
DATE: February 20, 2026
TO: RAILS Board of Directors
FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director
SUBJECT: New Member Application

RAILS Member Engagement Specialist Jessica Silva will present two new member applications (LaHarpe Community School District #347 and North Park Elementary School) for your approval at our February meeting. The applications are included in your packet.

As a reminder, it is stated in our [Bylaws](#) under Article 4 Membership in the System, subsection A Eligibility that:

*The statutes and administrative rules of the State of Illinois and the Membership Criteria of the System govern Membership in the System. Any Public, School, Academic or Special library, within the service area, is eligible to apply for Membership. Participating libraries will hereinafter be known as Members. **Acceptance is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the System and the State Librarian and implies agreement by the applying library to applicable State statutes and rules and to the System's Bylaws, policies and Plan of Service.** Members agree to comply with policies, rules and regulations required for maintaining Membership.*

We look forward to sharing more information about these potential members at the February meeting.



Library Summary

Institution name: LaHarpe Community School District #347

Library name: LaHarpe Community School District #347

Library type: School

City: LaHarpe, IL

Primary library contact: Denise Kost

Recommended board action: Full Membership

Library holdings: 3500

OCLC member (yes or no): No

Online catalog (OPAC): Yes

eRead Illinois member (yes or no): No

Description:

LaHarpe Community School District #347 is in LaHarpe, IL in Hancock County. The district serves 200 students in grades K-8. Denise Kost serves as the librarian. She is part of the specials rotation. LaHarpe learned of this opportunity to join RAILS from Janet Gladu, superintendent, who came from another district that was a RAILS member and wanted to make sure that LaHarpe joined RAILS and receives membership benefits. She was able to connect with RAILS staff at the IASB conference to begin the membership process. They are excited to borrow books from other libraries, applying for the school district per capita grant, and learning opportunities for library staff.



Library Summary

Institution name: North Park Elementary School

Library name: North Park Elementary School

Library type: School

City: Chicago, IL

Primary library contact: Laura McCammack

Recommended board action: Full Membership

Library holdings: 8,887

OCLC member (yes or no): No

Online catalog (OPAC): Yes

eRead Illinois member (yes or no): No

Description:

North Park Elementary School is a private, independent school in Chicago, IL. The school serves 240 students from preschool to 8th grade. Librarian Laura McCammack is in her second year of librarianship. North Park is community oriented and practices schoolwide service learning, each grade level has a service partner. They also practice place based learning and city as a classroom as well as a design thinking class. The library has a fixed schedule, so Laura see every grade level for a lesson and check out. Laura has been using the databases with students and is looking forward to networking access and vendor discounts. North Park learned about RAILS membership from the virtual town hall that Leah Gregory and Janette Derucki organized.