

(3/26/25 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

The River Valley School District provides an incredible educational experience and we thank our families and citizens for supporting our schools. The River Valley community passed 3-year operational referendums in 2019, and again in 2022, to preserve existing programs, courses, services, and manageable class sizes. However, the 2022 operational referendum expires at the end of this school year.

Also at the end of this school year, River Valley will close the Early Learning Center in Plain. For the foreseeable future, all students will attend our three remaining schools on the campus in Spring Green. We have stated that moving to a 3-building configuration increases efficiencies throughout the District and saves \$1,000,000 annually. However, while these savings help reduce the amount needed for the operational referendum, they only cover a portion of our projected deficits.

Folks at our community informational meetings have asked some great questions. Many of these questions have centered around the state funding formula. Despite significant cuts we have made to the District budget over the last decade, the state funding formula isn’t enough to maintain existing programs, courses, services and class sizes offered to students. But River Valley is not alone in struggling with the state funding formula. As noted by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, in 2024, the statewide total was 241 school referenda held, with 138 happening in the fall and 103 in the spring. This represents the most school referenda ever in a single year, narrowly surpassing the previous record of 240 in 1998.

The River Valley School District referendum asks voters for continued tax funding over the next 3 years to maintain existing educational courses, programs, services, and moderate class sizes. These funds are not for new buildings or facilities. As the District navigates this process, we are here to provide updates and opportunities for community engagement. Please reach out to the district office at 588-2551 if you have any questions. We encourage all residents to stay informed and to participate in the discussions that will shape the future of our schools.

You can also find referendum details on the district website:

<https://www.rvschools.org/district/operationalreferendumapril12025.cfm>

We are proud of the work we do and the offerings we provide. Please vote, Tuesday April 1, 2025.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator  
River Valley School District