

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Response to State Superintendent Ryan Walters's Public Comments**

At a press conference following Wednesday's Board of Education meeting, State Superintendent Ryan Walters was asked by a media member to clarify when districts could expect to receive Title I allocations for the 2024-2025 school year.

In response to this legitimate question, Mr. Walters responded with an ad hominem attack on Supt. Miller and an inaccurate and malicious statement related to our district's finances. Mr. Walters stated, "We're dealing with all kinds of financial problems with his (Supt. Miller's) district we're having to address right now."

This claim is slanderous. It was likely motivated by Mr. Walters's malice toward our superintendent. Mr. Walters knows this claim is false, yet he presented it as fact to the media in an open press conference. His claims potentially exposed our Bixby employees to public contempt, ridicule, loss of trust, and damage to their professional reputations.

Bixby Public Schools is deeply committed to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Our unwavering commitment to financial transparency is evident in our diligent efforts to ensure our fiscal operations are easily accessible to all community members. Our [home page](#) features a link that allows anyone to access all statutorily required financial information, including our annual audits and bond ratings.

The district's most [recent audit](#) was conducted for the 2022-2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). It had no material findings and only one suggestion related to a support employee's surety bond. The audit for the most recent fiscal year (which ended



June 30, 2024) will be performed in September, and the results will be shared with our Board of Education shortly after that.

Additionally, our district's annual Standards and Poor (S&P) Bond Rating process, completed in May 2024, [awarded the district an AA-Stable rating](#). This rating, which reflects our financial stability, indicates that the bond issuer (Bixby Schools) has a high degree of safety and very low credit risk when servicing its financial obligations on time. It also suggests that the district has solid prospects for ongoing viability and stable fundamental characteristics. In short, our financial house is in good order.

In conclusion, Bixby Schools unequivocally refutes Superintendent Walters' false and reckless claims about our district's financial status. His baseless defamation of the dedicated professionals at Bixby Schools is unacceptable and intolerable.

On behalf of the BPS community, we demand an immediate public apology and retraction of Mr. Walters's defamatory comments. We urge our community and stakeholders to stand with us in this demand. We are resolute in defending our reputation and will not rest until justice is served.

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*Founded in 1911, Bixby School District is located in Bixby, Oklahoma, and currently serves almost 8,400 students in grades pre-k through twelve. Our commitment to excellence is deeply rooted in Bixby's strong community spirit. Our citizens are proud of their youth and show unwavering support for our schools, teachers, and school staff, who are incredibly dedicated to the success of every student. Our community is close-knit and family-friendly, and we are excited to be one of the fastest-growing in the state. At Bixby Public Schools, we strive to be the reason every student reaches their full potential. We are committed to every kid, every day, whatever it takes.*

