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**DATE:** June 12, 2026  
**TO:** RAILS Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Monica Harris, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** New Member Application

RAILS Associate Executive Director Joe Filapek will present two new member applications for your approval at the June 18 meeting: Ridgeland School District #22 and St. Mary Nativity School. 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 June meeting.



## Membership Background

### Library Summary

Institution name:	Ridgeland School District 122
Library name:	Ridgeland School District 122
Library type:	School
City:	Oak Lawn
Primary library contact:	Melissa Mercado
Recommended board action:	Full Membership
Library holdings:	43,500
OCLC member (yes or no):	No
Online catalog (OPAC):	No
eRead Illinois member:	No

### Description:

Ridgeland School District 122 is located in Oak Lawn, IL. The district serves around 2,220 students. There are five schools in the district. There is one middle school, Simmons Middle School. There are four elementary schools: Columbus Manor Elementary School, Harnew Elementary School, Kolb Elementary School, and Lieb Elementary School. Each has a dedicated library paraprofessional. They reached out to RAILS for training for their library staff and are excited to attend the Illinois School Library Workers Symposium. They are also interested in the school library per capita grant and in additional resources and training for their paraprofessionals and staff.



## Membership Background

### Library Summary

Institution name:	St. Mary Nativity
Library name:	St. Mary Nativity
Library type:	School
City:	Joliet
Primary library contact:	Susan Ford
Recommended board action:	Full membership
Library holdings:	6463
OCLC member (yes or no):	No
Online catalog (OPAC):	Yes
eRead Illinois member (yes or no):	No

### Description:

St. Mary Nativity School serves about 150 students in grades PK-8, and librarian Susan Ford serves the students. Ford schedules class visits and supervises after-school care in the library, where students can read and do homework. Teachers can sign up for library time, including story time and personalized reading. The library serves as a multi-purpose center for students and teachers. They also host paws-to-read and book fairs. They are currently finalizing the automation. Susan has served as librarian for two years and is a former Fountaindale Public Library employee. St. Mary are excited for deals and discounts, connections with other libraries and school libraries, and resources like the statewide database package.