



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 8, 2025 - 5:30 PM

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOGNITION

1. Middle School Students of the Month

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$ 16,314,441.38
3. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2025
4. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2025
5. Winter II Coaches
6. Boys Basketball Donation of \$1,500
7. Approval of January 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting date

NEW BUSINESS

1. District Transportation Video Monitoring System Bid
2. RHS Bleachers and Elevator Bids
3. RHS Boilers Bid

REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report
2. Committee Reports
3. Literacy Report
4. Collaborative Team Reports
5. Superintendent Evaluation

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND HEARING OF PEOPLE PRESENT

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD REPORT ON DISBURSEMENTS

DATE: 11/3/2025 12/1/2025

PAYROLL

GENERAL FUND NET PAYROLL	10 & 11	3,248,052.10
FOOD SERVICE	10 & 11	99,873.12
ATHLETIC FUND	10 & 11	23,038.52
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	10 & 11	3,370,963.74

ALL FUNDS:		
FEDERAL TAX	\$	358,263.22
SOCIAL SECURITY TAX-MEDICARE TAX	\$	722,256.79
STATE TAX	\$	168,734.15
TOTAL	\$	1,249,254.16
	\$	4,620,217.90

BLUE CROSS INSURANCE	\$	40,191.86
NVA/NATIONAL VISION	\$	
BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD (DENTAL) ADMIN FEES	\$	74,631.24
MESSA (VSP/MED/ LIFE)	\$	854,604.50
NATIONAL INSURANCE SVCS(L TERM DISABILITY	\$	12,005.97
RETIREMENT PAYROLL	\$	3,275,812.11
	\$	4,257,245.68

UTILITIES:		
DTE ENERGY		15,945.78
CONSUMERS ENERGY	\$	89,866.65
BP ENERGY (FORMERLY EDF ENERGY) BULK FUE	\$	7,428.41
	\$	113,240.84

CLASSIC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT		78,077.75
GVSU		62,510.00
	\$	140,587.75

TOTAL OF ABOVE	\$	9,131,292.17
BALANCE OF TOTAL GENERAL FUND		431,856.84
SINKING FUND REG CKS		0.00
SINKING FUND ACH CKS		62,656.00
SINKING FUND CREDIT CARD		0.00
2023 BOND REG CKS		0.00
2023 BOND ACH CKS		1,284,596.59
2023 BOND CREDIT CARD		35,132.74
2025 BOND ACH CHECKS		4,855,693.34
2025 BOND CREDIT CARD		53,805.00
GENERAL FUND ACH CKS		0.00
GENERAL FUND CREDIT CARD		459,408.70
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		16,314,441.38



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

November 10, 2025

Date & time Monday, November 10, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

Meeting called to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance by President Folsom

In Attendance

Board of Education: Jarrod Folsom, Tricia Anderson, Barbara Helms, Jake Himmelspace, Kelley Freridge, Andrea Jacobson, Christie Ramsey

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews, Mike Ramm, Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Jodi Nester.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Christie Ramsey with support from Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

1. The Middle School students of the month were announced by President Folsom.
2. Counseling Dog Chilie came before the board to announce her retirement.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support from Andrea Jacobson. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$10,571,101.96
2. Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2025
3. Non-Affiliated Wage Tables
4. HS Winter Coaches

New Business

1. FOIA Appeal – Dr. Matthews presented a FOIA appeal to the board. There was a motion to approve by Barb Helms with support from Tricia Anderson. There was discussion on the FOIA appeal. After discussion, Trustee Helms voted yay with all other board members voting nay. The motion did not carry.
2. PowerSchool – Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Mike Ramm, presented to the board regarding the purchase of the PowerSchool student information system. The system would be used along with Skyward for a period of time before moving completely to PowerSchool. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support from Jarrod Folsom. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Certified Resignation – Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford presented a certified resignation to the Board of Education for approval. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Tricia Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Administrator Retirement – Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford announced that John Henry will be retiring as of June 30, 2026. Motion to approve by Andrea Jacobson with support from Christie Ramsey. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Fall Policy – Second Reading – Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford presented changes to some of Rockford Public Schools policies to the Board of Education for a second reading. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Reports

1. Student Representative Report – Student Representative to the Board, Leah Rapp gave an update on the many activities taking place at Rockford High School.
2. Bond Update – Dr. Matthews gave an update on the bond and what we plan to do moving forward.
3. MASB Conference Report – President Folsom and trustee Jacobson have an update on the MASB conference that they both recently attended.
4. Collaborative Team Reports
 - Meadow Ridge Principal, Blake Bowman, gave an update on things happening at the Elementary level.
 - North Rockford Middle School Principal, Al Reickard gave an update on things happening at the Secondary level.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

Audience Participation. No action taken.

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews thanked the community for voting on the bond. He clarified some school finance issues regarding length of time paying for things and the amount of debt. The district will be reaching out to members of the community to continue to be leaders in the educational field. He also discussed FOIA and our staff who are responding appropriately.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education



Rockford Public Schools

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

November 18, 2025

Date & time Monday, November 18, 2025 | 5:36 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

Meeting called to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance by President Folsom

In Attendance

Board of Education: Jarrod Folsom, Barbara Helms (5:43 arrival), Jake Himmelspace, Kelley Freridge, Andrea Jacobson (6:35 arrival), Christie Ramsey (7:15 departure).

Regrets: Tricia Anderson

Administration: Allison Clements, Kayla Garza, Jodi Nester.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Christie Ramsey with support from Jake Himmelspace. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Workshop

Kevin Philipps from the Kent ISD gave a presentation and discussion with the board members regarding school finance.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

Audience Participation. No action taken. There were no speakers at the meeting.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education



Rockford Public Schools

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Human Resources Department

Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent

350 N. Main Street • Rockford, MI 49341

Phone: 616.863.6554 • Fax: 616.863.6355

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent

From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Date: December 8, 2025

Subject: 2025-2026 MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-DUTY WINTER II COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS

SPORT	SCHOOL	POSITION	NAME
BASKETBALL (GIRLS)	East Middle	8 th Grade (A) Head Coach	Ryan DeKuiper
		8 th Grade (B) Head Coach	Hannah Davis
		7 th Grade (A) Head Coach	Tracy Ouellette
	North Middle	7 th Grade (B) Head Coach	Jodi Ramos
		8 th Grade (A) Head Coach	Mike Long
		8 th Grade (B) Head Coach	Jarad Smith
SWIM AND DIVE (BOYS)	East/North Middle		
		7 th Grade (A) Head Coach	Daniel Derkson
		7 th Grade (B) Head Coach	Brian Barr
	East/North Middle	Head Coach	Tim Saur/ Kevin Brown
		Dive Coach	Ashley Garcia
WRESTLING	East Middle	Head Coach	Joseph Carrel
		Assistant Coach	Kade Johnson
	North Middle	Head Coach	Tyler Glave
		Assistant Coach	Dave Warrelman



Memorandum

To: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools
From: Allison Clements, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Date: December 8, 2025
Subject: District Transportation Video Monitoring System Bid

Rockford Public Schools put to bid the transportation video monitoring system for the new buses. Building on the Rams XII Initiative Pillar 2.C.3 Evaluate and Upgrade Physical Safety Measures Throughout the District, a monitoring system will be installed in the newly purchased buses. The system is AngelTrax, which is consistent with the current fleet of district buses. The project and bid summary were presented to Finance Committee on Dec 2. IVS, Inc. dba AngelTrax came in with the best bid at \$18,223.69. The bid summary will be presented to the Rockford Board of Education on Monday, December 8, 2025.

The recommendation to the board is to approve the purchase from IVS, Inc dba AngelTrax for \$18,223.69 to be paid for out of proceeds from the 2019 Bond.

ATC/jg

Attachment

Bid Review Report

Review Date	December 2, 2025
Selected Bidders	IVS, Inc. dba AngelTrax
Contract	\$18,223.69
Designer Approval	Christopher Meuser
Owner Approval	Allison Clements

IN REVIEW OF BID(S), THE FOLLOWING DUE DILIGENCE WAS PERFORMED:	
A	Reviewed bids for compliance with specifications and contract provisions.
B	Conducted post-bid interviews. Requested and received bid clarifications from bidders on November 14, 2025.
C	Worked with the RPS Review team to ensure all materials needed were identified.
D	Reviewed proposals for alternate devices as requested in the Request for Proposal.
E	Proposal is in line with Ram's Pillar 2 - Wellness and Preparedness, 2C School Safety and Security

Recommendation	Board Motion
	To approve the contract with IVS, Inc. dba AngelTrax Dothan,, Alabama in the amount of \$18,223.69 for District Transportation Video Monitoring System to be paid with funds from the 2019 bond proceeds.



Rockford Public Schools

Bid Tabulation

Name: District Transportation Video Monitoring
Date: November 10, 2025 at 11:00am

#	Bidder Name	Contract Form (Y/N)	Security (Bond/Check)	Familial Statement (Y/N)	References (Y/N)	Contract Exceptions (Y/N)	Electronic Version (Y/N)	Section 28 20 01 Video Monitoring Transportation	NOTES:
1	Safety Vision, LLC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$19,973.10	
2	IVS, Inc. dba AngelTrax	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$18,223.69	
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									



Memorandum

To: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools
From: Allison Clements, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Date: December 8, 2025
Subject: RHS Bleachers and Elevator

Utilizing Rams XII Initiative Pillar 5.C.2 Modernizing Infrastructure, Enhance student learning experiences through facility renovation and construction, the high school gymnasium bleachers are in need of replacement in the year 2026. The bleachers are original to the school from 1992, and the replacement will bring the bleachers into compliance with the current ADA standard. The floor below the bleachers will be replaced due to bowing from the weight of years of spectators. The gym floor will be refinished as a part of the project to ensure a consistent finish.

Another aspect of this project is the replacement of one of the high school elevators. A new elevator and pulley system will be installed. The elevator shaft will remain. This project supports Rams XII goal 5.C.3, Ensure district facilities and programs are accessible to all in our school community.

These projects were presented to Finance Committee on December 2. The total bid for this project came in at \$1,626,208. It is the recommendation to the board to approve the project. Funds for this project will come from Sinking Fund.

ATC/jg

Attachment



Rockford Public Schools

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ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School Bleacher & Elevator Replacement Sinking Fund – Bid Package No. 2

Award Summary & Bid Tab Results

December 8th, 2025

OWNER:

Rockford Public Schools
350 N. Main St.
Rockford, MI 49341

ARCHITECT:

GMB Architecture & Engineering
85 East Eighth Street Suite 200
Holland, MI 49423

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:

Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.
126 Ottawa Ave. NW Suite 600
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Rockford Public Schools
Sinking Fund Bid Package No. 2
High School Gym Bleachers & Elevator Replacement
Bid Summary Sheet
Construction Manager: Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.



	BID CATEGORY	CONTRACTOR	BASE BID	ALTERNATE A-1 Prep & Paint Handrail @ Upper Track	AWARD TOTAL
1	Metals	Rail Components	36,800		36,800
2	Painting	K&A Painting	15,800	14,800	30,600
3	Wood Athletic Flooring	Floor Care Concepts	114,333		114,333
4	Gymnasium Equipment	Bareman and Associates	56,900		56,900
5	Telescoping Bleachers	Interkal Inc.	831,300		831,300
6	Elevator	Kone Inc.	109,622		109,622
7	Electrical	Grand Valley Electrical	32,350		32,350
	Gym Floor Dead-Spot Repair Allowance	Owen Ames Kimball Co.	10,000		10,000
	Floor Protections and Logistics Allowance	Owen Ames Kimball Co.	45,000		45,000
	General Conditions	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	157,918		157,918
	Prevailing Wage Allocation	Rockford Public Schools	7		7
	CM Fee	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	54,421	572	54,992
		Billing Subtotal	1,464,451	15,372	1,479,822
	Building Contingency @ 10%		144,849	1,537	146,386
	TOTAL		1,609,300	16,909	1,626,208
CD Budget					1,738,454
over/(under)					(112,246)



Rockford Public Schools
Sinking Fund Bid Package No. 2
High School Gym Bleachers & Elevator Replac
Motion Recommendation
Construction Manager: Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.



RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Award, in the amount indicated, to contractors and suppliers listed below, pending confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met. Furthermore, that upon receipt by Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. of the appropriate documentation, contracts be awarded to these contractors and suppliers by Rockford Public Schools.

1 Metals	Rail Components	36,800
2 Painting	K&A Painting	30,600
3 Wood Athletic Flooring	Floor Care Concepts	114,333
4 Gymnasium Equipment	Bareman and Associates	56,900
5 Telescoping Bleachers	Interkal Inc.	831,300
6 Elevator	Kone Inc.	109,622
7 Electrical	Grand Valley Electrical	32,350
Gym Floor Dead-Spot Repair Allowance	Owen Ames Kimball Co.	10,000
Floor Protections and Logistics Allowance	Owen Ames Kimball Co.	45,000
General Conditions	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	157,918
Prevailing Wage Allocation	Rockford Public Schools	7
Contingency/Fees	OAK	201,378
TOTAL		1,626,208



Memorandum

To: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools
From: Allison Clements, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Date: December 8, 2025
Subject: RHS Boilers

The Rockford High School boilers are original to the building and at the end of useful life. This project will replace the two large boilers with three smaller, more efficient boilers. The replacement will leave room for a possible fourth boiler to be added if needed with any future potential RHS expansion. This project supports Rams XII Initiative Pillar 5.C.1 Planning for the Future: Prioritize current and future district needs for school bond consideration.

The bid for the Rockford High School boiler replacement was presented to Finance Committee on December 2. The total bid came in at \$1,510,758. The recommendation to the board is to approve the bid package for the boiler replacement project. This project would be funded with the proceeds from the 2019 Bond.

ATC/jg

Attachment



Rockford Public Schools

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ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bid Package No. 24 High School Boiler Replacement

Award Summary & Bid Tab Results

December 8th, 2025

OWNER:

Rockford Public Schools
350 N. Main St.
Rockford, MI 49341

ARCHITECT:

GMB Architecture & Engineering
85 East Eighth Street Suite 200
Holland, MI 49423

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER:

Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.
126 Ottawa Ave. NW Suite 600
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



	BID CATEGORY	CONTRACTOR	BASE BID	Alternate No. G-1 Relocate Fire Pump	Alternate No. G-2 Domestic Water Heater System	AWARD TOTAL
1	General Trades	VanderKodde Construction	27,400	3,150	-	30,550
2	Mechanical & Plumbing	A&B Mechanical	817,100	6,795	189,900	1,013,795
3	Fire Protection	Blaze Fire Protection	-	9,800	-	9,800
4	DDC Controls	ControlNet	88,700		9,950	98,650
5	Electrical	Grand Valley Electrical Services	61,950	1,150	350	63,450
	General Conditions	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	106,072			106,072
	Prevailing Wage Allocation	Rockford Public Schools	5			5
	CM Fee	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	42,546	807	7,735	51,088
		Billing Subtotal	1,143,773	21,702	207,935	1,373,410
	Building Contingency @ 10%		114,388	2,170	20,790	137,348
	TOTAL		1,258,161	23,872	228,725	1,510,758

CD Budget
over/(under)



Rockford Public Schools
Bid Package No. 24
High School - Boiler Replacement
Motion Recommendation
Construction Manager: Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.



RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. be authorized to issue Notice of Pending Award, in the amount indicated, to contractors and suppliers listed below, pending confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met. Furthermore, that upon receipt by Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. of the appropriate documentation, contracts be awarded to these contractors and suppliers by Rockford Public Schools.

1 General Trades	VanderKodde Construction	30,550
2 Mechanical & Plumbing	A&B Mechanical	1,013,795
3 Fire Protection	Blaze Fire Protection	9,800
4 DDC Controls	ControlNet	98,650
5 Electrical	Grand Valley Electrical Services	63,450
General Conditions	Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.	106,072
Prevailing Wage Allocation	Rockford Public Schools	5
Contingency/Fees	OAK	188,436
TOTAL		1,510,758



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
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RPS Board of Education Finance Committee Minutes

December 2, 2025

Meeting Location: Administration Building

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Attendance: Allison Clements, Jake Himmelspace, Barb Helms, Jarrod Folsom, Jarrod Gauss, Shawn Hayward, Chris Meuser, Tom VanDeGriend, Joanne Gerhard

Jake Himmelspace called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Jake Himmelspace called for a moment of silence.

Jake Himmelspace motioned to approve the agenda.

2026 Summer paving project has been postponed indefinitely. Due to the failure of the 2026 bond proposal.

1. **District Transportation Video Monitoring System Bid-** Chris Meuser presented the results of the bid. RPS mechanics will install the system in the buses, saving the district money. Going forward the new buses will be outfitted with a video monitoring system. IVS, Inc dba AngelTrax was won the bid with a cost of \$18,223.69 to come out of proceeds from the 2019 Bond.
2. **RHS Bleachers and Elevator Bid-** Jarrod Gauss and Shawn Hayward detailed the bid summaries for the bleacher and elevator replacement. The existing bleachers and elevator are original to the high school. The project concept was presented to the Building and Site Committee on September 18. The bid total is \$1,626,208. The funds for this project will come from Sinking Fund.
3. **RHS Boilers Concept-** Shawn Hayward presented the bid summary for the RHS boiler replacement. The project concept was presented to the Building and Site Committee on September 18. The total bid came in at \$1,510,758. The project will be funded with proceeds from the 2019 Bond.
4. **2016 Bond Refunding-** Allison Clements informed the committee about an opportunity for a potential refunding of a portion of the 2016 School Building and Site and Refunding Bonds. Current interest market conditions indicate a refunding in the spring of 2026 could result in considerable savings to the district.
5. **Non-Homestead Millage Renewal-** Allison Clements informed the committee of the upcoming need for renewal of the Non-Homestead Operating Millage in 2026. The previous non-homestead operating millage from 2022 was for 4 years. This millage is necessary to receive the full funding of the foundational allowance awarded from the state. This millage is not assessed on primary residence.
6. **Audit-** Allison Clements shared the successful completion of the 2024-2025 Audit. RPS had a clean audit. Hungerford plans to present the results of the audit at the January Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.



Rockford Public Schools

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Human Resources Department

Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent

350 N. Main Street • Rockford, MI 49341

Phone: 616.863.6554 • Fax: 616.863.6355

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8:30 a.m. Administration Office

December 3, 2025

Present: Kelley Freridge, Christie Ramsey, Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Jill Avink (recorder).

Not Present: Tricia Anderson

SUMMARY	AGENDA ITEMS
Korie Wilson-Crawford welcomed everyone. Kelley Freridge called the meeting to order at 8:33 am	Welcome
Christie moved the approval of the October 8, 2025, meeting agenda. Kelley Supported	Approval of 12/03/2025 agenda
Christie moved the approval of June 3, 2025 minutes. Kelley Supported	Approval of 10/08/2025 Minutes
Korie shared that Messa's medical insurance rates went up 15.6% for 2026 and how that impacts the employees. The RPS dental plans will move from BCBS to ADN effective January 1 st .	Insurance Information:
Korie discussed the hiring process after a question about a 2026-2027 opening was asked. Korie shared the interview process and rubric that is used. Kelly shared that a board member should never be part of a hiring decision.	Staffing & Hiring Update
A confidential personnel concern was shared with the Committee.	Personnel Report
Korie updated the committee on bargaining and the budget and how it will affect a specific group of employees. Korie will continue to work with the unions on some changes going forward.	Bargaining Update
There will be a closed session before the board meeting on Monday 12/8 to discuss the Superintendents' evaluation. The committee reviewed individual board responses and scores on the Superintendents evaluation rubric. The committee shared what the board members needed to prepare for the 12/8 meeting.	Superintendent Evaluation
Kelley Freridge adjourned the meeting at 9:54 am	Adjournment

cc: Board members
Central office administrators



Memorandum

To: Steve Matthews Ph.D., Superintendent
From: Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Date: December 4, 2025
Subject: District Literacy Report

Dr. Matthews,

As we prepare for the upcoming Board of Education meeting, I am writing to provide you with a brief overview of the literacy presentation that Director of Literacy, Sharon Wells, and I will be sharing.

We are currently in our second year of using the new CKLA curriculum (DK-5) and we had planned to share an overall student achievement and instruction update in the spring. However, I decided to move the report up based on a recent news story and opinion piece published in a local paper referencing Rockford's reading proficiency and instructional methodologies.

The purpose of the literacy presentation is to demonstrate the student learning trends and characteristics of RPS' DK-12 literacy programming. Specifically, we will share how firmly aligned our current instruction is to educational research and "industry best practices" of Science of Reading and Response to Intervention practices. We will also share student achievement data trends and show how teacher teams inspect student learning needs to set targets for individual students by grade level.

The RPS Literacy Programming is a gold standard in our district and across our region. We have high quality and equitable student learning outcomes across our district's classrooms and teacher efficacy is increasing. Included in this packet is a copy of the presentation that we will use at Monday's meeting.

We look forward to the opportunity to present and welcome any questions ahead of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Mike Ramm

RPS Board of Education Literacy Instruction Update

December 8, 2025



Purpose:

Communicate the landscape of ELA student achievement in Rockford Public Schools and how it relates to historical and future curriculum and instruction initiatives.



RPS Core Values and Collective Commitments



ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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CORE VALUES

- Student-Centered Action
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Transparency

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS

- We will take **collective responsibility** for the success of **EVERY** student.
- We will model the behaviors we expect of our students; including **respect, inclusion, positive interactions** and **lifelong learning**.
- We will hold ourselves accountable to a **collaborative** process that develops each student's potential using **evidence-based strategies**.
- We will act with **integrity** and **transparency** in our communications and interactions with all stakeholders.
- We recognize that **productive discourse** which includes competing ideas is an essential byproduct of a successful commitment to student learning.



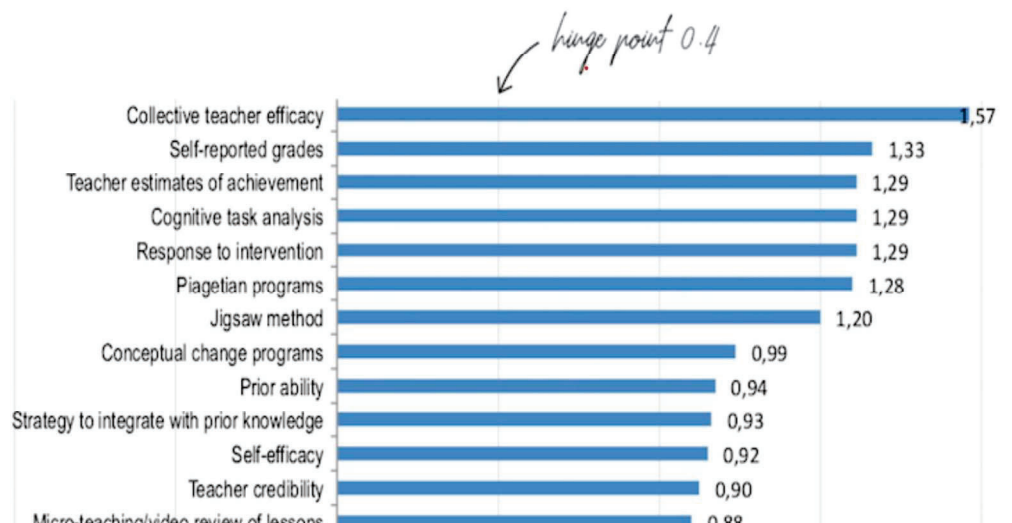
Instructional Research and Best Practices



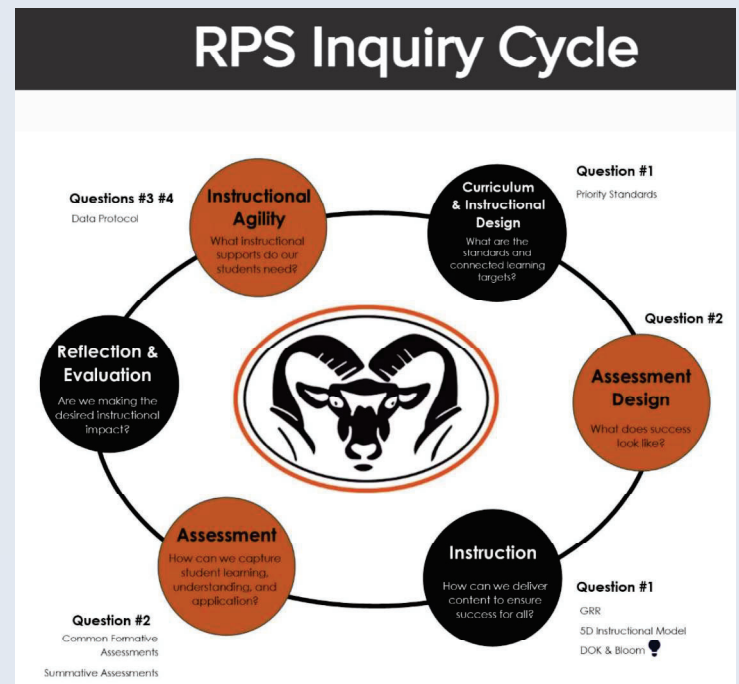
Hattie's 2018 updated list of factors related to student achievement: 252 influences and effect sizes (Cohen's d)

Source: J. Hattie (December 2017) visiblelearningplus.com

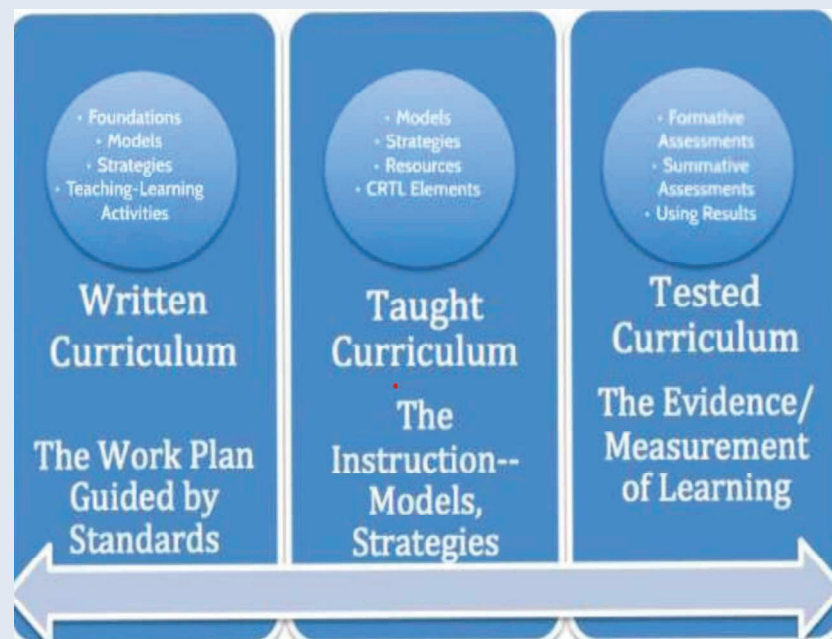
Diagram: S. Waack (2018) visible-learning.org



Professional Learning Communities



Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum



The Science of Reading

- ❖ Over 5 decades of vast, interdisciplinary scientifically-based research
- ❖ Understanding how science impacts literacy
- ❖ Knowledge of the brain
- ❖ Purpose for intentional literacy instruction
- ❖ Shifting thinking of how to teach reading

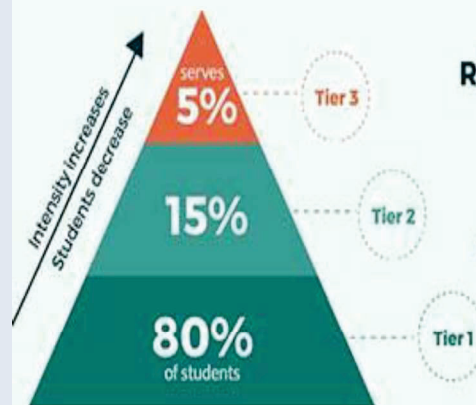


What it is NOT...

- new information
- a program
- just phonics
- a trend
- about the English language only
- a quick fix

Response to Intervention

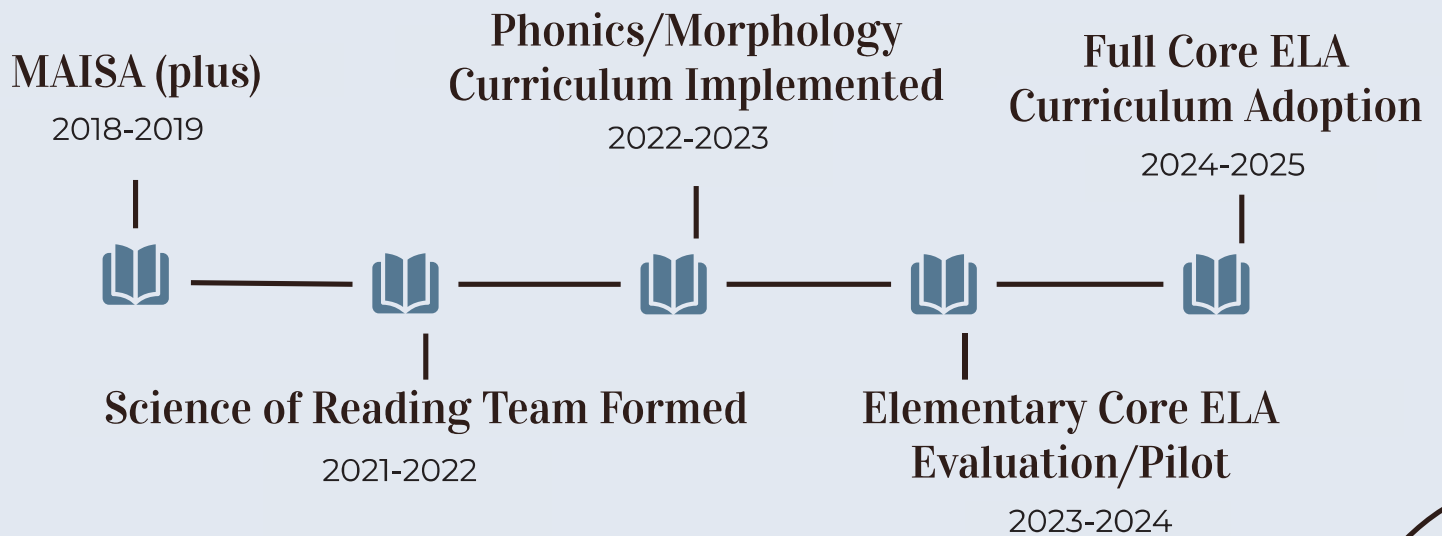
1. What is Response to Intervention?



Response to Intervention (or RtI)

is a data-driven, multi-tiered system of support that is designed to help struggling learners in general education settings.

Literacy Curriculum Timeline



Reading RtI Process

Reading Response to Intervention Pyramid

Tier I:

90-120 minutes

Access to Priority Standards for all students

Tier II Flex Time:

After each CKLA unit, flex days are built into the pacing for intervention purposes

Targeted time and support to intervene and/or extend grade level Priority Standards

Tier III:

30-50 minutes
4-5 x per week

Intensive
Remediation

Tier III Trends: Indicators of Success

RPS Tier III Trends

	October 20	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25		December 20	November 21	November 22	November 23	November 24	November 25
BLT	6%	10%	7%	8%	8%	7%	BLT	6%	10%	7%	6%	5%	5%
CAN	11%	12%	4%	5%	6%	8%	CAN	10%	9%	3%	4%	7%	7%
CWD	6%	10%	4%	6%	6%	3%	CWD	5%	7%	3%	3%	3%	3%
EDG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8%	6%	EDG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	5%
LKS	9%	10%	7%	7%	8%	6%	LKS	9%	9%	6%	6%	6%	6%
MDR	8%	8%	10%	7%	4%	4%	MDR	6%	4%	9%	3%	3%	5%
PKS	8%	10%	10%	7%	7%	N/A	PKS	6%	8%	10%	5%	4%	N/A
RGW	7%	8%	8%	4%	4%	3%	RGW	7%	6%	4%	2%	3%	3%
RGW SI	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	9%	RGW SI	7%	4%	5%	6%	5%	7%
VLV	6%	8%	5%	7%	7%	7%	VLV	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%	6%
AVERAGE	8%	9%	7%	6%	6%	6%	AVERAGE	7%	7%	6%	4%	5%	5%
ERMS		8%	8%	4%	2%	3%	ERMS		4%	6%	2%	0%	0%
NRMS		6%	5%	2%	3%	3%	NRMS		3%	5%	1%	2%	1%
AVERAGE		7%	7%	3%	3%	3%	AVERAGE		4%	6%	2%	1%	0%



Reading Data

Assessments



Grades K-8



NWEA

Grades 8-11



College Board
(PSAT/SAT)

Grades 3-8, 11

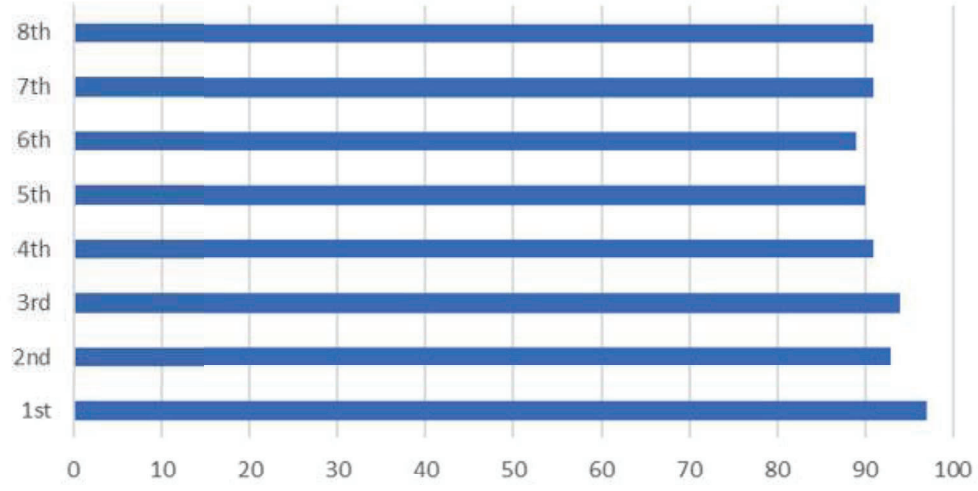


M-Step



NWEA

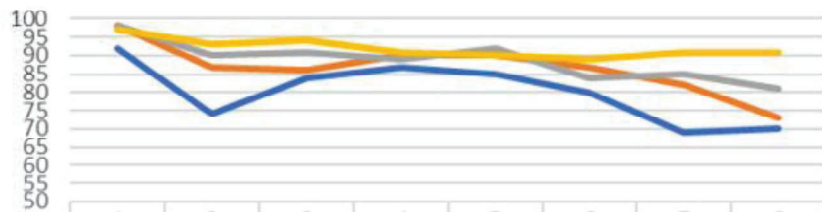
National Achievement Percentile



English Language Arts



4 Year Trend NWEA Reading



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reading								
Fall 2022	92	74	84	87	85	80	69	70
Fall 2023	98	87	86	90	90	87	82	73
Fall 2024	98	90	91	89	92	84	85	81
Fall 2025	97	93	94	91	90	89	91	91

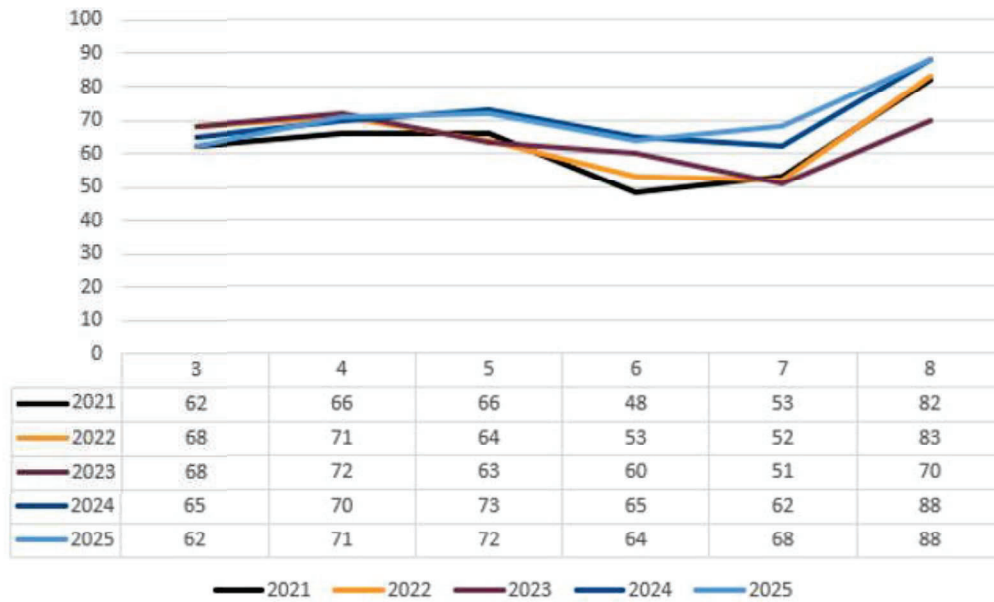
Fall 2022 Fall 2023 Fall 2024 Fall 2025

English Language Arts



MSTEP/PSAT 8

MSTEP/PSAT 5 Year Trend ELA

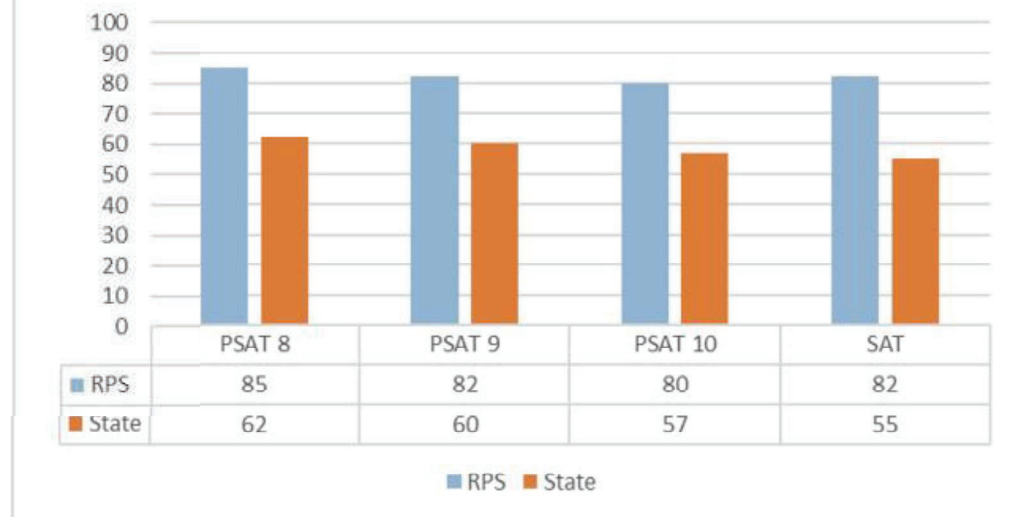


English Language Arts



PSAT/SAT

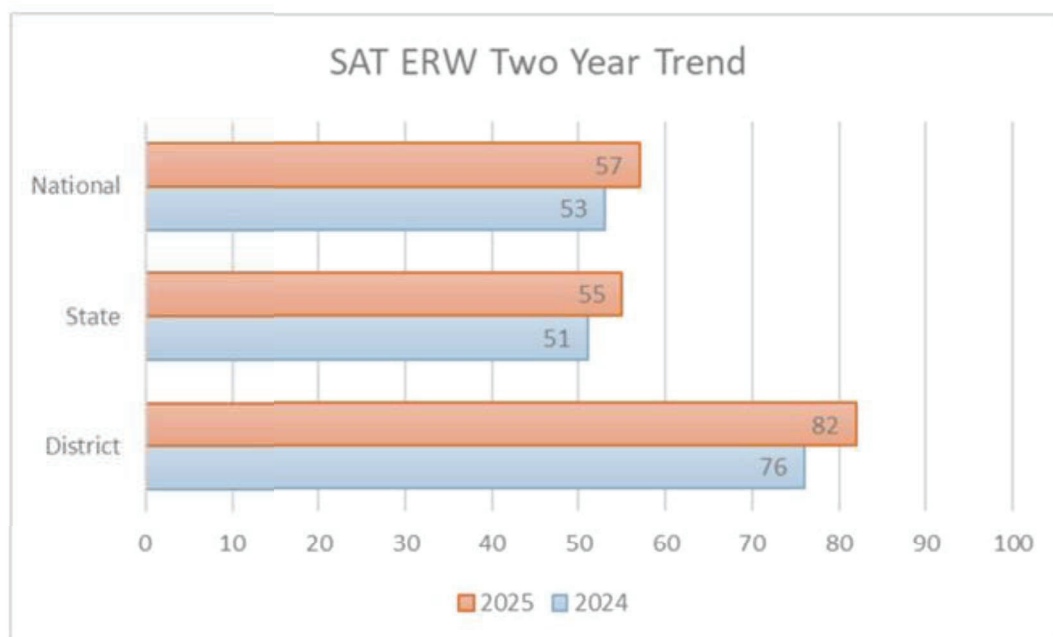
2025 PSAT/SAT Rockford/State Comparison ERW



English Language Arts



SAT



English Language Arts



Reading Action Planning

Grade Level Tier I Action Planning Meetings

Rockford Public Schools K-8

Fall Tier I Action Planning Goal Protocol

Purpose: Create Tier I Action Plans using FALL - NWEA (MAP Growth) data to meet/exceed Building M-STEP (Gr 8-PSAT) achievement goals.



DATA DISCUSSION

Step 1. Principal - Building Overview		Prompts/Reports/Documents
	Share ALL Grade-Level Reading / Math M-STEP goals	To be written at the September Data Summit
	Share ALL Grade-Level Building Reading and Math Fall NWEA data	Achievement Percentile from Achievement Status and Growth Report
Step 2. Coach/Teachers- Grade-Level		
	Share Grade-Level Reading and Math NWEA data	Prefilled CAT Agenda: Grade Overview Tab (based on 01stfile) Grade Report
	Determine Grade-Level Reading/Math M-STEP Student Achievement Targets	Use Fall NWEA data
	Share NWEA and M-STEP proficiency correlation	Linking Study (p.19-20)
Step 3. Coach/Teachers - Class-Level		
	Share Class-Level Reading and Math NWEA data	Prefilled CAT Agenda: Class "Overall" cell (based on 01stfile) Class Report
	Calculate the actual percent of students on track for M-STEP proficiency	*calculated by finding the number of students that meet or exceed grade level correlated percentile and dividing it by the total number of tested students.

Building Student Achievement Planning

Elementary - Rockford Public Schools Student Achievement Building Targets English Language Arts - 2025/26						
Grade	Spring 2025 State Assessment (M-Step) Proficiency	Fall 2025 Benchmark Assessment Proficiency (NWEA) Data	Winter 2026 Benchmark Assessment Proficiency (NWEA) Target	Spring 2026 Benchmark Assessment Proficiency (NWEA) Target	Spring 2026 State Assessment Proficiency (M-Step) Target	Describe Your 3 Year State Assessment (M-Step) Trend
	61% and above (green and blue on NWEA)					
Kdg - 5th Grade		71%	77%	83%		
Kdg		59% 26 of 44 students	70% 31 of 44 students	80% 35 of 44 students		
1st		71% 29 of 41 students	78% 32 of 41 students	85% 35 of 41 students		
2nd		71% 27 of 38 students	78% 30 of 38 students	85% 32 of 38 students		
3rd	71% 40 of 56 students	83% 35 of 42 students	87% 37 of 42 students	90% 38 of 42 students	80%	3rd Grade 2023 - 65% 2024 - 70% 2025 - 73%
4th	72% 33 of 46 students	68% 34 of 50 students	74% 37 of 50 students	80% 40 of 50 students	80%	4th Grade 2023 - 77% 2024 - 71% 2025 - 70%
5th	69% 31 of 45 students	71% 33 of 46 students	76% 35 of 46 students	80% 37 of 46 students	80%	5th Grade 2023 - 66% 2024 - 80%

Responding to Student Learning: District Level Supports



RtI Task Force



**Instructional
Coaches**



Interventionists



K-9 RtI Process



**Dyslexia Task
Force**



**Intensive,
Systematic
Interventions**



Literacy Instruction Summary

Celebrating Literacy

Bridge Magazine
Article~Bucking the Trend

Meadow Ridge Elementary
National Blue Ribbon School

Top Ten MSTEP District in 24-25
for Overall Test Scores



Top 50 M-STEP/PSAT results, by district

Search a district or county in the window below. Data is % of students who tested advanced or proficient for the 2023-24 school year.

Rank	District	Met req.	Total tested	County
1	Byron Center Public Schools	74.1%	5,374	Kent
2	Northville Public Schools	71.8%	8,282	Oakland
3	East Grand Rapids Public Schools	71.4%	3,728	Kent
4	Spring Lake Public Schools	69.9%	2,693	Ottawa
5	Birmingham Public Schools	69.2%	8,364	Oakland
6	Forest Hills Public Schools	67.2%	11,088	Kent
7	Bloomfield Hills Schools	67.0%	5,873	Oakland
8	New Buffalo Area Schools	66.9%	634	Berrien
9	Novi Community School District	66.8%	8,235	Oakland
10	Rockford Public Schools	66.6%	8,845	Kent
11	Caledonia Community Schools	66.4%	5,512	Allegan
12	Hartland Consolidated Schools	65.7%	5,900	Livingston
13	Brighton Area Schools	64.7%	6,646	Livingston
14	Troy School District	64.0%	11,607	Oakland



Community Champions of Literacy

Rockford Book Bus

Reading Rocks Festival

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Rockford Education Foundation
Focus on Literacy

Krause Memorial Library



Developing competence in literacy is a foundation for life. Rockford Public Schools is committed to ensuring this happens with all students at the highest level possible.