



\$210,822

FY 2024 Grant Award

Prairie Central CUSD 8

The Challenge

The greatest challenge that Prairie Central CUSD 8 faces when dealing with the teacher shortage is our rural setting and finding staff members in specialized areas to instruct our students.

Strategic Local Investments

Strategy 1: Alternative Teacher Pathway and Community Outreach

The district has been proactive in the use of Teacher Vacancy Grant money to provide community members how are wanting a career change to go back to school to obtain their teaching degree. Prairie Central CUSD 8 used district communication resources and social media to attract community members and provide financial resources to pay for a distance learning platform so that candidates can earn their degrees.

Outcomes

- Supported **13 community members** to obtain their education degrees with a three-year commitment to the district.

Strategy 2: Culture and Climate

The district has utilized funds to improve culture and daily work conditions in response to staff feedback collected via surveys and committees. The district has hosted team-building activities inside and outside of the school day, celebrated and uplifted staff through socials and days of recognition, and provided additional classroom supplies and mentoring opportunities for all staff. The district also created a grant so that staff can apply for funding for specialized projects that go beyond normal expenses.

Strategy 3: Growing Our Own Future Staff

Prairie Central CUSD 8 launched a Future Teachers Club at Prairie Central High School that teaches students foundational skills for becoming an educator and provides hands-on experiences through volunteer opportunities throughout the district.