

At-risk / Drop-out Prevention Grant Application for FY 2026

Background:

Currently, our district is receiving additional allowable growth funding for an At-risk/Drop-out Prevention Program. The state of Iowa requires schools each year to resubmit their applications to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for continued funding of this program through an allowable growth grant.

For this year, the Belmont-Klemme district is funding our program which consists of

- One school counselor position;
- An alternative high school/credit recovery program and staffing;
- Vocational track programs;
- An additional teacher to lower class size (5th Grade)
- At-risk study hall aide

These programs are valuable to the overall instructional program at Belmont-Klemme. Although the state calls this program a “grant,” it is actually our local school board that *grants* the funding through local property tax. The proposal for the coming year is to levy 61¢ on local property to generate \$220,818 toward our dropout prevention program.

The proposed budget is as follows:

Budgeted Costs (approximate)

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|--|------------------|
| Professional & Aide Salaries | \$210,000 |
| Employee Benefits | \$75,000 |
| Other Expenses | \$10,000 |
| Total Budget Less Other Sources | \$295,000 |

Please note that 25% of the program has to be funded out of the General Fund.

Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cost-per-pupil (state) | \$7,826 |
| Budget Enrollment (resident count) | 705.4 |
| Multiplied by 4% of the Total | 4% |
| Maximum Drop-out Funding | \$220,818 (75% of Budget) |

At-risk / Drop-out Prevention Plan for Belmond-Klemme CSD

The proposed plan calls for the funding of the following positions and programs:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School counselor position | <p>The K-6 Counselor is responsible for working with at-risk students who have external or internal barriers or possible roadblocks to success in school or the community. Examples of barriers could be failing classes, frequent referrals to the office, attendance issues, death of parent, divorce of parents, lack of social skills, etc. The Counselor works with students on goal setting, social skills, responsibility, communication, advocacy, and increasing connection to school and community.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative high school/credit recovery program and instructor | <p>The Belmond-Klemme Alternative School serves dropouts, potential dropouts from ages 13-21. It has a flexible schedule which can meet the needs of diverse students, including working students and students who are parents. Many students who enroll are disconnected from the comprehensive high school. The school focuses on the academic needs of the students and recovering credit for graduation purposes. Students also receive services to help with community resources, parenting, conflict resolution and building social skills for possible entry into careers.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational Programs, 7-12 | <p>At-risk students frequently benefit from hands-on, vocational classes and programs that help prepare them for careers. Many students who enroll in our vocational programs feel disconnected from the college-bound pathways of traditional high school. Our Belmond-Klemme vocational-track classes serve dropouts, potential dropouts from ages 13-21. A portion of our At-risk, Dropout Prevention funding is directed toward these vocational track programs.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staffing to reduce class size | <p>Smaller class sizes often lead to more individualized attention for students. Teachers can better assess each student's needs, provide personalized instruction, and give more targeted feedback. This can enhance learning outcomes and increase student engagement, particularly for students who might need extra help in certain areas.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk study hall aide | <p>The high school utilizes a paraeducator to provide additional support to students taking college-level courses on campus. Engagement increases with students being encouraged to stay focused and to be active participants. This structure promotes independent learning skills and higher success rates for dual-enrollment courses.</p> |

Recommended Action:

Local school boards control the use of at-risk and dropout prevention programs and funds. The Iowa Department of Education requires that these program plans now be approved by resolution of the local board rather than reviewed and approved by the Department of Education.

I recommend the board pass the resolution below to approve the district's at-risk and dropout prevention programs and funds:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISTRICT'S AT-RISK AND
DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 257.11(4) provides funding for at-risk programs and alternative schools, and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 257.38 calls for school boards to approve by resolution comprehensive program plans for the programs and budget costs of the at-risk programs and alternative schools, and

WHEREAS, the Belmond-Klemme Community School District seeks to support its at-risk student population and prevent students from dropping out of school, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District chooses to levy local property tax to implement the programs described in the District's comprehensive program plans,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District, as follows:

That the Board of Directors hereby approves the district's at-risk and dropout prevention programs and a modified supplemental amount of \$220,818 which requires a local match amount of \$73,606 for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

This resolution passed and approved this 19th day of December, 2024.

President, Board of Directors
Belmond-Klemme Community School District