

CHAPTER 11

Education

Fargo will uphold and improve its world class K-12 education system. Fargo will continue to embrace the universities and post secondary education institutions and acknowledge their positive influence on the economy, workforce, and culture of Fargo.

EDUCATION

Fargo has an excellent education system ranging from preschool, K-12, undergraduate, and post-graduate. Long-time residents are very proud of their schools and routinely rank them as second to none in the nation. Not to be left out, new-comers to the community readily list the quality of local schools as one of the biggest reasons they moved to the community. Unique to Fargo, local residents are actually served by two separate public school districts - Fargo School District and the West Fargo School District. District boundaries are generally separated east/west by 45th Street, but do run as far east as Interstate 29. Residents living in southwest Fargo are generally located within the West Fargo School District; whereas, the balance and majority of Fargo residents are located within the Fargo School District. Fargo is also served by several religion-based private schools, including: Fargo Catholic Schools Network, Oak Grove Lutheran School and Park Christian School that provide education from K-12, while Grace Lutheran educates students from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Finally, Fargo is served by two universities, North Dakota State University and Minnesota State University – Moorhead (MSUM), as well as a number of other colleges and vocational schools, including: Concordia College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Rasmussen College, and the Minnesota School of Business – Moorhead. In the spirit of cooperation, NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia College have formed a consortium known as the Tri-College University (TCU) system that enables students enrolled at any of the TCU institutions to take classes at either of the other two schools and apply the credits to their home institution at no extra cost.

Initiatives:

01: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Fargo will work with local school officials, neighborhood leaders, parents, and children to develop policies and programs that advocate for the safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, and in daily life, to promote a healthy lifestyle of children and their families.

02: RETENTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

A serious issue facing our core neighborhoods is declining enrollment at its local schools. Once the doors are shuttered, the neighborhood not only loses a school but it loses its sense of community. Fargo will focus on retaining these important neighborhood assets.

03: GROWTH OF NDSU CAMPUS

Fargo will continue to foster the strong relationship with NDSU and their commitment to expansion in Downtown Fargo.

04: IMPROVED CONTINUITY BETWEEN NDSU MAIN AND DOWNTOWN CAMPUSES

Fargo will work with NDSU to improve continuity between NDSU main and downtown campuses in terms of urban design and services, such as improved transit.

05: SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AND TECH PARK

NDSU is a top research institution with annual research expenditures exceeding \$110 million. The university has several programs ranked in the Top 100 by the National Science Foundation. Recently, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education named NDSU to the elite "Research University/Very High Research category, a designation that represents the 108 most successful private and public universities in the country.

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100%

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