

FINANCIAL DATA

EAV	\$ 238,725,730
Bonds Outstanding	\$ 1,685,000
Total Budget Revenue	\$ 430,000
TAX RATE —	
Education	1.8600
Operations & Maintenance.....	0.2500
Transportation.....	0.1200
Working Cash.....	0.0500
I.M.R.F.....	0.0335
Tort Immunity.....	0.3435
Special Education.....	0.0200
Health Life Safety.....	0.0500
Social Security.....	0.0545
Lease	0.0500
Debt Service.....	0.3192
TOTAL	3.1507

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rock Falls THSD 301 Board of Education is comprised of citizens dedicated to providing the best education possible for every student it serves. Board members establish sound written policies and expect the superintendent to function as the chief executive officer in implementing those policies.

Name.....	*Years
Merle Gaulrapp, President	42
Matt Lillpop, Vice President	6
Heather Waninger, Secretary.....	3
Howard Janssen, Board Member	44
Jan McKanna, Board Member.....	4
Laura Oquendo, Board Member.....	2
Cheryl Lee, Board Member	1

*Years served on the Rock Falls THSD 301 Board of Education.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

Candidates will be evaluated on their professional merits and successful experience that demonstrates a good match for the district, with emphasis on the following, specified by the Board of Education. The Superintendent of our district should be an educational leader who:

- Fosters a professional culture for educators.
- Has finance/budget expertise.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills/collaborative.
- Ensures an inclusive, safe school environment.
- Develops a shared mission, vision and core values.
- Develops with stakeholders, district goals/strategic plan.
- Develops and works cooperatively/effectively with BOE.

Experience as teacher and principal
at secondary level required

Experience in district-level
position/superintendent preferred

Residency in district preferred

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED NOT
TO CONTACT BOARD MEMBERS.

Rock Falls THSD 301 is an equal
opportunity employer and the Illinois
Association of School Boards is an equal
opportunity employment search agency.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

IASB has an online application process and does not accept mailed, emailed, hand-delivered or faxed application packets.

Please begin your application process at: <https://iasb.myrevelus.com>

Applicants will need to establish a username and password. Applicants will be asked to give consent to a limited background inquiry. Completed responses to statements identified in this announcement will be required.

All applicants must apply online by 12:00 p.m. (CST) **September 29, 2025** and upload the following **PDF documents** to receive consideration:

1. A **formal letter of application** indicating your desire to be a candidate for this position.
2. A **formal resume** that includes a summary of achievements in all education positions, educational vision, and goals, personal leadership philosophy and reasons for your interest in this position.
3. At least **three recent letters of reference dated within the last three years.**
4. **Copies of transcripts** from each college/university attended. (Please redact/remove your social security number and birthdate before uploading any of these items).
5. **Proof of qualification and licensure to be a superintendent in the state of Illinois** (copy of the administrative licensure with all related endorsements*) or other evidence showing qualification to be a superintendent in another state. **(Please redact/remove your birthdate before you upload this document).**

ALL UPLOADS MUST BE IN PDF FORMAT.

*Information on certification and licensure can be obtained by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education, Department of Educator Effectiveness, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777 or by visiting the ISBE website at www.isbe.net.

Announcement of Vacancy
Superintendent
Rock Falls
THSD 301



MISSION STATEMENT

*Rock Falls High School provides
educational excellence for all students
in order to prepare them to be productive
members of a global society*

August 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY

The Board of Education of Rock Falls THSD 301, Rock Falls, Illinois is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent. The Board wishes to select a superintendent who will begin work on July 1, 2026.

The Board expects to offer a salary in the range of \$135,000 and \$165,000, and a competitive benefits package including Health Insurance, Life Insurance, TRS/THIS, Vacation Days, Sick Days, Personal Days, and Professional Dues. It is anticipated that the total compensation package will be based on successful experience and education. It is expected that the initial contract will be for a multi-year period, as authorized by Illinois statutes.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT AND THE AREA

LOCATION – RFHS is located in Northwest Illinois (the Sauk Valley) along the Rock River where Interstate 88 and Illinois Route 40 intersect. RFHS is 116 miles west of Chicago, 47 miles east of the Quad Cities, 68 miles south of Rockford.

TYPE — Grades 9-12; 506 Students.

OFFICE — 101 12th Avenue, Rock Falls, IL 61071.

STAFF — One Principal, 2 Assistant Principals, 40 Certified Faculty, 38.5 Non-Certified Staff.

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL — Superintendent, Business Manager, Bookkeeper, Payroll Clerk, Facility Director, Transportation Director, Food Service Director.

CURRICULUM —RFHS provides a multifaceted, comprehensive curriculum based on the Illinois Learning Standards. RFHS students have access to a wide range of courses, including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit (Sauk Valley Community College), College and Career Pathways, art, business, music/band, industrial arts, and consumer sciences. In addition, RFHS offers multiple levels

of courses beyond regular ed in order to meet the needs of the varying levels of student learners, including honors and fundamental levels. RFHS is also affiliated with the Whiteside Area Career Center so that 11-12th grade students can seek career certification in fields such as nursing, cosmetology, auto mechanics, welding, construction, and computer technology.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS — RFHS offers varying programs to meet student needs, from community service, character ed, leadership, and academics. BLIND (Building Lasting Impressions that Never Die), is a character ed program based on the 40 Developmental Assets that teaches students tolerance, leadership, and resilience. RFHS also offers students an opportunity to be a part of the Jr. Optimist Club whose mission is “to develop leadership, promote community service, and foster friendship among its members”. In addition, RFHS facilitates 9th-10th grade teams in order to monitor student achievement, discuss student concerns, strategize solutions, and celebrate successes. RFHS offers several academic programs, such as an early release incentive for those who meet the defined expectations, homeroom setting for those who do not earn the early release, and credit recovery for required credits needed for graduation.

SPECIAL SERVICES — The district is a member of the Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, offering services in Occupational, Physical, and Speech therapies and additional social services. The district’s student support services include two full-time counselors and a full-time school social worker.

FACILITIES — RFHS is a single building district, and west of the main campus is the 22-acre sports complex, housing an 8-lane track, football field, fitness center, and baseball and softball fields.

TRANSPORTATION — RFHS is a member of a consortium of area schools contracting with First Student. RFHS also owns and operates four activity buses.

FOOD SERVICES — RFHS provides food services in-house.

DIST. WEBSITE — www.rfhs301.org

MEMBERSHIPS — RFHS is an active member of the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois High School Association, Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, Whiteside Area Career Center, and Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

MEDICAL — Various medical, dental, optometrist, and pharmacy services are readily available.

RECREATION — Boating, hunting, fishing, camping, cycling, and hiking are examples of the Sauk Valley area. Golfers have multiple courses to choose from, and area communities host family-friendly festivals, carnivals and concerts.

PLACES OF WORSHIP — Most religious denominations are represented in the Sauk Valley area.

RETAIL — The Sauk Valley area is host to many restaurants and numerous shopping options.

FRATERNAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — Rock Falls Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion Post 902, United Way of Sterling, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, YMCA and the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce of Sterling.

COLLEGES — Sauk Valley Community College is in the Sauk Valley area, and

Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University are nearby.

INDUSTRY — Rock Falls and Sterling are home to Sterling Steel, Frantz Manufacturing, Illinois Forge, IFH Group, Hill Fastener, and Mazel & Co.

A PROJECTED TIMELINE

Application Deadline:
September 29, 2025 by Noon (CST)

Candidates Presented to Board:
October, 2025

Board Interviews Candidates:
Oct/Nov, 2025

New Superintendent Appointed:
Nov/Dec, 2025

New Superintendent Begins:
July 1, 2026

Applicants will be required to provide responses to the following online application statements:

1. Describe your experience in curriculum development and instructional implementation.
2. Describe your experience in school finance and budgeting.
3. Describe your experience in developing and monitoring goals for school improvement.
4. Describe your experience in building and sustaining productive relationships with stakeholders (board, staff, students, parents and community members).
5. Describe your experiences in working with a diverse population (socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, etc.).
6. Having read the ideal candidate section of the announcement of vacancy, why do you feel you are a match for this district

This Professional Superintendent Search is being conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards, Alan Molby, Consultant, Executive Searches, amolby@iasb.com or (630) 629-3776, ext. 1235

