

School District of River Falls
Educational Program Committee Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023 - 6:00 PM

Renaissance Charter Academy

1355 Sunshine Avenue

River Falls, WI 54022

Educational Program Committee members: Alan Tuchtenhagen (Chair), Lindsey Curtis, & Cindy Holbrook

Agendas can be viewed at <https://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/district/school-board.cfm> or at

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1447>

1. **CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 p.m.**

2. **MANNER OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

3. **HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS**

4. **English Language Program Assistant (ELPA) Report**

2

Description: Nataly Gomez will give a report regarding her work as the English Language Program Assistant.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

5. **Renaissance Academy Tour and Update**

Description: Renaissance Academy Coordinator Chris Silver will provide a tour of the new Renaissance building and will give an update on how the new space is working for Renaissance students and staff.

Recommended Action: None, informational only

6. **General Education Diploma Option 2 (GEDO-2) Program Presentation**

14

Description: School administrators will provide a presentation on GEDO-2 programming and how it might work in the School District of River Falls.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

7. **Social Studies Curriculum Survey**

Description: Director of Academic Services, Nate Schurman, will share a survey developed through curriculum cycle work that will be utilized to gather feedback from various stakeholders regarding the Social Studies program in the School District of River Falls.

Social Studies Stakeholder Survey

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

8. **Proposed/suggested items for the next regular and future Educational Program meeting agenda(s)**

Description: As always, committee members will be given the opportunity to suggest items for future committee and/or Board meeting agendas.

Recommended Action: As needed.

9. **Schedule next Educational Program Committee meeting**

Description: Upcoming committee meeting dates, times, and locations will be reviewed.

Recommended Action: Set the meeting schedule as follows:

Educational Program Committee meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

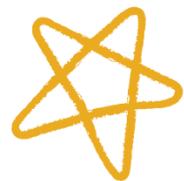
The meeting will be held at the District Office, 852 E. Division Street.

10. **ADJOURN**



English Language Program Assistant

December 4, 2023



Overview

ELPA

Process

Facts

Family Engagement

Questions

English Language Program Assistant

Nataly Gomez

5 years with the District
Interpreter/Translator
Title I Math
Bilingual Paraprofessional
ELPA



6

Schools



Daily tasks



20

Newsletters
per Month

- Monitor Caseloads
- Infinite Campus behind the scenes
- Newsletters
- Title III Requirements

31

Families



EL team

Our mission is to guide students to English proficiency and academic growth by co-planning and co-serving through proactive practices that meet the needs of all learners.

4 EL Teachers

18:1

2 Bilingual Paras

Providing EL Services at all schools

Consult bases with St. Bridget's & RF4C



ELL TEAM



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Nataly Gomez
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Questions

EL Identification

Process

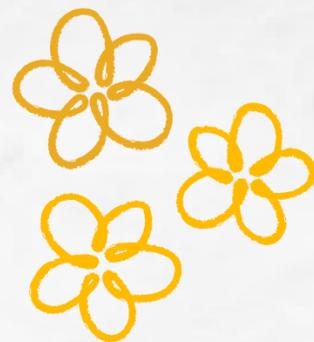
Home Language
Survey

Screenener

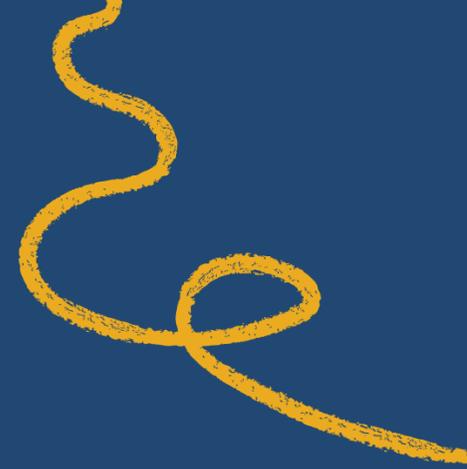
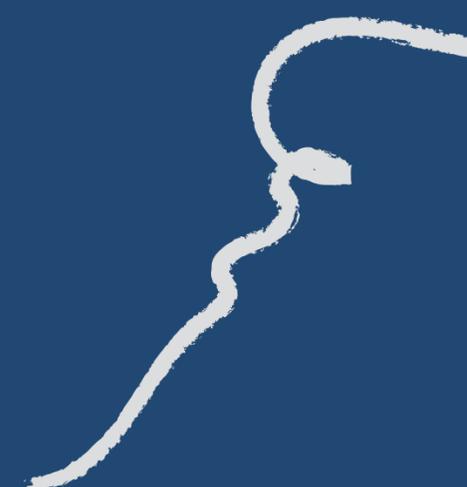
Placement

Services/ILP

ACCESS Test

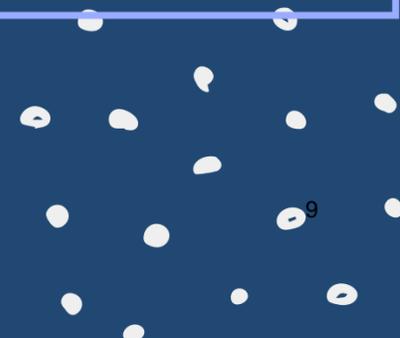


Facts



	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Students	57	59  +3%	69  +21%	69
Languages	7	7	12  +58%	14  +100%
Exited the Program	5	1	2	~9  +55%

Baseline



Languages



Spanish

Hmong

Russian

Welcome

Binvinutu, Valkommen, Willkommen, Welkom, Bem-vindo, Croeso, Servetuloa, Benvenuto, Velkommen, Selamat datang, Aloha, Vite, Veldošli

RF

Languages Spoken in SDRF

ENGLISH	ARABIC
SPANISH	GREEK
MANDARIN CHINESE	RUSSIAN
HMONG	UKRAINIAN
GERMAN	OTJIHERERO
TAGALOG	FRENCH
AMHARIC	PERSIAN

Wisconsin Immigrant Children and Youth Grant

The ESEA defines immigrant children and youths as individuals who:

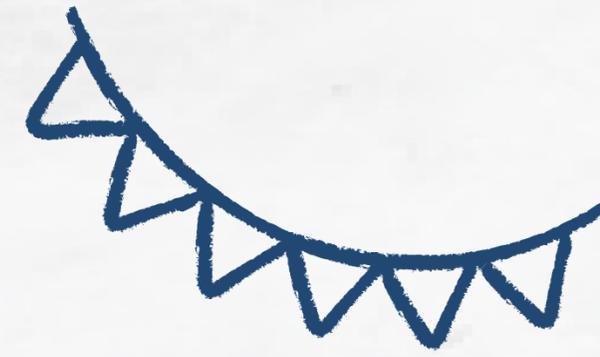
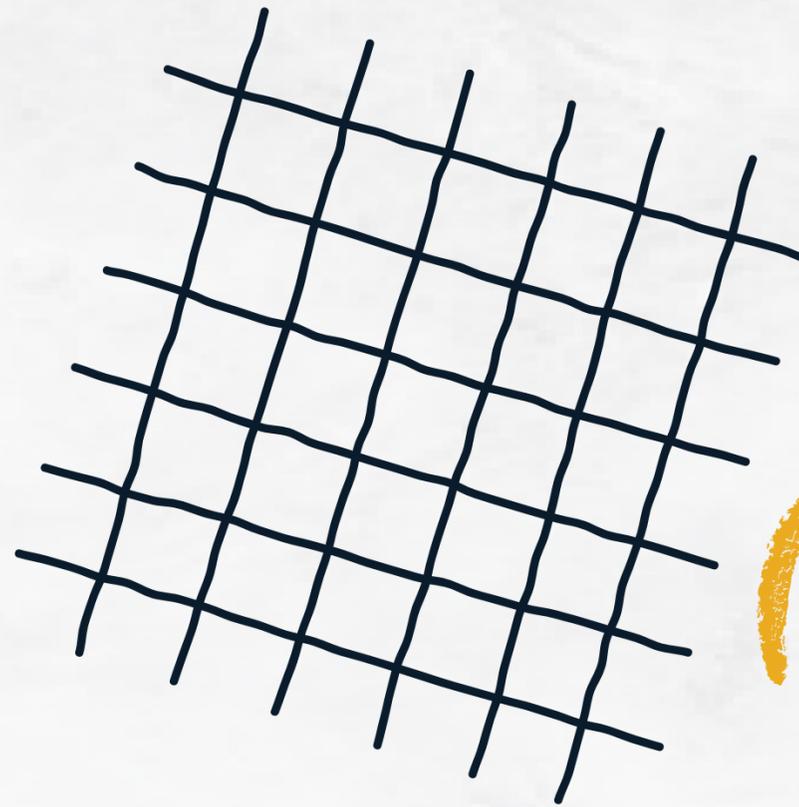
- are aged 3 through 21;
- were not born in any state (defined as each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico); and
- have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more states for more than 3 full academic years. (Months counted for schooling need not be consecutive.)

Eligibility for this grant is grounded in a 25% increase of immigrant children and youth over the average of the two years prior.

2021 - 0

2022 - 0

2023 - 22



Family Engagement



Free & Reduced Lunch

Basics for Local Kids

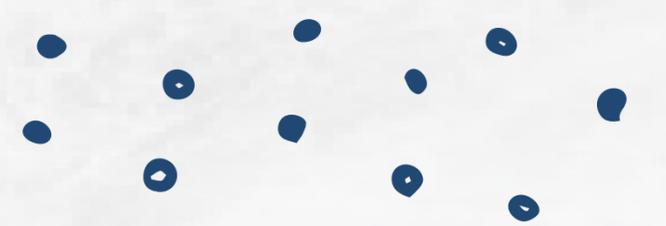
Home Visits

Open House with RFHS Admin

Sports

thank You

Questions



Alternative Graduation Pathway

GEDO Option 2



What is GEDO #2?

- The GED Option #2 (GEDO #2) Program allows authorized school districts to use the GED test battery to measure proficiency in lieu of high school credit for students enrolled in an alternative education program.
- A student who passes the GED test(s) and completes the other requirements for graduation is entitled to the traditional high school diploma.



Who would qualify for Option 2?

- Students served will be **at least 17 years of age**;
- Students will be **at least one year (8 credits/16 courses) behind** their 9th grade class in credits earned;
- Students served should be able to demonstrate **an ability to read at or above the 9th grade level** using a district approved reading assessment that is appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy.
 - A district may use any district approved or standardized test to screen for reading ability. **We are currently using Fastbridge.**



What are the hour requirements?

- At least **15 hours of instruction are required each week.**
- The student will be required to participate in at least **10 hours of math, science, social studies, language arts, or health instruction** each week until their instructors certify that they are academically prepared to take the final GED test.
- Passing of the **Civics Exam.**
- At this point a larger portion of the student's 15 hours per week can be devoted to employability skills, life skills, work based learning, postsecondary coursework, or apprenticeship.



Example Schedule

Model #1: In-Person Two Days/Week

Tuesday and Thursday

8:00 - 11:00 GED Prep Coursework
(Edmentum)

11:00 - 11:30 Lunch

11:30 - 1:30 Electives including but not
limited to Life Skills, Employability
Skills, CTE Coursework

1:30 - 3:30 GED Prep Coursework
(Edmentum and FTF)



Example Schedule

Model #2: In-Person Five Days/Week

Monday - Friday

12:30 - 1:30 Electives including but not limited to Life Skills, Employability Skills, CTE Coursework

1:30 - 3:30 GED Prep Coursework
(Edmentum and FTF)



Where would the program take place?

Option #1: Renaissance Charter
Academy (Room 170)

Option #2: RFHS Location

**Program must be offered through
an Alternative HS (§115.28)**



Why Are We Considering Option 2?

- By Junior/Senior year, a small number of students in the District have no pathway to graduation via traditional means, despite considerable efforts to intervene.
 - Class of 2025: ~9 Students (3.3%)
 - Class of 2026: ~10 Students (3.3%)
- Economic investment in our region
 - Employment and transition outcomes are significantly stronger for students who earn a High School diploma.
- Viable option for students who struggle with traditional school schedule and expectations (provides additional flexibility).
- Many of our neighbors provide this option as a pathway for a select group of students



Why Are We Considering Option 2?

- Gives ALL students a chance to earn a HS diploma regardless of their individual circumstances
 - Positive Alternatives
 - Students returning from other programming
 - Significant family situations
- Students completing the GEDO-2 program count as 'graduates' which is important for...
 - School Report Card
 - Joint Federal IDEA Notification
- Eliminate the need to do individual contracts with the CVTC HSED program (GEDO-1 Option).
 - 7 Students (2.5%)



Enrollment/Selection Process

A formal meeting is required before a student is allowed to begin a GEDO #2 program. This meeting must include:

- a.** A discussion of the educational options available to the student.
- b.** The academic, attendance and behavioral expectations of the student once enrolled in the program.
- c.** The consequences or changes that will occur if the student fails to comply with the program.
- d.** The anticipated goal of the program: a traditional high school diploma



Where do students take the test?

Northwood Technical College in New Richmond is the closest to RF.

When school districts are approved to offer the GEDO #2 program, they are notified of the closest approved testing site and the name of the Chief Examiner. Wisconsin has many approved testing centers, listed on the [DPI website](#). All are available to approved GEDO #2 programs.



Staffing the Option 2 Program

- **.5 FTE Alternative Education Licensure added position**
- **Pursue a grant to fund (or help fund) position**
- **Based on enrollment/schedule, cover this position with existing staff**





STUDENT ALTERNATIVE ENROLLMENTS

RFHS/REN Enrollment (Sept. Third Friday Count)	2023-24 (1121)	2022-23 (1163)	2021-22 (1155)	2020-21 (1101)
Virtual Academy	2.67% (30)	2.92% (34)	2.94% (34)	No access to data
% SpEd	6.45%	11.7%	11.7%	No access to data
% Non-White	33%	23.53%	23.53%	No access to data
% Free/Reduced	26.67%	23.53%	35.29%	No access to data
HSED w/CVTC	0.3% (4)	n/a	n/a	n/a
% SpEd	0%			
% Non-White	0%			
% Free/Reduced	75%			
Edmentum (RFHS/REN)	2.76% (31)	n/a	n/a	n/a
% SpEd	32%			
% Non-White	22.58%			
% Free/Reduced	45.16%			
Transferred to SCC	2.32% (26)	0.85% (10)	1.12% (13)	2.63% (29)
% SpEd	0%	0%	7.7%	10.3%
% Non-White	11.5%	0%	15.4%	6.9%
% Free/Reduced	46%	70%	38%	44.8%
REN	3.57% (40)	4.38% (51)	4.24% (49)	4.09% (45)
% SpEd	12.5%	12.91%	5.41%	4.62%
% Non-White	23.21%	14.52%	18.92%	10.77%
% Free/Reduced	41%	60.78%	85.71%	n/a