

# Richland County Community Unit School District No. 1



**State of the District Report  
2023**

# 2022 in Review

## Lifting of COVID-19 Restrictions

In February of 2022 there was a lifting of pandemic-related restrictions.

There was a return to most normal activities throughout the school district in the spring of 2022.

ISBE prioritized a return to full in-person learning in August of 2022 and the school district restricted remote learning options.

# COVID-19 Impact on Learning Loss

Strategies to reduce learning loss were implemented throughout the school district. These included:

- Increased academic support
  - Additional paraprofessionals in primary grades
  - Redesigned Title I reading program
  - Math interventionist
  - X-Block at RCMS and OTA at RCHS focused on interventions
- Strengthened summer school
  - 6-week program that ran in June and July
- Social/Emotional support
  - SEL lessons in classrooms
  - Counseling partnership with LCHD

## New Staff in 2022

There were 17 new licensed staff in the district to start the new school year.

- RCES - 10
- RCMS - 2
- RCHS - 5

About half of the administrative team was new or in new positions.

- RCHS - new principal and assistant principal
- RCMS - new principal and assistant principal
- Special Education - new director and assistant director
- Curriculum Director - new position added this year

# Early Learning Center

Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 30, 2022



# 2022 School Report Card

Released in October of 2022

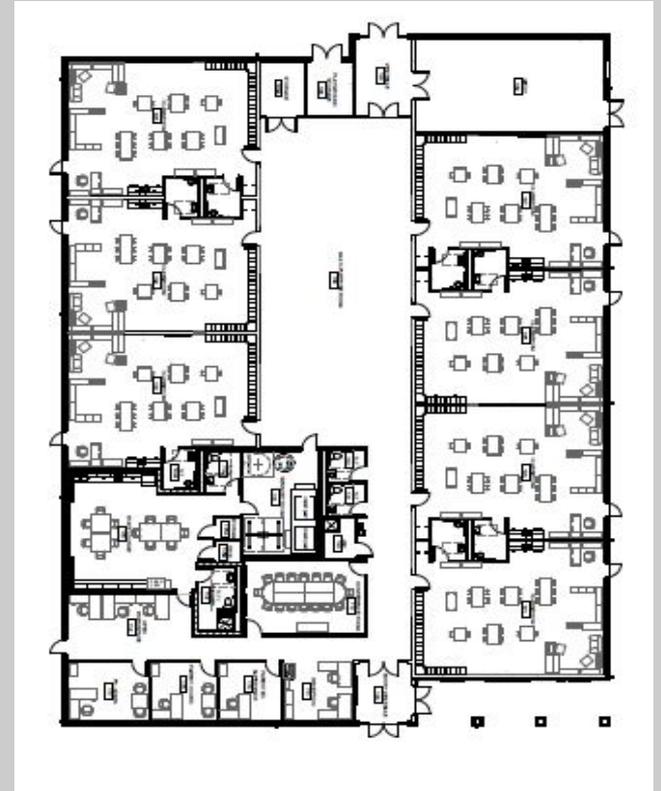
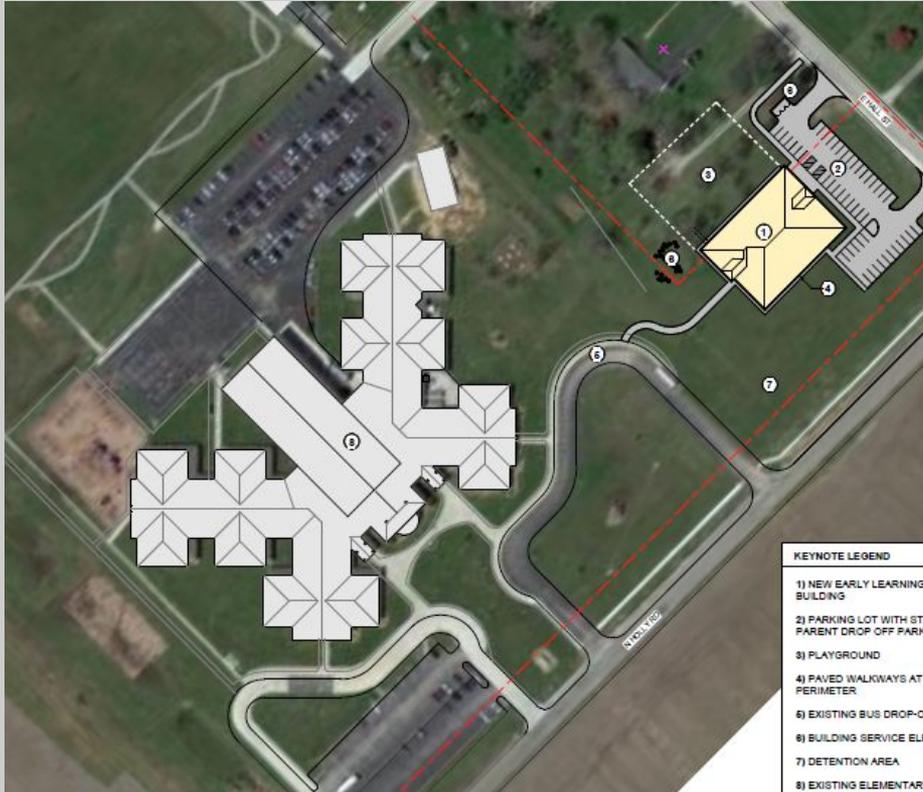
## **Summative Designation**

Each Illinois school receives a Summative Designation from the Illinois State Board of Education. This designation is a measure of progress in academic performance and student success. A Commendable Designation is one that does not have any subgroups of students that are underperforming. Student subgroups include students from low-income families, major racial and ethnic identities, students with Individualized Education Plans (special education), and English language learners.

- Richland County Elementary School - Commendable School
- Richland County Middle School - Commendable School
- Richland County High School - Commendable School

# Opportunities & Challenges in 2023

## Early Learning Center



# Early Learning Center

- Approximately 16,200 sq. ft.
- 7 PreSchool classrooms
- Large multipurpose area
- Also house parent educators for Birth to Three Program
- Administrative offices and meeting space
- Estimated completion date of late May 2023

# Expanded Opportunities at RCES



Addition of a STEM program

Bring back special education classrooms from SESE

Ability to add sections of a grade level as necessary

Better utilization of instructional space

## Challenges Facing the District

One of the two biggest challenge facing the school district is the ability to fill open positions with capable and qualified staff. This includes licensed positions as well as educational support positions.

- Ongoing Teacher Shortage due to three primary factors (Cited from *America's Education News Source*)
  - 1) A long term decrease in enrollment in teacher preparation programs
  - 2) A decrease in the respect for teaching as a profession
  - 3) A decrease in interest in teaching as a career choice

- Nationwide, it has been estimated that there were between 36,000 - 52,000 unfilled K - 12 teaching positions in 2022. (*America's Education News Source*)
- In Illinois, there were more than 2,100 unfilled teaching positions in Illinois in 2022. (*ISBE statistics*)
- In Illinois, there were more than 2,400 unfilled paraprofessional positions in Illinois in 2022. (*ISBE statistics*)
- In the late 1990s, there were more than 100 applicants for an elementary teaching position in the Richland County School District. In 2022, the number of applicants for an elementary teaching position was less than 10.

# Projected Openings 2023 - 2025

<b>RCES</b>	<b>RCMS</b>	<b>RCHS</b>
Kindergarten (3)	Health	Business
2nd Grade	Social Studies (2)	Librarian
3rd Grade	Special Education	PE/Health/Driver Ed (2)
5th Grade		Science (2)
Art		Industrial Arts
Librarian		Agriculture
STEM		Family & Consumer Science
Special Education		

The second significant challenge facing the school district in 2023 is the continued negative impact associated with the disruption to learning from the pandemic.

- Learning Loss
- Increase in disruptive behaviors
- Decreased engagement in school
- Poor attendance

# District/School Improvement Plans

In April 2021 the board of education approved the three improvement priorities for the district to pursue over the next 3 - 5 years.

## Improvement Priority 1: Teaching & Learning

- Every student will show annual growth in reading and math achievement as measured by local and state assessments
- Alignment of curriculum to Illinois Learning Standards within a grade level and across grade levels and content areas
- Identify learning gaps and develop strategies to mitigate these gaps
- Implement professional learning for teachers, administrators, and educational support staff that focuses on raising student achievement and improving educator effectiveness

## Improvement Priority 2: Educate the Whole Student

- Identify social/emotional needs of students
- Provide professional learning opportunities for staff on evolving student demographics and cultural diversity
- Create a learning environment that is safe, welcoming and engaging for all students
- Provide learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom and the school building

## Improvement Priority 3: Highly Effective Educators & Support Staff

- Identify long term personnel needs and develop strategies to recruit and retain highly qualified staff
- Develop and implement a “Grow Your Own” initiative for administrators, teachers, and support staff
- Identify the professional learning needs of licensed staff and educational support staff
- Provide mentoring and support for new licensed staff and educational support staff

# Student Performance & Demographic Data

## Changing Student Demographics

- Since the late 1990s, there has been a gradual shift in the demographics of the school district
- Increased diversity in the student population
- Increase in the percentage of low-income students
- Increase in the number of students that are English Language Learners (ELL)
  - Currently there are 8 native languages in addition to English
  - Russian, Spanish, Thai, Italian, French, Chinese, Gujarati, Urdu

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
White	98.6%	96.9%	91.4%	91%
Black	0.4%	0.8%	0.3%	1.0%
Hispanic	0.5%	1.2%	3.8%	3.5%
Asian	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%
Two or More Races	—	0.5%	3.4%	3.7%
Low Income	37.1%	42.8%	53.6%	51.5%
Students w/IEP	—	—	13%	12%
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2348</b>	<b>2118</b>	<b>2390</b>	<b>2194</b>

## Student Performance Data

- Richland County School District Strategic Dashboard

<https://ecriss.ecragroup.com/strategy/Home/Index?Dashboard=RIC001>

- Illinois School Report Card

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>

- Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) - Grades 3 - 8

- English/Language Arts - 4% increase in scores
- Math - 15% increase in scores

- Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) - Grades 5, 8, HS

- 6% increase in scores

- SAT - Grade 11

- ELA - 1% increase in scores
- Math - 24% increase in scores

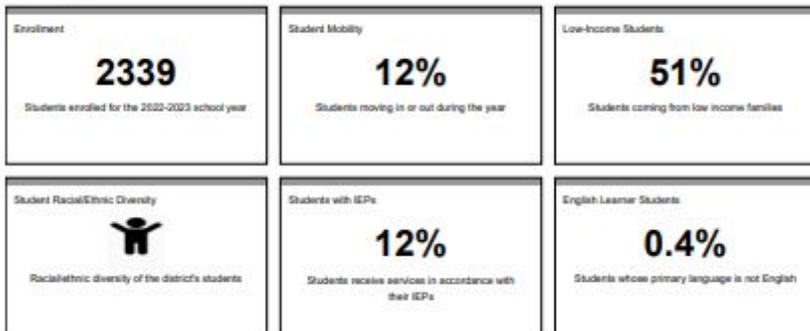
# Richland County School District Strategic Dashboard



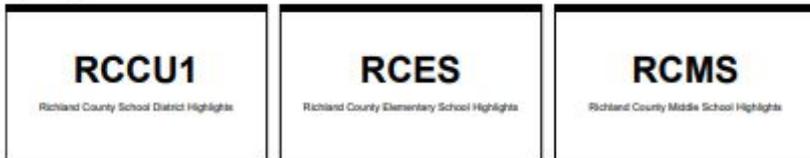
## Richland County CUSD #1



### District Characteristics



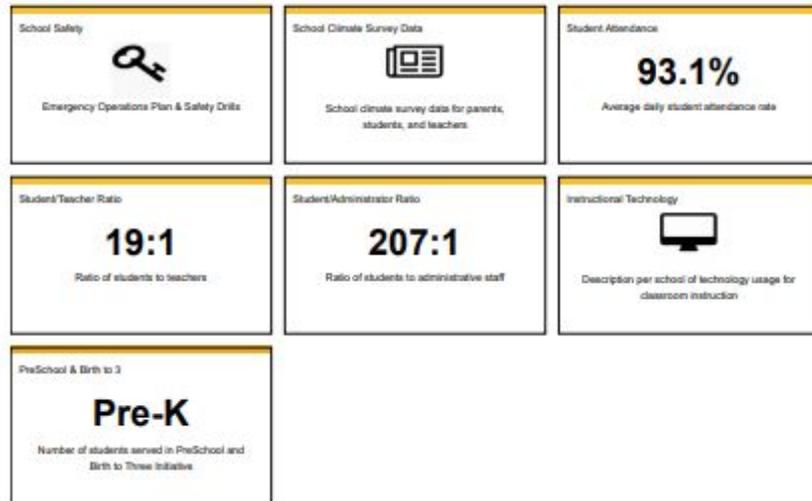
### District & School Highlights



## Richland County CUSD #1



### Learning Environment





## Richland County CUSD #1



### Student Achievement & Success

<p>Graduation Rate</p>  <p>Students graduating on time</p>	<p>Freshmen on Track</p> <p><b>84%</b></p> <p>Percentage of Grade 9 students on-track to graduate</p>	<p>Student Proficiency</p> <p><b>%</b></p> <p>Due to COVID-19, all state assessments were suspended in spring 2020</p>
<p>College Credit Hours Earned</p> <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Average number of college credit hours earned at graduation</p>	<p>Star 300 Assessments</p>  <p>Percentage of students at/above district benchmarks</p>	<p>Kindergarten Readiness</p>  <p>Kindergarten students' readiness assessment percentages</p>



### Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular Opportunities

<p>RCMS Student Organizations</p> 	<p>RCMS Athletic Teams</p> 	<p>RCHS Student Organizations</p> 
<p>RCHS Athletic Teams</p>  <p>RCHS 2021-2022 Athletic Participation</p>		



## Richland County CUSD #1



### Finance and Operations

<p>School Board Governance</p> 	<p>Financial Adequacy</p> <p><b>68%</b></p> <p>Financial adequacy for high quality education</p>	<p>Budget</p> <p><b>\$</b></p> <p>FY22 Budget</p>
<p>Ending Fund Balances</p>  <p>in millions of dollars</p>	<p>Revenue Sources</p> <p><b>\$</b></p> <p>2022 Revenue Sources</p>	<p>Tax Levy</p> <p><b>\$</b></p> <p>2022 Tax Levy</p>
<p>Fiscal Health</p> <p><b>3.70</b></p> <p>FY21 Financial Profile Score (score range from 1.00 - 4.00)</p>	<p>Education Expenditure</p> <p><b>%</b></p> <p>Expenditure spent on education</p>	
<p>RCCU1 Capital Projects</p> 	<p>Early Learning Center Photos</p> 	<p>RCHS Renovation Photos &amp; Videos</p> 

# Conclusion

The school district has faced some challenging circumstances in the past year, but the focus remains on helping students succeed to the best of their ability. RCCU1 is fortunate to have a committed and dedicated faculty and staff, a strong administrative team, and a supportive community to help make the year 2023 a good year of student success.

