

Riverton Board to Discuss Personnel, Construction and Back-to-School Updates

Riverton School Board Meeting will be held at the Riverton Board of Education Office on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm. They will conduct the following business.

Consent Agenda: Roll Call; Approve the agenda; Approve the minutes of the last meeting; Approve the financial statement; Approve and pay bills.

Reports: Maintenance; Transportation; Principals; Superintendent: Update on back-to-school activities; Stadium Concession Stand and Restroom Update; Investment update; Bond Projects update.

Additions. Executive Session: Personnel matters of non-elected personnel; Negotiations.

The board will consider a motion to approve the 2026-27 Negotiated Agreement.

The board will consider a motion to approve salary adjustments: salary increase for non-certified staff; salary increase for administrators and supervisors.

The board will consider a motion to approve the assignment of mentor teachers for the 2026-27SY.

The board will consider a motion to approve a FMLA request as presented.

The board will consider a motion to accept a resignation as presented.

Adjournment.

USD 499 Board Tours School Improvements, Approves Employee Pay Increases

The Galena USD #499 Board of Education Meeting was held on Monday, August 10, 2026. They conducted the following business.

The board voted to approve the following items during the regular meeting:

- ♦ Sale of old driver's education car
- ♦ Negotiated Agreement
- ♦ Sick leave pool language change
- ♦ Step and column movement
- ♦ Insurance of \$845
- ♦ Adding \$1,000 to the base salary
- ♦ Fair Dismissal for 26-27 school year
- ♦ 2.1% increase for classified staff and the leadership team

Mr. Holbert gave the board a tour of the Gene Russell and Liberty buildings to see the construction work firsthand. They were impressed by the improvements that have already been made, as well as those that are planned for the future.

These investments will create better learning environments and opportunities for our students, and our students will be better off because of them.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting is Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Legal Notice

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 499 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:15 PM at 702 E 7th St, Galena, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at District Office on the district website and will be available at this hearing.

The Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2026-2027 Budget. The "Est. Tax Rate" (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget				
Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)		
OPERATING								
General	08	7,901,636	20.000	8,147,021	20.000	8,706,775	371.382	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	2,740,697	17.121	2,703,990	16.507	2,870,981	465,776	16.391
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	480,627		469,649		488,309		
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	108,158		110,267		180,000		
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0		
At-Risk Education Fund	13	1,836,420		1,887,681		2,051,371		
Bilingual Education	14	0		0		1,297		
Virtual Education	15	70,000		80,192		224,609		
Capital Outlay	16	300,893	7.965	830,871	7.967	2,675,097	221,305	8.000
Driver Training	18	16,607		19,689		44,591		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	607,672		607,395		735,161		
Professional Development	26	0		1,636		164,161		
Parent Education Program	28	0		0		0		
Summer School	29	0		0		0		
Special Education	30	1,300,335		1,296,661		1,683,450		
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	207,429		241,699		261,601		
Gifts and Grants	35	53,185		5,725		140,680		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
School Retirement	44	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	0		0		0		
KPERIS Special Retirement Contribution	51	728,671		727,078		819,781		
Continuance Reserve	53	0		165,000		0		
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	56	34,145		6,376		0		
Activity Fund	56	30,158		36,823		0		
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	342,365	6.826	3,082,469	6.841	447,308	191,390	6.883
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES								
Special Education	78	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	16,840,737	51.945	20,421,283	53.315	21,485,359	1,236,852	61.274
Less: Transfers	105	4,063,084		4,239,811		3,803,772		
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	12,777,653		16,181,472		17,681,587		
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	116	1,184,276		1,235,145		1,239,852		

* Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget				
Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)		
OTHER								
Historical Museum	80	0	0.812	28,846	1.000	26,000	27,800	1.000
Public Library Board/District	82	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Res. Comm. Emp. Benefits & Spec. Lab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	0	0.812	28,846	1.000	26,000	27,800	1.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	\$1,205,810		\$1,269,269		\$1,267,662		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	\$17,259,198		\$18,196,862		\$18,669,100		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$28,030,729		\$27,124,817		\$27,808,891		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	\$25,720,328		\$26,802,220		\$27,863,119		
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1								
2024								
General Obligation Bonds	135	\$3,020,000		\$10,269,000		\$10,269,000		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	160	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	163	\$82,416		\$83,249		\$81,495		
TOTAL USD DEBT	165	\$3,202,416		\$10,393,249		\$10,401,455		

* Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

David M. Allen
Board President

Chris D. Allen
Clerk of the Board

Legal Notice

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2026-2027 School Year

The governing body of Unified School District 499 will meet on the 14 day of September 2026 at 6:00 PM at 702 E 7th St, Galena, KS 66739 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, is available at District Office and will be available at this hearing.

Revenue Neutral		2026-2027	
General	Actual Taxes	Revenue	Proposed
General	\$363,337	\$363,337	\$371,382
Supplemental General (LOB)	\$466,991	\$501,999	\$455,776
Adult Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$217,254	\$213,893	\$221,305
Cost of Living	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Liability Expense Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Bond and Interest #1	\$185,583	\$185,561	\$191,390
Bond and Interest #2	\$0	\$0	\$0
No-Fund Warrant	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Temporary Note	\$0	\$0	\$0
Historical Museum	\$27,144	\$27,125	\$27,800
Public Library Board/District	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue Neutral Calculation			
Total Taxes Levied Including General Fund	\$1,289,289	\$1,291,655	\$1,267,652
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund	\$896,952	\$34,315	\$32,261

* Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

Legal Notice

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Comes back to Cherokee County

K-State Extension's Cherokee County office is encouraging adults to invest in their health and independence by participating in the upcoming Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (SSSH) program beginning this September in Columbus.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy is an evidence-based strength training program designed specifically for older adults. The program focuses on improving strength, balance, flexibility, and overall fitness through simple, progressive exercises that can help participants maintain independence and improve quality of life.

Classes will begin Tuesday, September 9, and meet twice weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 am at 124 W. Country Road in Columbus. The 8-week program includes 16 sessions and is offered for a reduced fee of \$10 per participant, thanks to a partnership with the Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

As people age, maintaining muscle strength becomes increasingly important. Research shows that strength training can help increase bone density, reduce the risk of falls, combat frailty, and support every-day activities such as climbing stairs, carrying groceries, and getting up from a chair. Participants in Stay Strong, Stay Healthy often report greater confidence in their ability to remain active and independent.

In addition to the physical benefits, the program provides opportunities for social connection and encouragement from peers. Participants receive a take-home exercise guide to help continue healthy habits beyond the class.

"Regular strength training is one of the most effective ways older adults can improve their health and maintain their independence," said Kylie Ludwig, Family and Community Wellness Agent with K-State Extension, Cherokee County. "This program provides a safe, supportive environment where participants can build strength and learn exercises they can continue long after the class ends."

All exercise equipment is provided, and no previous strength training experience is necessary.

Space is limited. To register or learn more, contact the K-State Extension Cherokee County office at 620-429-3849 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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