

# LESA Special Ed Millage Renewal & Restoration Proposal

November 5, 2024



# Background Information

- LESA (Livingston Educational Service Agency) represents all students in the county. Brighton is one of 5 traditional public school districts in the county. An enhancement millage such as this special ed millage can only be levied at the county level.
- In 2015, Livingston County residents passed a 10-year Special Education Millage increase.
- The millage revenue increase was allocated directly to the local districts within the county. None of the additional revenue was retained by LESA.
- The Reasons for the Increase in 2015:
  - To help fund programs, services and related expenses for over 3,500 students with special needs within the county.
  - To help fill gaps left by insufficient federal and state funding for special education.
  - To help maintain the quality of education for all students.
- LESA is requesting a renewal and restoration of the special education millage on November 5, 2024. The current millage expires in 2025.



# LIVINGSTON EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL (RENEWAL OF MILLAGE AND RESTORATION OF HEADLEE REDUCTION)

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy the special education millage previously approved by the electors and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation for the education of students with a disability of .9803 mill (\$0.9803 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Livingston Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2026 to 2035, inclusive, and also be increased by .2003 mill (\$0.2003 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2026 to 2035, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2026 is approximately \$12,810,905 from local property taxes authorized herein (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2025 tax levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will allow the intermediate school district to levy the maximum rate of 3.31 mills previously approved by the electors)?



# Rates, Revenue & Costs

- The renewal would be .9803 and the restoration would be .2003 mills.
- ***What is a restoration?*** “The Michigan Constitution requires that millage rates be “rolled back” if taxable values increase more than the rate of inflation.” The restoration would allow the amount levied to match what was agreed to overall in 2015 which is 3.31 mills. 1.1806 would go directly to the districts.
- This represented \$3,060,283 for the Brighton Area Schools in 2023-24.
- ***What are the actual costs to taxpayers?*** A \$400k home has a taxable value of \$200k. The renewal and restoration costs \$.65 a day or \$237 a year.



# What is the Impact of the Millage in Brighton?

- **What does Brighton spend the \$3,060,283 on?**
  - This pays for a portion of BAS special ed teachers, special ed paraprofessionals, special ed substitutes, supplies, homebound services, and miscellaneous expenses. BAS had \$9,647,481.28 of qualifying special ed costs in our 2023-24 budget.
- **What happens if the millage renewal and restoration fails?**
  - Brighton would lose at least \$3,060,283 in revenue. Almost all special ed costs are required expenditures due to IEP's, so cuts/reductions would come from other programs and services within the district.



# Summary

- Renewal and Restoration Proposal will be on November 5, 2024.
- The renewal is for 10 years and will retain the 3.31 mills agreed to in 2015.
- This represents over \$3 million of BAS's current revenue. Failure to renew and restore means cuts/reductions elsewhere in the district.
- Where to get more information?
  - LESA staff and LESA website -
    - Informational sessions
    - <https://www.livingstonesesa.org/special-education-livingston-county>
  - Locals
    - Informational sessions for varying groups
    - Feel to contact our staff with additional questions

