



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

September 10, 2024

Good afternoon,

An article on [mlive.com](https://www.wlax.com) today identified the top 50 school districts in Michigan based on their M-STEP performance. As you know the M-STEP assessment is given to students in grades 3-8 and 11. The results show Rockford did very well.

- All subjects combined: Rockford 10th in the state
- English Language Arts: Rockford 10th in the state
- Mathematics: Rockford 11th in the state
- Science: Rockford 5th in the state

Our students are learning thanks to their hard work, support from our parents and community, and the wonderful work of our teachers and staff. Thanks to our Office of Instruction and Mike Ramm, Sharon Wells, Maggie Thelen, and our instructional coaches.

Rockford High School and Grandville High School are inviting you to the Varsity Football Game on Friday, September 13th at Rockford High School. Gates open at 5:30pm and the game starts at 7:00pm. The Rams and Bulldogs will be honoring and thanking our veterans and active service members in both communities by allowing them free entrance to the game. Prior to the start of the game, we will ask that all veterans and active service members stand up from their seats for a moment of recognition. We look forward to a great night of football and honoring our Armed Forces heroes! Go Rams!

Last week we had a good reminder about the importance of school safety. I have attached information from Be Smart about gun safety. [Gun safety.pdf](#)

As a reminder we participate in the OK2SAY program, a confidential tip line run by the Michigan State Police. If anyone hears an issue that causes a student safety concern, they can call 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729). More information can be found here: [OK2SAY - Michigan Student Safety Program](#)

**At last night's Board of Education meeting the following items of interest were discussed:**

#### **Our Grow Your Own program update**

- This is our effort to recruit and train more teachers funded with a grant from the state of Michigan. We currently have 85 staff participating in this program.

#### **Bus inspection report**

- Our buses are inspected each year by the Michigan Department of Transportation. This year was another very positive report. We have 66 buses. There are 3 categories: Green, Yellow, Red. We had 64 green, 1 yellow, and 1 red.
- As a point of clarification, a red tag identifies an important issue but not necessarily one that would render the bus undriveable. This year's red tag was a concern that one gas tank had a leak. The mechanics examined the bus tank and could not find the leak. We felt it might have been diesel from the hose used to fill up the tank leaking onto the tank.

#### **Bond/construction update**

- Our construction manager Owens, Ames, and Kimball (OAK) presented an update on our summer construction projects. Bond updates can be found on the district website under the news tab on the home page.

#### **RAMS XII Strategic Plan**

- The board was updated on the implementation planning that is taking place with our updated RAMS strategic plan. RAMS XII is now highlighted on the front of our district website where you can find a link to the complete RAMS XII document.

You can find information on our board meetings on our district website: [Board Meetings – Rockford Public Schools \(rockfordschools.org\)](#)

This week it looks like the heat will return during the day. Evening temperatures will cool off so that is in our favor. I appreciate the effort our staff and students give to ensure that even on hot days learning still takes place in our buildings.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews  
Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools