



SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE Fast Facts

On Tuesday, November 3, voters in Livingston County will be asked to vote on a ten-year, 1.0435 millage restoration to help fund the cost of special education in our local districts.

Q: Why is LESA seeking a special education millage?

A: Special education services in our county are significantly underfunded. This means local districts must use general education funds to pay for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law. In 1988, Livingston County voters authorized 3.1 mills to support special education. Since that time, the millage rate has been reduced due to Michigan's Headlee Amendment.

Q: Why do special education costs impact general education budgets?

A: Local school districts are mandated by state law to provide special education. When current millage dollars do not cover special education costs, districts must use their general funds to pay for these services. Local districts in Livingston County are paying around \$15 million per year for unreimbursed special education costs out of general education budgets. That means there are fewer dollars to support programs for all students.

Q: Why has special education funding dropped so much?

A: The \$15 million shortfall in special education comes from several sources, most notably, the drop in property values.

Q: What is being proposed?

A: The proposal will restore 1.0435 mills for ten years. If approved, these funds will substantially reimburse local school districts for ongoing shortfalls in special education funding.

Q: How much would this request cost taxpayers?

A: Generally, taxpayers can expect to spend about \$1 for each \$1,000 of the taxable value of their property.

Market Value	\$200,000.00
Taxable Value	\$100,000.00
Annual Cost	\$104.34

Q: Why is the LESA Special Education election important to the Hartland Schools community?

A: Hartland Consolidated Schools would receive \$1.2 million with the successful passage of this proposal to subsidize the district's costs for special education. Currently the district is subsidizing the \$2.6 million shortfall in special education funding from its General Fund.

Q: If I don't have children who receive special education services, how does this impact my family?

*A: Special Education is a federally and state-mandated program and the **unreimbursed** costs equate to approximately **\$45,000 per pupil**. Hartland Schools must use General Fund dollars to make up for the shortfall in funding. The \$1.2 million Hartland would receive will free up this same amount from the district's general fund. This could be used to maintain programs & services, including instruction and facilities, for the benefit of ALL of our students.*

Q: If I don't have any students in the district, why should I vote?

A: Traditionally, quality schools and community services have helped to sustain and increase property values. Hartland Consolidated Schools facilitates a wide range of programming that spans well beyond kindergarten through high school - including the Hartland Senior Center, Hartland Community Education, and Hartland Childcare & Latchkey. Hartland's fields and facilities are used by a host of businesses & community organizations including Washtenaw Community College, HAYAA, and Meals on Wheels to name just a few; in addition to several churches. These additional funds would allow the district to maintain its infrastructure and facilities – keeping these programs and opportunities available for the community.

