



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

To: Finance Committee
From: Ryan Berry
Date: November 11, 2025
Subject: 2025 Tentative Tax Levy

Introduction

Every year, the board must approve the tax levy, instructing the county to secure the local revenue necessary to maintain and enhance the district's educational programs, support staffing and student services, and ensure the continued operation and improvement of school facilities.

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Administration that the Board of Education adopt an estimated tax levy for the tax year 2025 in the amounts as follows:

the sum of	\$ 20,500,000	for educational purposes, and
the sum of	\$ 3,600,000	for operations and maintenance purposes, and
the sum of	\$ 850,000	for transportation purposes, and
the sum of	\$ 310,000	for Illinois Municipal Retirement purposes, and
the sum of	\$ 310,000	for social security and Medicare purposes, and
the sum of	\$ 2,250,000	for special education purposes

on the equalized assessed valuation of all the taxable property in River Trails School District 26, Cook County, Illinois, for the year 2025.

Background

Based on projections of needed revenue for the 2026-27 programs, the 2025 levy is proposed at a level to sustain access to the maximum tax revenues under the tax cap.

The 2025 total tax rate for the District (excluding the Bond and Interest Fund) is restricted to the rate limit imposed by the tax cap. The rate limit is derived by increasing the 2024 extension by the 2024 consumer price index (cpi) or 5.0%, whichever is less, and then dividing it by the 2025 EAV of the district minus any new property. Since the 2024 cpi was 2.9%, the extension is limited to a 2.9% increase plus any revenue for new property.

Since information on the 2025 new property amount will not be available until after May, 2026, the estimated levy is based on new growth of \$20,000,000 to ensure that the District's maximizes operating revenue from any new growth; however, actual new growth is estimated at \$2,000,000 for the 2025 tax year based on the impact of economic conditions on new construction in the district. Additional new growth and extension protection is included by the county's loss amount which adds an additional 3% to each levied fund.

The following chart displays the tentative 2025 tax levy distribution

Recommended and Estimated 2025 Levy

2024 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)	\$664,296,962
2025 Estimated Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)	\$798,156,354
2024 Estimated Extension	\$28,493,593
2025 Recommended Extension	\$29,317,400

Fund	2024 Levy Estimated Extension	2024 Tax Rate Est	Best Guess 2025 Levy*	Best Guess 2025 Tax Rate	Recommended 2025 Levy Based on 2.9% Increase	Recommended 2025 Tax Rate Based on 2.9% Increase	Legal Maximum Rate
Education	\$19,746,230	2.9725	\$20,284,131	2.5414	\$20,500,000	2.5335	as needed
Operations	3,605,000	0.5427	3,708,000	0.4646	3,600,000	0.4449	0.5500
Special Education	2,163,000	0.3256	2,317,500	0.2904	2,250,000	0.2781	0.4000
Transportation	875,500	0.1318	875,500	0.1097	850,000	0.1050	as needed
Municipal Retirement	309,000	0.0465	319,300	0.0400	310,000	0.0383	as needed
Social Security	309,000	0.0465	319,300	0.0400	310,000	0.0383	as needed
Sub-Total	\$27,007,730	4.0656	\$27,823,731	3.4860	\$27,820,000	3.4381	
Percentage Increase			3.0%		3.0%		
Debt Service	1,485,863	0.2237	1,572,270	0.1970	1,497,400	0.1851	
Total Levy	\$28,493,593	4.2893	\$29,396,001	3.6830	\$29,317,400	3.6232	
Adjustment for Rebates (O&M) \$325,006 0.0489							
Total Levy with Rebates	\$28,818,599	4.3382					

* Includes Loss and Cost of 5% on Debt Service and 3% on all other funds

Under the Cook County *Truth in Taxation* law, the District is not required to publish notice of the proposed levy or hold a hearing in the regular meeting of December because the proposed levy is less than 105% of the 2024 extension.

When a school district issue bonds, a certified copy of the resolution providing for their issuance and levying a tax to pay them is filed with the County Clerk. Each year during the life of a bond issue, the Clerk's office extends the tax for bonds and interest set forth in the resolution. Therefore, to avoid a possible duplication of tax levies, the Board of Education does not include a levy for bond and interest payments in its annual tax levy.

Timeline and Next Steps (if needed)

It also recommends the Board use the following timeline:

November 11, 2025	Board Certifies tentative levy
November 28, 2025	Publish legal notice in local newspaper
December 09, 2025	Board/Public Hearing & Levy Adoption
December 31, 2025	Final day to file levy with County Clerk

Attachments

- 2025 Tentative Levy Packet