

(3/27/19 District Administrator's Corner article)

The River Valley School District continues to do well, better than our peers, on the objective School District Report Card score provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. At the same time, property taxes levied by the River Valley School District have decreased over the last four years.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates, ranks, and provides every public school district in the State a District Report Card using an overall Accountability Score. The single numeric Accountability Score each district receives is a composite variable, which is a single number calculated from measures including how our students perform on standardized assessments, graduation rates, and student growth from year to year. The River Valley School District, which historically has been an average school district compared to others across Wisconsin, has improved our District Report Card score and ranking over the last two years.

The 2017 District Report Card published by the Wisconsin DPI, which utilized data from the 2016-2017 school year, gave the River Valley School District an accountability score of 81. This placed River Valley in the "Exceeds Expectations" range and we were ranked 37th out of the approximately 370 Pre-K through 12th grade school districts in Wisconsin. Our score and ranking on the 2017 District Report Card was the highest out of the eleven school districts we share a border with, including us, and second out of six schools in our athletic conference.

We attained similar results on the 2018 District Report Card which uses data from the 2017-2018 school year. On the 2018 District Report Card, River Valley received an accountability score of 79.9, which again placed us in the "Exceeds Expectations" category and ranked us 66th out of approximately 370 Pre-K through 12th grade school districts. Our score and ranking on the 2018 District Report Card was the second highest out of the eleven school districts we share a border with, including us, and second out of six schools in our athletic conference.

We are proud of the scores we have achieved over the last two years and our staff continues to work to improve the results obtained by the students we serve. When comparing the River Valley School District to the school districts that most resemble us, our neighbors and conference peers, we are doing well.

We have been able to achieve these results with less resources. The mill rate, the amount of tax dollars the River Valley School District levies per \$1000 of assessed property value, has decreased over the last four years. Specifically, the mill rate levied by the River Valley School District has decreased from \$11.19 in 2016 to \$10.78 in 2017, to \$10.73 in 2018, to \$9.71 for the 2019 calendar year. Our mill rate has not been this low since the 2008 tax year and has been in the \$10 and \$11 range for the last decade.

Again, we are proud that we have been able to keep costs down at the same time making updates to our facilities to better enhance instruction and achieving positive educational results which benefit the students and families who live in the River Valley School District.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Wermuth, District Administrator
River Valley School District