Investing in the Future of Mississinewa Community Schools

Dear Mississinewa Community,

For generations, Mississinewa Community Schools has been a source of pride for our communities. Our schools educate our children, support our families, provide opportunities for students to excel, and serve as a cornerstone of our local identity. Today, however, public education in Indiana is facing significant financial challenges that threaten the long-term sustainability of school districts across our state, including Mississinewa Community Schools.

In June 2026, the Network for Public Education released its annual report evaluating each state's commitment to public education. Indiana received a grade of "F" and ranked 45th in the nation. While rankings alone do not tell the entire story, the report highlights concerns that many educators, school leaders, and communities have been experiencing firsthand for years: public schools are being asked to do more while receiving fewer resources relative to growing expectations and rising costs.

In the spirit of transparency and informed decision-making, we have provided a copy of the complete Network for Public Education Report Card on our website. We encourage all community members to review the report for themselves and examine the challenges facing public education throughout Indiana and across the nation. Whether you agree with every conclusion or not, the report underscores an important reality: public schools are facing increasing financial pressures while being expected to provide more services and opportunities than ever before.

At Mississinewa Community Schools, we have worked diligently to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. We have carefully managed budgets, pursued grants, controlled expenditures, delayed purchases when possible, and sought efficiencies throughout our operations. Despite these efforts, the reality is that the cost of operating a modern public school district continues to rise.

Like school districts throughout Indiana, we face increasing expenses related to:

- Recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and staff
- Student transportation and fuel costs
- Health insurance and employee benefits
- Technology and cybersecurity needs
- School safety and security measures
- Special education services
- Utilities, maintenance, and facility operations
- Academic programming and student support services

At the same time, state funding has not kept pace with these rising costs. Mississinewa Community Schools receives less funding per student than many neighboring school districts and remains heavily dependent on state funding formulas that are largely beyond local control.

The operating referendum proposed for Fall 2026 represents an opportunity for our community to determine the future direction of our schools. This referendum is not about expanding government or creating unnecessary programs. It is about maintaining the educational opportunities our students deserve and preserving the quality of life that strong public schools provide to our communities.

Without additional operating revenue, the district will be forced to make increasingly difficult decisions in future years. Those decisions could impact academic programs, student opportunities, staffing levels, extracurricular activities, transportation services, and other programs that directly benefit students and families.

For Mississinewa Community Schools, this referendum is not simply about balancing a budget. It is about protecting the educational opportunities available to our children, maintaining competitive compensation to attract and retain quality staff, preserving student programs, and ensuring that our community continues to have a strong, vibrant public school system that serves as the heart of our communities.

This referendum is ultimately about local control. It allows the citizens of our community—not state officials, outside organizations, or distant policymakers—to decide whether we are willing to invest in the future of our children and our schools.

Throughout the coming months, we are committed to providing transparent information, answering questions, and engaging in honest conversations about the financial realities facing our district. We encourage every community member to review the information provided on our website, attend one of our community meetings, and reach out with questions.

Our students deserve every opportunity to succeed. Our teachers and staff deserve the resources necessary to provide a high-quality education. Our community deserves strong schools that continue to serve as a foundation for economic growth, community pride, and future success.

The future of Mississinewa Community Schools will be determined by the choices we make together.

Thank you for your support of our students, our staff, and our schools.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Fewell
Superintendent
Mississinewa Community School Corporation