



# Independent School District #1 Aitkin Public Schools

*"Strong Relationships. Innovative Education. We Are ISD #1"*

**(218) 927-2115**

**Aitkin High School and District Office**

306 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW

Aitkin, MN 56431

**Rippleside Elementary School**

225 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW

Aitkin, MN 56431

DANIEL J. STIFTER, Superintendent

HEATHER HIPPIE, Business Manager

LISA DEMARS High School Principal

JAMES HENRICKSON, Dean of Students/  
Activities Director

ANDY DOKKEN, Elementary Principal

NEDRA HENLINE,, Community Ed. Director

**December 8, 2025**

Dear Aitkin Public Schools Board of Education,

I am writing to inform the Board of my intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2025–2026 school year. My final day of service will be June 30, 2026.

I began my journey in public education in 1988 as a student teacher and substitute teacher in Hancock, Minnesota. I could never have imagined the path my career would take or that it would ultimately lead me to the privilege of serving as Superintendent of ISD #1. Over the past 37 years, I have had the honor of working with exceptional colleagues and community members. While there have been challenges along the way, I have always strived to lead with integrity, purpose, and commitment to what was best for our students.

I want to express my appreciation to the Aitkin community for their support throughout my tenure. I am grateful to the school board that gave me the opportunity seven years ago to become the Superintendent of Aitkin Public Schools, as well as to the current board for their ongoing support and dedication to our students and families. Most importantly, I want to thank the outstanding staff of Aitkin Public Schools—your daily contributions make a meaningful difference, and it has been a privilege to work alongside you.

It has truly been an honor to serve as Superintendent of Aitkin Public Schools. Thank you for the opportunity to lead this district and to be part of the Aitkin Public Schools community.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Stifter

Superintendent

Aitkin Public Schools

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