

## What is the Riverdale Difference?

The Foundation serves an important purpose in defining that *difference* for the Riverdale community, clarifying what makes our public school district different from other Oregon public schools. As we know, school funding can be unstable, especially recently. Schools across Oregon have had to ride that uncertainty, often cutting programming and services to remain solvent (programs such as art, music, sports and after-school activities, or staffing, such as librarians and counselors). This is where the Foundation steps in.

Riverdale's unique and robust programming components:

<b>Fine Arts (includes Music &amp; Art at both the GS and HS)</b>	<b>\$406,000</b>
Quality Education Model (QEM)* recommends one full-time music specialist per school. Art education isn't called out in the QEM model - Riverdale goes beyond recommendations.	
<b>IA support and staffed Full-Time Sub</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
Provides supervision, one-on-one and group supports, and immediate coverage for teacher absences.	
<b>Librarians at the GS and HS</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
QEM recommends one full-time librarian for each of our schools.	
<b>Current curriculum adoptions</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
Administrative Rule 581-011-0070: Adoption cycle follows a seven-year period, following the adoption of instructional materials list from the State Board of Education. Allows us to remain current and adhere to an optimal and progressive state adoption cycle.	
<b>A timely tech replacement cycle</b>	<b>\$53,000</b>
QEM recommends a one-to-one student/adult-to-computer ratio. Recommends four-year replacement cycle.	
<b>Security</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>
Optimizing/staying current for our replacement and upgrade cycles.	
<b>Counseling Services</b>	<b>\$162,000</b>
QEM recommends one counselor for every 250 students. We go above this with a RHS College Counselor, the addition of Jory and other social-emotional service supports.	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,207,000</b>

Our collective Foundation donation goes to the district to fund, in part or in whole, the many items listed above. This is our Riverdale difference.

\*Oregon's optimal public education system is framed within the [Quality Education Model \(QEM\)](#). This model is considered the optimal/aspirational model of educational delivery. For the 2021-23 biennium to achieve the QEM, funding levels were recommended to be \$11.163 billion. The legislature funded the budget that year at \$9.3 billion. The 2023-25 biennium QEM funding level would need to be \$11.889 billion. Funding for the 2023-25 biennium is projected at 9.9 billion. Very few public schools in Oregon are able to achieve the QEM without additional funding streams.

With every dollar raised and with every pledge given, the Riverdale Community commits via its donations to maintaining critical and robust programming, materials and staff in spite of fiscal challenges. In comparison to other districts, especially those our size, our programming already goes above and beyond. So "maintaining" really means keeping our competitive edge. The five-year rolling average for foundation donations is \$1,203,000.