



Sharon Williams, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education  
From: Dr. Sharon Williams  
Cabinet Champion: Jeff Dase, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Date: May 12, 2026  
Re: **Contract for Services: Center for High School Success (CHSS)**

In service of Strategic Priority Two, I am recommending that we continue to engage in a partnership with the Center for High School Success to support our efforts to improve 9th grade on track to graduation and instructional and organizational strategies to support scholars to persist to graduation.

On the 2025 Illinois State Board of Education Report Card, it is reported that our 9th grade on track to graduation percent was 76.8% compared to the state average of 89.3%. Disaggregated data shows that there is a gap between the 9th grade on track percentages between Black, Hispanic, Low Income, Scholars with IEPs and English Learners with all and White Scholars. Our current graduation rate is 80.4%, this is 8.6% percentage points lower than the state average, and gaps persist between scholar groups.

According to the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, on-track 9th grade students are more than three and one-half times more likely to graduate from high school in four years than off-track students. The indicator is a more accurate predictor of graduation than students' previous achievement test scores or their background characteristics.

The proposed partnership will build upon the work completed during the 2025-2026 school year which includes:

- Providing high quality evidence-based coaching to support team leads, school and district leadership, and the 9th Grade School Team.
- Supporting the RIMSD 41 and Rock Island High School with implementing strategic changes necessary to maximize ninth grade success.
- Facilitating Ninth Grade Success Institutes for staff, including the principal, lead administrator for the 9th Grade School Team, and 9th Grade School Team Leads.
- Providing job-embedded coaching and quarterly collaboratives for promoting student success and to provide a structured process to identifying and addressing common challenges.

**Investment Period: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

**Total Investment: \$72,100.00**

**Funding Source: Title II and/ or Title IV Federal Grant Funding**

**Rock Island-Milan School District #41**

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