



Restore and Renew: Strong Schools, Strong Communities Enhancement Millage Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Restore and Renew Strong Schools, Strong Communities Proposal?

Local public school leaders are asking voters to consider a proposal to restore and renew the 0.9 millage originally approved in 2017 for 10 years. The proposal directly benefits nearly 100,000 public school students by maintaining a stable, reliable funding source to help students learn, achieve, and be college and career ready.

When will the proposal appear on the ballot?

The Restore and Renew Strong Schools, Strong Communities proposal will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

Why the November 2025 election?

The November 2025 election is the best time to ask the taxpayers to restore and renew the enhancement millage.

- **It remains non-partisan and focused on K-12.**
- **If passed, the proposal would continue to provide nearly \$300 per pupil in local funding that school districts have relied on since 2017**, while other one-time federal and state relief funds have expired or are unknown. In January 2025, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds expired, meaning local public schools will not have the significant financial support these funds provided. There is also serious uncertainty around potential funding cuts from the federal and state governments.
- **This timing aligns with multiple districts within KISD that have millages on their ballots in November 2025**, including Byron Center, East GR, Godwin Heights, Grandville, Rockford, and Wyoming.

How much will the proposal cost homeowners?

The proposal is a restoration and renewal of about \$45/year or approximately \$3.75/month for the average homeowner.

Home Value	Taxable Value	Annual	Monthly
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$67.50	\$5.63
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$90.00	\$7.50
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$135.00	\$11.25

How much would the proposal generate?

This would generate an estimated \$20 million—approximately \$298 per student—benefiting all local public schools within the taxable boundaries of Kent ISD.



How is the Money Used?

The funds are distributed per pupil to all local public schools within the Kent ISD for school investments, including special education, career & technical education, academics, fine arts, technology, health, athletics, security, and more. Below are just some of the investments districts have made since voters approved the millage in 2017:

Common Themes:

- Career & Technical Education
- Dual Enrollment
- College Readiness Programs
- Student Mental Health/Behavioral Supports
- Reduced Class Sizes
- Additional Academic Supports
- Safety & Security

Other Themes:

- Student and Staff Technology
- No Pay to Play for Athletics
- Curriculum Materials
- Facility Enhancements
- Staff Professional Development

Why is this proposal necessary?

While local public schools have taken steps to make cuts and find efficiencies, other one-time federal and state relief funds have expired or are unknown. In January 2025, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds expired, meaning districts will no longer have the significant financial support these funds provided. There is also serious uncertainty around potential funding cuts from the federal and state governments. This proposal will continue the dedicated, stable source of revenue for West Michigan schools, students, and classrooms.

How much money will each district receive?

The proposal would generate an estimated \$20 million—approximately \$298 per student. All funds will be collected and distributed to each local public school within the taxable boundaries of Kent Intermediate School District, equally, on a per pupil basis. 100% of all revenues generated by this proposal will go directly to local schools for students and classrooms.

Who does this proposal affect?

This proposal would benefit all local public schools within the taxable boundaries of Kent ISD as listed below:

Byron Center	Kent City
Byron Center Charter	Kentwood
Caledonia	Knapp
Cedar Springs	Lighthouse
Chandler Woods	Lowell
Comstock Park	New Branches
Covenant House	NexTech High School
Creative Tech	Northview
Cross Creek	PrepNet Virtual



East Grand Rapids	Ridge Park
Excel	River City Scholars
Forest Hills	Rockford
Gerald Dawkins	Sparta
Godfrey Lee	Thornapple Kellogg
Godwin Heights	Vanguard
GR Child Discovery	Vista Charter
Grand Rapids	Walker
Grand River Prep	Wellspring Prep
Grandville	West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science
Hope Academy	West Michigan Aviation
Kelloggsville	William C. Abney
Kenowa Hills	Wyoming

How many local public school academies are for-profit within Kent ISD?

There are 27 local public school academies in Kent ISD, and 15 are considered for-profit management companies.

How will local public schools be held accountable for this proposal?

All revenue from the proposal will be distributed equally to local school districts on a per-pupil basis. Spending will be subject to annual independent audits and publicly disclosed to ensure transparency and accountability. Publicly elected local school boards, governed by the Open Meetings Act, provide additional taxpayer protections.

What is Headlee?

The Headlee Amendment, a 1978 amendment to the Michigan Constitution, restricts local property tax increases by requiring a reduction in millage rates if the tax base (taxable value) grows faster than inflation, unless voters approve a "Headlee Override".

- Headlee Rollback is a permanent reduction in the originally approved millage rate.
- Headlee Override is the mechanism to restore millage rates to their original rates through voter approval.

The 2017 millage rate, due to the Headlee Amendment, was reduced to 0.8578 mills. The Restore and Renew Strong Schools, Strong Communities proposal would restore and renew to the original 0.9 mills.