

Sept. 4, 2026

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Rock Ridge School District
1405 Progress Parkway
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Dr. Schmidt and School Board Members:

On behalf of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR), I'm pleased to share that your school district received important financial support made possible by Minnesota's mining industry. Revenue generated through iron mining continues to play a vital role in strengthening our regional schools and expanding educational opportunities for the students and families we serve.

For the 2026-2027 school year, the Rock Ridge School District will receive \$4,900,000 to support annual school bond payments, as part of the total \$102,700,000 projected over a 20-year period. These funds are allocated by IRRR through the Iron Range School and Community Development Account.

Your district also received a direct allocation of \$3,646,259 from the Taconite Production Tax (TPT) in 2025, as well as \$172,631.67 from the Permanent School Fund (PSF) in the 2025-2026 school year. While both funding streams are rooted in Minnesota's mineral wealth, they originate from different sources: the TPT is paid by mining companies in lieu of local property taxes, based on the tonnage of iron ore mined and processed in the region. In contrast, the PSF revenue comes primarily from state-managed mineral royalties on school trust lands and is distributed statewide based on student enrollment. Together, these investments ensure that the economic benefits of mining continue to support our students, schools and communities.

At IRRR, we are committed to reinvesting in the region and advancing the prosperity of northeastern Minnesota. Education remains at the heart of that mission. The investments made possible by mining help ensure our youth are prepared for the future—whether they choose to enter the workforce, pursue higher education or return to contribute to our communities in new ways.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please reach out to the IRRR Communications team at information.team@state.mn.us. We appreciate your service to the school district and the vital role you play in guiding the success of our students.

Sincerely,



Ida Rukavina
Commissioner