

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Joel Filas, Chief School Business Official  
**DATE:** May 12, 2025  
**RE:** Business & Operations Report

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## 2024 Property Taxes

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The District received its first installment of property taxes in May. The District received \$891,214. This is reflected as Local Revenue received in the Treasurer's Report. In recent years, the District has realized an average of 99.7% of its tax extension. Using the prior three years' receipt history, the Business Office anticipates 50 % of the tax extension to be received by the end of June (\$6,877,296), and another 35% in September (\$4,814,107)..

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## New Grant Funding

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The Illinois State Board of Education accepted the District's application for District Literacy Plan Implementation Grant Funding. ISBE has allocated \$3,862 to Benjamin 25 to supplement the costs of implementing the District's Literacy Plan. As mandated by Public Act 103-0402, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) District Literacy Plan is a comprehensive roadmap developed by the ISBE to improve literacy instruction across Illinois. The plan aims to improve literacy outcomes for all Illinois students by providing resources and guidance for districts to enhance their literacy programs. Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Danielle DeChristopher submitted our plan last month, allowing the District access to this funding.

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## Illinois 2025 Spring Legislative Session Wrap-Up

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The final week of the Illinois legislative session culminated in the passage of a \$55.2 billion state operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

### Budget & Education Highlights:

- **Illinois State Aid Evidence-Based Funding (EBF):** *the General Assembly continued to signal its strong support for equitable funding for K-12 schools by allocating an additional \$307 million for EBF. \$300 million is expected to be distributed through tier funding. Last year, the State allocated an additional \$350 million to the formula. Benjamin 25 received just over \$500 of the additional \$350 million last year.*
- **Mandated Categoricals:** *The General Assembly accepted the Governor's proposal for MCAT funding, resulting in increases to orphanage line items only. Increases totaling \$20 million will ensure those lines continue to be funded at 100 percent (\$7 million for the orphanage and \$13 million for the special education orphanage). However, line items for private facility tuition, special education transportation and regular transportation received no increases. Estimates from ISBE suggest that with flat funding for the other line items, coupled with the expected increases to claims for Fiscal Year 2026, Regular Transportation funding proration will fall to 71 percent and Special Education Transportation proration will fall to 61 percent.*

## Other Key Legislation:

### **Passed:**

- HB2967 (Dual Credit Reform): Restructures the partnership between high schools and colleges for dual credit, including oversight and appeals processes.

### **Stalled or Failed (for now):**

- SB243 (FOIA Reform): AI-related FOIA protections passed the House but died in Senate due to time.
- HB3772: Student discipline limits for grades PK–2 fell short by two votes after midnight.
- SB2427: Student cell phone use policy failed in the House despite prior Senate approval.

Many of these issues are expected to resurface during the fall veto session or ongoing summer negotiations. The General Assembly has also left the door open for a return to Springfield if needed, especially if federal developments affect the state budget.<sup>1</sup>

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## **Technology Update**

- The District's current fleet of Ben Q interactive display panels were removed last week. This equipment was scheduled for salvage on Friday, June 6th. The electronics salvage company estimated that each device should net \$475 in trade-in value. The total revenue received will be reported next month.
- The new BenQ interactive display panels are on schedule to be delivered this week.

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## **Operations Update**

Arcon began the school district's required 10-Year Health/Life Safety Survey last week with the goal of having the report available for review during the August Facilities meeting. The Illinois 10-Year Health/Life Safety Survey is a requirement for public school districts under the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/Art. 17-2.11). It is a facility inspection and planning tool that helps ensure school buildings remain safe, healthy, and in compliance with state regulations.

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## **A LOOK AHEAD**

### **August Board Meeting:**

- FY26 Tentative Budget Presentation
- Recertification of Hazardous Bus Routes for 2025-26

Respectfully submitted,



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<sup>1</sup> IASBO Advocacy Report available at <https://www.iasbop2p.org/>