualized student planning as well as other graduation requirements. The fluidity in its design allows schools and districts to configure the Student Grad Plan to meet specific criteria, monitor student progress, and generate reports. Sioux City CSD students use Grad Plan in conjunction with their state-required ICAP.

“The Grad Plan has been helpful in assisting students with the college and career planning tasks we want them to complete by the end of each year. It gives them a nice snapshot of what they have completed and need to finish.”

– [Jeff Lucas](#)  
Sioux City CSD Counselor

### Pathways Link

**Pathways Link** is another feature of Navigator and helps students with course selection for their following academic year.

Student assessment results show them their top pathways from the district. As students are submitting their course requests for the next academic year, they can see all course offerings for a particular pathway in their Navigator account.

## IMPLEMENTING THE KUDER SOLUTION

What sets Kuder apart is a relationship approach with its partners that extends beyond the initial onboarding. From the moment of partnership formation, each Kuder client is provided with a dedicated Partner Solutions Manager who guides the new partner through the process and remains the main point of contact throughout the longevity of the partnership. The Partner Solutions Manager has a team of technical specialists (Implementation, Training, and Engagement) that supports them and the client through the launch, training, and implementation processes in a very personalized way to ensure success.

Sioux City CSD serves as a prime example of a successful ongoing implementation plan and working relationship with Kuder beyond the initial onboarding. Though Sioux City has used Navigator since 2019, it wasn’t until mid-May 2021 that the district kicked off their implementation of Pathways Link and Grad Plan. Sioux City CSD met with Kuder’s Director of Partner Operations, along with an Onboarding Specialist to walk through the Pathways Link data mapping process and explain how Grad Plan worked and how to set it up for the district.



Shortly after the kickoff, the district dismissed for summer break, and the rest of the onboarding was pushed back until the return to school in August 2021. A Kuder onboarding specialist reconnected with the counselors to ensure everything was in order to prepare for the launch of the Pathways Link and Grad Plan. Once everything was thoroughly reviewed and approved, Kuder's Dev Ops team completed their work. Between all the back and forth and build-out of the systems, an official launch was conducted in early October 2021.

Sioux City CSD was highly satisfied with the outcome and the level of service they received through the entire implementation process and launch.

**"We have been happy with the Kuder/Navigator over the last three years. The site is easy to navigate and has relevant and useful information. Kuder customer support and client engagement, along with tech support has been tremendous to work with."**

**- Jeff Lucas**  
*Sioux City CSD Counselor*

## OUTCOMES

- Almost **28,000 assessments** completed since 2019
- **9% Increase** in completed assessments over the recent school year

Sioux City CSD has seen a steady increase in student participation with the Kuder suite of products since the partnership began 3 years ago, particularly between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years where there was a 9% increase in completed assessments. More students are actively engaged with Navigator and its add-ons during various points in their academic and career readiness journey. Since the beginning of its partnership with Kuder, almost 28,000 assessments have been completed by Sioux City CSD students.

More juniors are using the College Access Tools ACT Prep portion of their Navigator account prior to the district's ACT testing. With their college and career readiness program, Sioux City CSD is routinely seeking ways to add components to their solution that better prepare their students for post-secondary transition and planning.

The JROTC instructor, who recently added Navigator's e-Profile as part of their cadets' repertoire, has reached out to counselors in the district to see if they can collaborate with cadets on college planning and financial aid for college. This is one of many first steps at incorporating Kuder into the Sioux City CSD curriculum.

The most indicative outcome of Kuder's ongoing success since its integration with Sioux City CSD is the upsurge in students submitting a Four-Year Academic Plan. There has been year-over-year growth in this area, along with the total number of logins for overall usage increasing as well and a hope to build on the numbers during the 2022-23 academic year.

**"We use Kuder Navigator to send transcripts electronically and Kuder Navigator makes it very easy for students to send requests. This year we also started using four-year plans that were tailored to the Sioux City School District graduation requirements. Having all our classes loaded into Kuder Navigator made it very easy for students to complete their plans."**

**- Michelle Hoch**  
*Sioux City CSD 11th Grade School Counselor*