

At-risk / Drop-out Prevention Grant Application for FY 2025

Background:

Currently, our district is receiving additional allowable growth funding for an At-risk/Drop-out Prevention Program. The state of Iowa requires schools each year to resubmit their applications to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for continued funding of this program through an allowable growth grant.

For this year, the Belmond-Klemme district is funding our program which consists of

- Two school counselor positions (PK-6 and 7-12);
- An alternative high school/credit recovery program and salaries;
- A 7-12 At-Risk Coordinator (75% time);
- Vocational track programs; and
- Summer school and after-school program salaries.

These programs are valuable to the overall instructional program at Belmond-Klemme. Although the state calls this program a “*grant*,” it is actually our local school board that *grants* the funding through local property tax. The proposal for the coming year is to levy 64¢ on local property to generate \$228,164 toward our dropout prevention program.

The proposed budget is as follows:

Budgeted Costs (approximate)

Professional & Aide Salaries	\$215,000
Employee Benefits	\$80,000
Other Expenses	\$10,000
Total Budget Less Other Sources	\$305,000

Please note that 25% of the program has to be funded out of the General Fund.

Revenue

Cost-per-pupil (state)	\$7,635
Budget Enrollment (resident count)	747.1
Multiplied by 4% of the Total	4%
Maximum Drop-out Funding	\$228,164 (75% of Budget)

At-risk / Drop-out Prevention Plan for Belmond-Klemme CSD

The proposed plan calls for the funding of the following positions and programs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School counselor position, PK-6 	<p>The K-6 Counselor is responsible for working with at-risk students who have external or internal barriers or possible roadblocks to success in school or the community. Examples of barriers could be failing classes, frequent referrals to the office, attendance issues, death of parent, divorce of parents, lack of social skills, etc. The Counselor works with students on goal setting, social skills, responsibility, communication, advocacy, and increasing connection to school and community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School counselor position, 7-12 	<p>The 7-12 Counselor is responsible for working with at-risk students who have external or internal barriers or possible roadblocks to success in school or the community. Examples of barriers could be failing classes, frequent referrals to the office, attendance issues, death of parent, divorce of parents, lack of social skills, etc. The Counselor works with students on goal setting, social skills, responsibility, communication, advocacy, and increasing connection to school and community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An alternative high school/credit recovery program and instructor 	<p>The Belmond-Klemme Alternative School serves dropouts, potential dropouts from ages 13-21. It has a flexible schedule which can meet the needs of diverse students, including working students and students who are parents. Many students who enroll are disconnected from the comprehensive high school. The school focuses on the academic needs of the students and recovering credit for graduation purposes. Students also receive services to help with community resources, parenting, conflict resolution and building social skills for possible entry into careers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At-Risk Coordinator (75% time), 7-12 	<p>The 7-12 At-Risk Coordinator monitors the academic progress of all students in the secondary school and leads the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The Coordinator works with individual students as a resource to help each student succeed and provides tutoring services during the day when necessary. The Coordinator serves as safety net for struggling learners in an attempt to intervene for them before they enter the Alternative School program. The Coordinator also helps with college and career ready activities for the students within the Alternative School.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational Programs, 7-12 	<p>At-risk students frequently benefit from hands-on, vocational classes and programs that help prepare them for careers. Many students who enroll in our vocational programs feel disconnected from the college-bound pathways of traditional high school. Our Belmond-Klemme vocational-track classes serve dropouts, potential dropouts from ages 13-21. A portion of our At-risk, Dropout Prevention funding is directed toward these vocational track programs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer school and after-school program salaries. 	<p>The elementary summer school program focuses on skill development among students who are below their peers in the basic skills. The elementary offers the program late in the summer as a remedial jump start to the school year.</p> <p>Summer school at the high school level is a credit recovery program that is offered to help students who are credit deficient.</p>

Recommended Action:

Local school boards control the use of at-risk and dropout prevention programs and funds. The Iowa Department of Education requires that these program plans now be approved by resolution of the local board rather than reviewed and approved by the Department of Education.

I recommend the board pass the resolution below to approve the district's at-risk and dropout prevention programs and funds:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISTRICT'S AT-RISK AND
DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 257.11(4) provides funding for at-risk programs and alternative schools, and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 257.38 calls for school boards to submit to the Iowa Department of Education comprehensive program plans for the programs and budget costs of the at-risk programs and alternative schools, and

WHEREAS, the Belmond-Klemme Community School District seeks to support its at-risk student population and prevent students from dropping out of school, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District chooses to levy local property tax to implement the programs described in the District's comprehensive program plans,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District, as follows:

That the Board of Directors hereby approves the district's at-risk and dropout prevention programs and funds for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

This resolution passed and approved this 21st day of December, 2023.

President, Board of Directors
Belmond-Klemme Community School District