

Special Education Millage Proposal

Vote May 6, 2025!





Why We Have a Special Education Millage



Federal & State Requirements

Public Law 94-142 mandates special education services. Michigan law extends this from birth to age 26.



Funding Shortfall

State and federal funds only cover around 42% of mandatory special education costs, leaving a gap in funding for Ottawa Area ISD public school districts and academies (charter schools). On average, this gap is approximately \$14.5 million annually.



Millage Necessity

This shortfall must be covered through special education millage or general education funds. Allowing the existing special education millage to expire will require the use of general education funds.

Current Special Education Millage

- **Historical Approval:** Voters approved OAISD special education millages in 1961, 1970, 1989, 1999 and 2007.
- **2007 Millage Reduction:** Initially approved at 1.3152 mills, reduced to 1.2425 mills due to Headlee Amendment rollbacks. Expires Dec 2026.
- **Impact of Rollbacks:** Less funding available for special education services than what voters originally approved.
- **Unfunded Special Education Costs:** On average, 13% of special education costs currently remain unfunded.





Millage Request

- **Ballot Date:** Ottawa Area ISD has placed a Special Education Millage request on the May 6, 2025 ballot.
- **Tax Impact:** An 18-year renewal of the expiring 1.2425 mills plus a 20-year 0.5000 mills increase for Headlee rollback restoration.
- **Funding Restoration:** The additional revenue would be approximately \$4.5 million annually for 20 years and help address the mandatory services funding shortfall.





Why is OAISD Holding This Election?



State Mandate

Michigan law only allows intermediate school districts (ISDs) to place special education millages on the ballot.



Direct Support

Ottawa Area ISD provides speech therapy, Autism Spectrum Disorder programs, transportation, adaptive technology and more.



Student Impact

Supports over 7,000 students with disabilities, nearly 13% of the OAISD region's student population.



Special Education Services and Resources Supported by Millage

- **Instructional Programs:** Supports center-based schools, specialized classrooms and resource programs.
- **Assistive Technology:** Funds adaptive equipment, communication devices and accessibility tools.
- **Mental Health Support:** Enhances services like school psychologists, social workers and behavior specialists.
- **Transportation:** Provides specialized transportation services to ensure accessibility for students.
- **Specialized Staffing:** Funds special education teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists and psychologists.





13 Disability Groups Serviced in Michigan

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder:** Comprehensive support services tailored to students with ASD.
- **Cognitive & Physical Impairments:** Programs addressing a wide range of cognitive and mobility disabilities.
- **Visual & Hearing Impairments:** Specialized resources for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing.
- **Speech & Language Impairments:** Therapies and tools to assist students with communication challenges.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury & Multiple Impairments:** Support for students with severe, complex disabilities.
 - Autism
 - Cognitive Impairment
 - Deaf-Blindness
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Early Childhood Developmental Delay
 - Emotional Impairment
 - Otherwise Health Impairment
 - Physical Impairment
 - Severe Multiple Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Speech and Language Impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment



Levies Now Limited to 20 Years, Expiring in 2026



Millage Expiration

The current special education millage will expire with the 2026 tax levy.



20-Year Limit

State law limits special education millages to a maximum of 20 years.



Impact of Expiration

Without renewal, funding shortfalls are expected to increase at a faster pace, affecting programs and services offered to all students.

Ballot Language Explained

Ballot Language

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 of 1.2425 mills (\$1.2425 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, Michigan, to provide funds for the education of students with a disability, be renewed for a period of 18 years, 2027 to 2044, inclusive,



Simplified Explanation

This proposal allows Ottawa Area Intermediate School District to continue collecting previously approved taxes to support special education programs and services and approves an increase in the current rate to restore taxes that were reduced by law. OTTAWA AREA ISD NEVER COLLECTS FUNDING ABOVE STATE LAW LIMITS.

Should Ottawa Area ISD be authorized to continue collecting 1.2425 mills (\$1.24 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value) to help fund education for students with disabilities throughout the service region from 2027 to 2044? The Ottawa Area ISD service region includes Allendale, Coopersville, Grand Haven, Hamilton, Holland, Hudsonville, Jenison, Saugatuck, Spring Lake, West Ottawa and Zeeland school districts and Black River, Eagle Crest, iCademy Global, Innocademy, Walden Green Montessori and West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics public school academies.

Ballot Language Explained (continued)

Ballot Language
and also be increased by .5000 mill (\$0.5000 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2025 to 2044, inclusive;
the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is approximately \$4,545,865 from local property taxes authorized herein
(this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?



Simplified Explanation
Should the district be allowed to collect an additional 0.5000 mills (about 50 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable property value) to restore funding lost due to Michigan law? This tax would also support special education programs and services from 2025 to 2044.
The Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution reduces the millage rate allowed to be collected by the ISD when property tax values in the District increase at a faster rate than a statutory formula. This proposed millage would restore these reductions.
If approved, this tax is estimated to provide about \$4.5 million in revenue annually to help fund special education programs and services for students from school districts across the OAISD service region.
This is a renewal of an existing tax set to expire after 2026, and an increase in rate to restore taxes that were lowered due to state law.



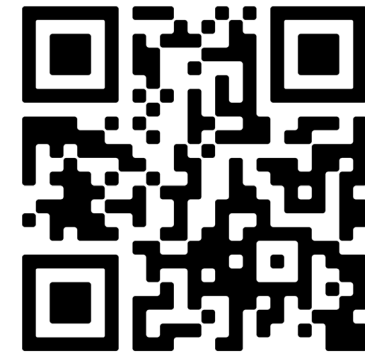
Cost to Homeowners

- **\$100,000 Home Example:**
For a home with a taxable value of \$50,000, the expected annual cost is \$87.13.
- **Monthly Cost:**
Homeowners would pay approximately \$7.26 per month.
- **Formula for Cost:**
Multiply taxable home value by 0.0017425 to calculate individual cost.

Home Value	Taxable Value	Current Monthly/Annual Millage Amount	Expected Monthly/Annual Amount	A Monthly/Annual Increase of
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$10.35 / \$124.25	\$14.52 / \$174.25	\$4.17 / \$50.00
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$15.53 / \$186.38	\$21.78 / \$261.38	\$6.25 / \$75.00
\$400,000	\$200,000	\$20.71 / \$248.50	\$29.04 / \$348.50	\$8.33 / \$100.00
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$25.89 / \$310.63	\$36.30 / \$435.63	\$10.42 / \$125.00



Vote May 6, 2025!



Learn More
oaisd.org/millage

Paid for by Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, 13663 Port Sheldon Street, Holland, MI 49424

