



RTMS Goal Update

January 13, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS



ALIGNMENT



DISTRICT GOALS 25-26



Simultaneously strengthening and anchoring existing practices into standard organizational systems, while addressing lagging or missing components, in order to drive student growth using...

1. Leading from the Classroom

- 👁️ visibility
- 🔍 evidence
- 📊 data
- 💬 feedback



2. Spiraling Back with Purpose

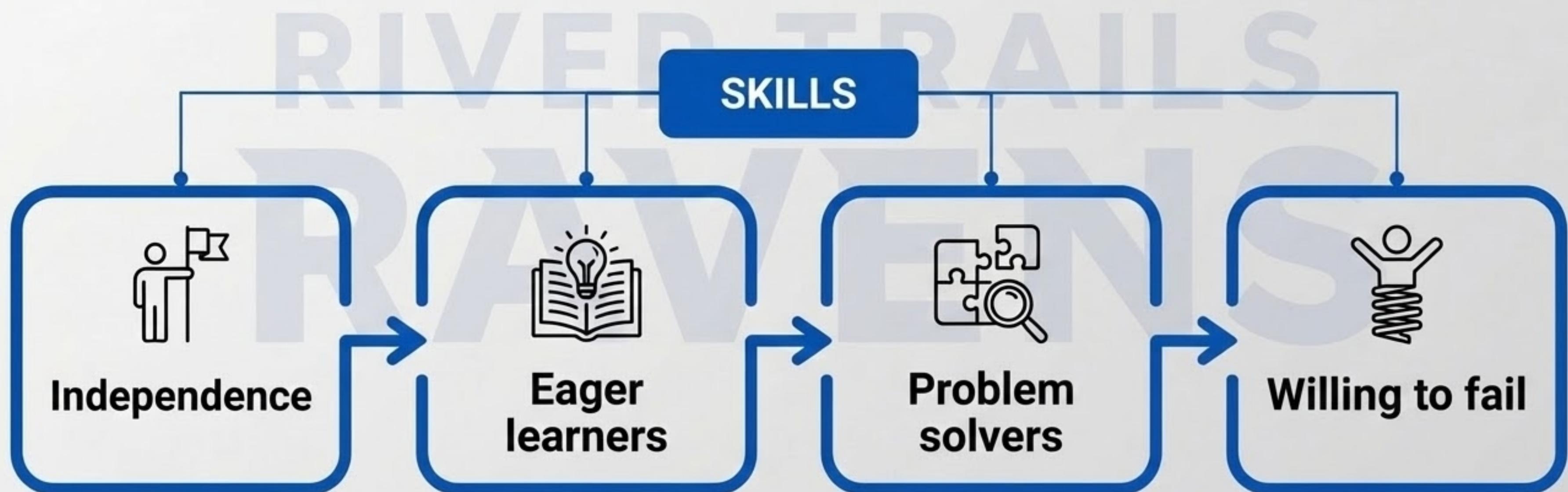
- ✓ consistency
- 💡 clarity
- 🧠 deep understanding
- 🌐 systems alignment



RIVER TRAILS MIDDLE SCHOOL



What skills do we want a student to have when they leave RTMS?



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Learning > Doing

**Meaningful
Student Dialogue**



**Writing Opportunities
for Students**



**Personal Growth
and Awareness**



The Power of Student Voice: Writing & Dialogue in the Classroom

Interconnected practices that foster deeper learning and personal growth.

STUDENT DIALOGUE



- ENCOURAGES PERSPECTIVE-TAKING: Understands diverse viewpoints.
- HONES ARTICULATION: Tests and refines ideas.
- BOOSTS COMPREHENSION: Deepens understanding through discussion.
- CULTIVATES EMPATHY: Fosters active listening.

STUDENT WRITING



- CLARIFIES THOUGHT: Structures ideas for clarity.
- ENHANCES ORGANIZATION: Builds logical arguments.
- FOSTERS DEEP ANALYSIS: Supports evidence-based reasoning.
- BUILDS CONFIDENCE: Safe space for self-expression.

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STUDENT WRITING PROMPT - MATH

Answer the following question. You need to include the words percentage, frequency, and association in your explanation.

An automobile dealership keeps track of the number of cars and trucks they have for sale as well as whether they are new or used. The results are shown in the table.

	car	truck
new	812	233
used	422	51

Considering the data, does there appear to be an association between the type of automobile and whether it is new or used? Explain your reasoning.

There is an association between types of automobile because the percentages of cars that are new and used are 66% and 34%. The percentages of trucks that are new and used are 82% and 18%. This shows that the frequency of new automobiles is greater than that of used automobiles.

Student Response A

truck is said first is the part of the table you use

There is an association between the type of automobile and whether it's new or used. The percentage of used automobile is lower than the automobile. The frequency of new cars is lower than the frequency of new trucks.

Student Response B

	car	truck
new	66 %	82 %
used	34 %	18 %

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Staff Learning & Student Growth

Staff Collaboration & Best Practices

- Researching evidence-based strategies
- Learning from colleagues
- Sharing knowledge and resources



Data-Driven Instruction

- Analyzing individual student data
- Tailoring instruction to needs
- Meeting students where they are



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WEEKLY STUDENT REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Four questions students are asked each week:



What is something that made you smile this week?



How were you challenged this week?



What are you proud of this week?



How did you help someone else this week?



The Catalyst: Teacher/Student Relationships

Connection Before Content: The Neurobiology of Trust



Safety: The brain cannot learn when it is in "fight or flight"; relationships provide the safety to engage.



Mentorship: Moving from "classroom management" to "relational coaching."



Retention: Students show up for people, not just for subjects.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



Equipping students with the mental processes for academic success and lifelong learning.

WHAT ARE EF SKILLS?

- Planning & Prioritization
- Organization
- Time Management
- Task Initiation
- Working Memory
- Metacognition
- Self-Control
- Flexibility

WHY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL?

- Academic Success
- Independent Learning
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Future Readiness

STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING

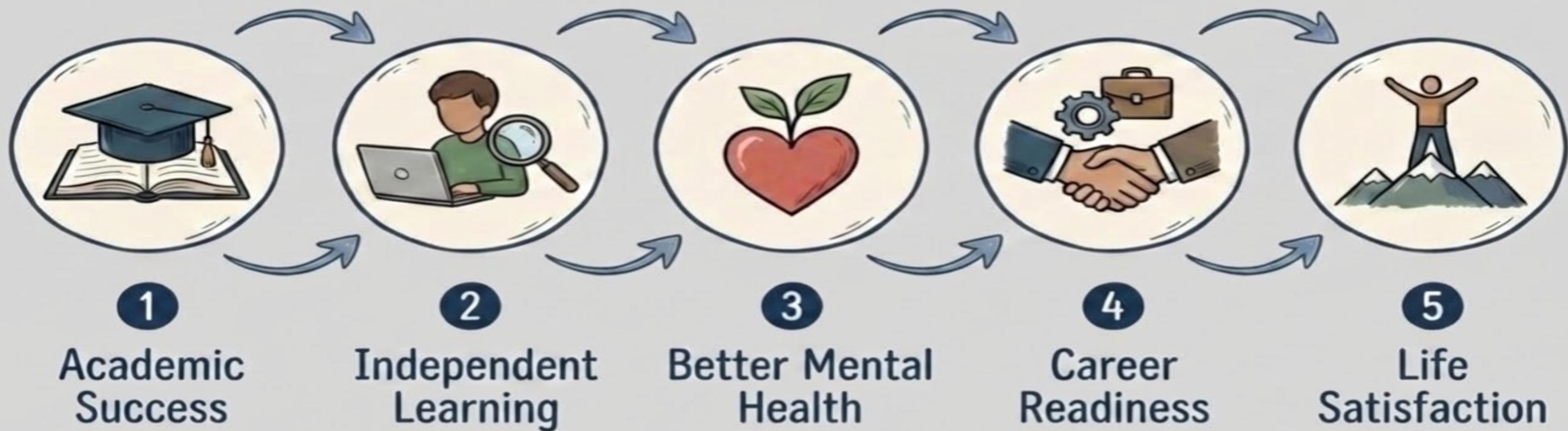
- Explicit Instruction
- Modeling & Scaffolding
- Environmental Supports
- Feedback & Reflection
- Goal Setting & Monitoring



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OUTCOMES OF STRONG EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING



QUESTIONS



Ask Us Anything

