



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

To: Operations Committee
From: Ryan Berry
Date: July 21, 2026
Subject: Health Life Safety Survey

Introduction

The physical safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors is the highest priority of the District. To ensure our facilities maintain a secure and compliant learning environment, a **10-Year Health/Life Safety (HLS) Survey should be completed on three of the district's facilities.**

This survey serves as a comprehensive, independent evaluation of our district's physical infrastructure. It provides the Board with a transparent roadmap for prioritizing necessary capital repairs, facility modernizations, and safety upgrades over the next decade.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the board approve FGM Architects to conduct the district's 10-year Health Life Safety Survey and submit it to the ISBE for River Trails Middle School, Euclid Elementary School, and Indian Grove Elementary School.

Background

In accordance with the **Illinois School Code**, all public school districts in Illinois are legally required to undergo a comprehensive safety resurvey of all occupied buildings every ten years.

This mandated process involves:

- **Licensed Professional Evaluation:** Retaining a state-licensed architect or engineer to inspect all school structures, systems, and grounds.
- **Code Compliance:** Identifying any conditions that violate the minimum health and safety standards set by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.
- **Regional Office of Education (ROE) Filing:** Submitting the finalized Safety Survey Report through the ROE to ISBE for formal review and approval.

While the Regional Office of Education conducts annual walkthroughs to ensure ongoing, daily compliance (such as clear exits and proper chemical storage), the 10-year survey is a deep-dive structural, mechanical, and systemic audit designed to catch long-term facility deterioration.

The last time the 10-year HLS survey was conducted was in 2017 and it will be expiring this year. Prairie Trails school is not being included because it was updated in 2021 when the school was recommissioned.

Financial Impact:

The cost of the survey is done based on a cost per square foot of the building. River Trails Middle School is calculated at \$0.22 per square foot and the elementary schools are calculated at \$0.20 per square foot. The total cost of the survey is \$43,271.32.

Attachments

- FGM proposal