

# ALBURNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

*Home of the PIRATES*

P.O. Box 400 • 131 Roosevelt Street, Alburnett, Iowa 52202

Dear Alburnett Community School District Stakeholders,

Hopefully you are enjoying your summer! The Alburnett Community School District is currently considering a change in athletic conferences, moving from the Tri Rivers Conference (TRC) to the River Valley Conference (RVC). This change will be voted on in the September Board meeting and **would not take effect until the 2025-2026 school year** (the following school year) if the board decides to vote for this move. This potential shift is being evaluated due to a variety of factors, some of which are listed below. Mainly, it is because the school district believes that we must evaluate practices and what we do to ensure the best opportunities for our students.

**Key Considerations:**

**Activity Offerings:** The RVC offers more games compared to the TRC. For example, JH games often include A and B teams whereas the TRC has many teams that cannot offer both a single 7th and 8th grade game.

**Enrollment Numbers (BEDS):** The comparison of enrollment figures for grades 9-11 (the number used to determine a school’s class in athletics) indicates that schools in the River Valley Conference generally have higher enrollment numbers consistent with Alburnett, which could lead to more consistent and competitive teams. Additionally, these are the teams that Alburnett currently plays in the postseason. See the table below for BEDS enrollment specifically for activities:

TRC	Beds #	Change from last year	River Valley	Beds #	Change from last year
<u>Alburnett</u>	<u>215</u>	↑ 17	Maquoketa	390	↓ 20
Lisbon	164	↑ 3	West Liberty	291	↑ 16
Starmont	159	↓ 11	Anamosa	288	↓ 16
Maquoketa Valley*	159	↑ 7	Mid Prairie	279	↑ 9
East Buch	135	↓ 8	Camanche	239	↑ 11
North Cedar	134	↓ 9	Monticello	238	↓ 19
Midland	133	↓ 5	Tipton	229	↓ 6
North Linn	118	↓ 7	Wilton	223	↑ 19
Easton Valley*	111	↑ 3	NE Goose Lake	209	↓ 15

Cal-Wheat	102	↓ 7	West Branch	204	↑ 24
Ed-Co*	100	= No Change	Cascade	183	= No Change
Springville	98	↑ 4	Beckman	179	↑ 3
Central City	96	↓ 8	Iowa City Regina	178	↑ 1
Marquette Catholic	51	↓ 3	Durant	173	↓ 5
Prince of Peace	39	↑ 1	Bellevue	161	↓ 5
Cedar Valley Christian	35	↓ 1			

*\*Note: Just because their BEDS numbers went up doesn't mean their enrollment trend is positive. For example, the Easton Valley enrollment for JH and HS for 2022 was 228. For 2023, that number is 211. Overall enrollment still went down for Maquoketa Valley as well by 10 total students per ISPP data over the last two years and Ed-Co went down by 17 as a district based on the same data. The only districts in the TRC that have upwards trending enrollment are Alburnett, Lisbon, and Springville.*

**Travel Time and Mileage:** A comparison of travel distances and times shows:

- TRC: Total miles 658, average 47 miles.
- RVC: Total miles 859, average 57 miles. While the travel distance for the River Valley Conference is slightly higher, the benefits of more competitive play opportunities might outweigh this increase.

**Games Missed:** There are multiple instances where our students could not participate in games due to the lack of teams in the TRC. For example:

- Junior High Football: Several no-game instances in 2022 and 2023.
- HS Softball: Numerous no-JV game instances.
- HS Girls Basketball: Several no-JV game instances or only partial games.

**Competitive Play:** Based on some of the current non-conference games played against RVC teams, it would be competitive for Alburnett teams. Here are the high school game results from the 23-24 season:

- Football: Cascade, Beckman W 33-6, Camanche W 28-21
- Softball: Wilton W 4-0, Anamosa W 13-0, Camanche W 12-2
- Girls Basketball: Northeast L 40-44, Beckman W 47-35, Wilton W 60-34, Northeast W 51-48, Cascade L 38-49
- Boys Basketball: Beckman W 63-47, Wilton W 71-61, Tipton W 61-34, Regina L 55-51
- Volleyball: None
- Baseball: Anamosa L 1-4, Wilton W 13-3, Monticello W 11-4, Tipton W 13-2
- Girls Soccer: Mid Prairie L 1-2, Monticello W 3-1, Tipton L 1-3, West Branch L 1-4
- Boys Soccer: Anamosa W 3-1, Mid Prairie L 0-2, Monticello W 6-0, Tipton L 0-1, West Branch L 0-9

We believe this move could benefit our students by ensuring more consistent and competitive play opportunities. However, we highly value your input and want to make an informed decision that reflects the best interests of our students and community.

We invite you to review this letter and share your feedback both for and against this change. You can provide your thoughts in several ways:

- **Reach out to the school administration directly.**
- **Attend and make a public comment at the upcoming school board meetings in July or August.**
- **Contact a board member to discuss your perspectives.**

Your feedback is crucial in this decision-making process so the board can make an informed decision, and we appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing the proposed changes.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school district.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Dible". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Will Dible  
Superintendent,  
Alburnett Community School District