

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

3340 S. Harlem Ave. Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-5007
708-447-3252 fax
www.district96.org



To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye

Date: June 17, 2026

Re: Recommendation to Shift from 5Essentials to Panorama Survey System

Recommendation

I recommend that Riverside District 96 transition from the 5Essentials survey to the **Panorama Survey platform** beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, and concurrently discontinue our membership with EAB.

Background & Context

The Illinois State Board of Education recently approved the Panorama Survey as an official, allowable alternative to the mandated 5Essentials survey for students (Grades 4-8), parents, and staff. Currently, District 96 utilizes the free 5Essentials tool but supplements it with an annual EAB membership to administer a specialized staff morale survey. Our EAB contract expires in September 2026. Transitioning to Panorama allows us to consolidate all student, family, and staff morale feedback into a single, cohesive platform.

Financial Impact: \$7,000 Annual Savings

By eliminating EAB and adopting Panorama, the district will reduce its annual survey software expenditures while gaining a superior tool.

Current Model	Proposed Model	Annual Net Savings
5Essentials (Free) + EAB Morale Survey (\$18,000/year)	Comprehensive Panorama Platform (\$11,000/year)	\$7,000

Key Strategic Benefits

Consolidated Insights: Merges student, family, and staff morale data into one dashboard, making it easier to track district-wide and school-level morale, climate, and culture goals.

Higher Engagement: Peer districts that have transitioned to Panorama report significantly higher participation rates, yielding a more accurate, representative sample of our community.

Actionable Data: Panorama provides a more user-friendly, digestible interface than 5Essentials. Clearer data will allow leadership and staff to translate feedback into immediate district improvements.

Stakeholder Endorsement

Over the past several months, I have actively vetted this transition with internal and external leadership groups. The shift to Panorama has been endorsed by:

- The District Leadership Team
- The Family and Community Partnerships Action Team
- Parent Leadership Team
- The Riverside Education Council (REC)
- The Goal 3 Action Team (focused on staff morale)

Next Steps

Continue plan to non-renew EAB membership and begin onboarding the Panorama platform for the 2026-2027 school year.