



# River Trails School District 26

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July 9, 2024

To: Finance Committee  
From: Ryann Berry  
Re: 2024-25 Tentative Budget

The 2024-25 Tentative Budget includes an Overview, Details on Revenues and Expenditures, Department Narratives, Enrollment Projections, and 5 Year Financial Forecast.

## **2024-25 Tentative Budget**

The 2024-25 Budget provides for the staff, instructional materials, programs, and facilities to educate a projected enrollment of approximately 1500 students in grades PK - 8. The budget is aligned to the District's Strategic Plan and Goals for FY25:

- Head Ready students grow academically, problem solve creatively and learn how to learn.
- Heart Ready students are respectful, resourceful, and resilient citizens.

The District responsibly uses the dollars of the community taxpayer:

- Current Financial Implications
  - State and federal funding for education is shrinking
  - Property tax appeals are increasing
  - Individual families are under increasing financial strain
- As part of our Strategic Plan
  - Programs are evaluated for their effectiveness
  - Staffing plans are evaluated for effectiveness
  - Department budgets are redeveloped from a "zero" base every year
  - Administration examines grant opportunities to help fund programs, equipment purchases and facility improvements
- Over the years a variety of efficiencies have been implemented including operations, staffing, transportation, health insurance, special education, supply reduction and energy conservation

The total operating fund revenues reflected in this document are \$30,755,591. This represents a 4.1% increase from the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budgeted operating fund revenue figure of \$29,543,672. The total operating fund expenditures in this document are \$28,439,727. This represents a 1.7% increase from the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budgeted operating fund expenditure figure of \$27,966,102. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, it is anticipated that River Trails School District 26 will have an operating surplus of \$1,047,014 which includes transfers to pay for copier leases, 2016 and 2017 Debt Certificates and 2024 Alternate Revenue Bonds. In addition, the budget includes transfers of \$3,000,000 from the Ed fund to pay for Euclid

infrastructure capital projects planned in the summer of 2024. Ending Fund Balances for FY25 are projected at 82%.

Over the last year, and continuing into next year, we have applied for many grants including DOE Renew America Schools (\$1,072,461), ESSER III (\$1,058,744), school maintenance (\$50,000), ICECF Net Zero Energy grant for our construction (\$2,000,000), Dept of Justice Security Grant (\$478,572), MWRD Partnership for RTMS permeable paving (\$650,000), Illinois EPA grant for electric school bus and charger (\$288,215,) FEMA (\$36,793), Federal technology grants, and Bosch (\$36,000).

Operating Revenues for 2024-25 reflect a CPI of 3.4%, \$2 million in new property EAV, tax refunds at 1.5%, a tax collection rate of 98% and property tax refund recapture of \$314,986. Interest rates have been budgeted at 3%. The FY25 District Budget reflects flat revenues on all Federal grants and state funding.

Operating Expenditures for 2024-25 reflect the 2022-2026 negotiated contract. Health insurance increased 5.3% for HMO, 7.8% for PPO and 6.3% for dental. Following the 2022-2026 negotiated contract the district will contribute the same flat amount for insurance.

Due to enrollment, staff decreased by two teachers at Euclid and one teacher at RTMS. Programmatic additions include a World Language teacher at RTMS and a district Speech Language Pathologist offset by the elimination of the district multilingual teacher position.

The major curriculum initiatives for FY25 include a new Math curriculum at the middle school, World Language and Social Emotional Learning(SEL). In addition, professional development will be focused on middle school math, Spanish implementation, SEL implementation, equity, collaborative communities, assessment, differentiation, and intervention. Coaches at each school work with teachers to implement school improvement goals and district strategic goals.

The district uses a variety of assessments to improve instruction. AIMSWeb Plus allows the district access to a curriculum-based website aimed at improving reading and math skills. NWEA MAP is a computer-adaptive assessment in reading and math for students in grades 2-8 providing staff with student performance information relative to the IL State Learning Standards.

Technology initiatives include: "FREEdom" (Flexible, Reliable, Engaging, Empowering) Technology Equipment for Learning -- touchscreen chromebooks for all students in alignment with district technology replacement cycles, interactive flat panels to all elementary classrooms, beginning with Euclid; high impact educational technology and business administration software; strengthen cybersecurity; and Technology Initiative Grant to fund innovative classroom technologies.

Maintenance projects include summer painting, deep cleaning, and maintenance. The FY25 Budget includes \$24,852,924 in construction expenditures for the infrastructure upgrade at Euclid, roof replacement at Indian Grove and the beginning of infrastructure improvements at Indian Grove. These are funded with \$10 million bond sale in 2024 and \$14 million bond sale in FY25, \$790,000 in 2021 tax rebate, \$50,000 from the state, \$767,000 from ESSER III, \$3 million from the sale of Nipper School and fund balance transfers from Ed and O&M funds. In addition, a DOE Renew American Schools Grant of \$1,072,461 will fund solar panels, a microgrid controller and battery at Euclid School.

Included in this budget is approximately \$250,000 of contingencies for staff, special education, and technology. The administration will closely monitor all expenditures and inform the Board if there is a reason to expend these contingencies.

The schedule for review and approval of 2024-25 Budget is as follows:

<b>June 18, 2024</b>	Finance Committee reviews the Tentative Budget for Display and reviews Five Year Projections
<b>June 25, 2024</b>	Board reviews the Tentative Budget for Display and reviews Five Year Projections
<b>July 9, 2024</b>	Board approves the Tentative Budget for Display
<b>July 12 – Sep 10, 2024</b>	Display 2024-25 Tentative Budget for 30 days
<b>September 10, 2024</b>	Public Hearing and Adopt Budget
<b>Prior to Sept 30, 2024</b>	Asst. Supt for Business Services files 2024-25 Budget

Please contact me if you have any questions on these materials.