



Sharon Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education
From: Dr. Sharon Williams
Cabinet Champion: Annaka Whiting, Chief Financial Officer
Date: May 12, 2026
Re: Amazon Supply Purchases - FY2026 Increase

Since Amazon's integration with the Omnia cooperative purchasing program, the District has experienced a steady and intentional shift in purchasing activity. This integration allows Amazon to serve as a direct purchasing platform where competitively bid pricing from a wide range of vendors is made available to the District, ensuring access to the best available pricing without the need to purchase separately through multiple suppliers. As a result, staff have been able to streamline purchasing while maintaining cost efficiency. The District is requesting an increase to the Amazon purchasing threshold to \$690,000, up from the current not-to-exceed amount of \$525,000, which was originally approved by the Board on May 13, 2025.

This trend is reflected in our purchasing history, with Amazon expenditures increasing from \$533,866.31 in FY2023, to \$613,308.28 in FY2024, and \$648,368.19 in FY2025. At the same time, spending with traditional vendors has significantly declined. Staples expenditures decreased from \$530,322.25 in FY2023 to \$102,934.63 in FY2024, \$44,956.80 in FY2025, and \$6,500 in FY2026 to date. Office Depot has seen a similar reduction, from \$11,893.55 in FY2023 to minimal usage in subsequent years. While some specialized purchases continue through vendors such as The Paper Corporation (\$73,000 in FY2025; \$20,000 in FY2026 to date), the overall purchasing strategy has clearly shifted toward Amazon.

In addition to the pricing advantages of the Omnia integration, increasing the District's total spend with Amazon as a streamlined vendor allows us to receive rebate incentives based on annual purchasing volume, further enhancing overall cost savings. Based on these trends, increasing the purchasing threshold to \$690,000 aligns with actual operational needs, supports continued cost-effective procurement, and reduces the need for repeated Board approvals throughout the fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve an increase to the spending threshold for Amazon to \$690,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Investment Period: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
Total Investment: Not to Exceed \$690,000
Funding Source: District Funds