

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Joel Filas, Chief School Business Official
DATE: May 11, 2026
RE: Business & Operations Report

FY27 BUDGET: Update

This month's FY27 Budget update will feature the renewal costs for our medical, dental, life, and workers' comp insurance.

FY 27 Medical/Dental Insurance Rates

The District Insurance Committee met with NIHIP, our Health Insurance Co-Op, on Monday, May 4, to review the District's renewal rates for the 2025-2026 school year. While our insurance cooperative works to keep costs down, this year's increases will be higher than last year's. These increases are based on two primary variables: physician/hospital fees and claim utilization. The chart below summarizes how our funding variances shape the final renewal rate:

Plan Type	NIHIP Base Increase	Benjamin 25 Loss Ratio	Benjamin 25 Increase	5-Year Avg.
PPO	8.7%	92.7%	6.7%	5.8%
HMO	9.9%	106.7%	10.9%	6.1%
Dental	2.8%	94.4%	.08	.1%
Total Change to Budget		9.1%		

FY 27 Worker's Compensation Rate

Policy Term	Total Paid & Reserved Losses within CLIC's Retention	CLIC Loss Fund Collected	Loss Ratio
2020/21	\$10,815	\$24,691	43.8%
2021/22	\$28,926	\$25,633	112.8%
2022/23	\$11,701	\$19,170	61.0%
2023/24	\$308,919	\$23,439	1318.0%
2024/25	\$4,992	\$25,668	19.4%
TOTAL	\$365,352	\$118,601	308.1%

The District received its 2026-27 Worker's Compensation Pricing from our Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative.

Like medical insurance, these rates are also dependent upon claim utilization. The chart below summarizes how our funding variances shape the final renewal rate:

A net decrease in loss ratio for the 2024/25 policy term has led to .5% decrease in worker's compensation premiums from an annual cost of \$67,503 to **\$67,146 for FY27.**

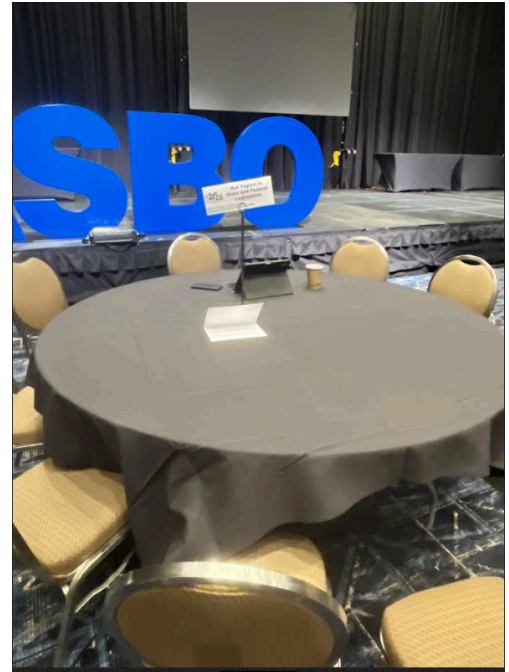
FY26 GRANT UPDATES

The Business Office is pleased to report that the funding for the two additional State Grants we applied for has been received. The District received **\$850** for library materials as part of the State Library Grant, and received **\$50,000** in funding for school capital projects as part of the School Project Maintenance Grant.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

I attended the 2026 IASBO Annual Conference last week in Peoria, where I facilitated a discussion on “Hot Topics in State and Federal Legislation.” As you can see, people traveled from miles around to participate in this meaningful public policy presentation.

Unfortunately, the Governor has not yet budged from the original education budget and has disregarded the Illinois State Board of Education’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget recommendation. The request calls for an additional \$350 million for Evidence-Based Funding (\$50 million of which would be dedicated to the Property Tax Relief Grant), alongside \$151 million in increased funding for Mandated Categoricals. In comparison, the Governor’s budget proposes only \$300 million for state funding and \$50 million in new funding for categoricals, which would result in increased proration and reduced reimbursements for Benjamin 25. However, IASBO representatives report that committee members’ questions made it clear that our outreach is having an impact. Legislators are hearing directly from stakeholders about the importance of fully funding Mandated Categoricals and how the lack of funding is impacting reliance on property taxes. As we approach the final stretch of the legislative session, IASBO and IASA advocacy will continue to pressure for full funding of Mandated Categoricals.



RFP UPDATES

The District finalized its two Requests for Proposals/Requests for Bids this month: Food Service Management and Sealcoating.

Sealcoating/Patchwork/Re-Striping:

The District issued a Request for Bids (RFB) for sealcoating and striping services on March 25, 2026. As part of the bidding process, a mandatory pre-bid meeting was conducted on April 2, 2026, to review project specifications, site conditions, and scheduling expectations with interested vendors. Proposals were publicly opened on April 17, 2026, and the results are listed below:

Company	Total BMS	Total EES South	Total EES North	Total Ad Center	Total Base Bid
Denler Inc.	\$ 5,170	\$9,610	\$6,100	\$7,890	\$28,770
EverLine	\$11,750	\$10,800	\$11,000	\$14,250	\$47,800
SKC Construction	\$10,890.34	\$14,969	\$9,857.74	\$13,528	\$49,165

Following the opening of proposals, the administration reviewed the submissions for completeness, pricing, qualifications, and responsiveness to the District's specifications. Reference checks were also conducted with other clients and organizations who have utilized the recommended contractor for similar work. Based on the proposal review process and qualifications evaluation, the administration will recommend approval of the sealcoating and striping contract award to Denler Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$28,770. The total cost to the District will be \$25,720 after the Carol Stream Park District's share contribution. The total cost to the District is \$759 less than the sealcoating costs from August 2023.

Food Services Management

The District utilizes a non-national school lunch program model in which meals are prepared off-site and delivered daily for students. This model allows the District to provide meal service while managing operational efficiency, staffing, equipment limitations, and overall program costs. In February, the Administration conducted a review of its contracted service providers. The data returned on our lunch program revealed that a change in vendors was necessary.

The District began a comprehensive Request for Proposals (RFP) process in March. As part of the evaluation process, the administration used a comprehensive review approach to gather feedback from multiple stakeholder groups and to evaluate both operational capacity and meal quality.

Following the review process, the Facilities Committee recommended awarding the contract to **Quest Food Management Services**. The Administration believes Quest is the best fit for Benjamin 25 based on the program's logistical management and price point. Quest will service the District through its West Chicago High School operation. Quest's program will streamline operations through the [MySchoolQUEST](#) online platform, which will provide families with monthly menus, ingredient information, and nutritional details. The system will also reduce administrative workload by eliminating many current point-of-sale and meal tracking responsibilities.

Under the proposed agreement, the District will be charged a per-meal rate of \$4.86, which includes a beverage and staffing support at both school buildings. The Facilities Committee recommended, and the Finance Committee supported, establishing a student meal price of \$4.50 per meal, with the District subsidizing the remaining cost to help support families and encourage participation.

Notice of Application for Property Tax Exemption

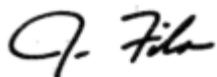
The Cherubim Developmental Training Program, a non-profit organization, has filed an application for property tax exemption in our District for the property located at 611 Highgate Ct., West Chicago. The Cherubim Developmental Training Program is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides comprehensive day services to adults (18+) with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Western Chicago suburbs. It focuses on fostering independence and skill development, offering tailored support, residential services, and community integration. The property currently generates approximately \$6,500 in revenue to the District.

A Look Ahead

JUNE -

- Adoption of a FY26 Budget Amendment
- Resolution to Designate Interest Income Transfers
- Resolution for Authorization to Pay July Bills

Respectfully Submitted,



Joel Filas