



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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Sinking Fund Projects and November Ballot Proposal: Frequently Asked Questions Part II

Q: How does a sinking fund help the general fund if the dollars can't be used on salaries and benefits?

Without the sinking fund, expenditures for large facility and infrastructure upgrades would need to come from the general fund, leaving fewer resources for direct educational purposes.

Q: How do I know that the district will spend sinking fund dollars appropriately?

Sinking funds are audited annually for compliance with spending requirements. The district has had no findings on its current sinking fund audits.

Q: When does the existing sinking fund expire?

The final collection under the current millage will occur in December 2026.

Q: Why does the ballot language reference an increase if we are just replacing the current sinking fund that is set to expire in 2026?

The law changed in 2017 and 2023 to expand the allowable use of sinking funds to include security, technology and vehicle upgrades. In order to take advantage of the expanded use of funds, the ballot language legally must reference an increase of 0.5 mills, because technically we are putting a different proposal on the ballot rather than "renewing" the existing sinking fund.

Q: Why is the district currently only collecting 0.4763 mills, even though 0.5 mills were approved in 2017?

The Headlee rollback is a provision in Michigan law that limits how quickly property tax revenue can grow. When property values increase faster than inflation, a rollback is calculated and applied to the millage rate, which then reduces the millage rate.

Due to Headlee rollbacks that have occurred since May 2017, the district is not able to collect the full 0.5 mills each year. In 2025, the sinking fund millage rate was 0.4763 mills.

Q: Will this increase my taxes?

Property taxes naturally increase each year because property values increase. In addition to this standard inflationary increase, an additional 0.0237 mills are needed to restore the millage lost by Headlee rollbacks to the originally authorized 0.5 mills. For a home with a taxable value of \$200,000, this restoration would result in an additional cost of \$4.74 per year.

Q: Is the Board of Education behind this proposal?

Yes, The Board unanimously approved the resolution to place the Sinking Fund replacement proposal on the November ballot.

Q: Where Can I Vote?

Complete information on the voting process, including clerk office and polling locations, registering to vote, and absentee ballots can be found at the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#).

Welcome To 2026-27: Great Opening Day

It was nice seeing all the smiling faces on our first day back today. Thank you for choosing Hartland Schools to educate your children.

No bus needed, click below

Please help us plan our routes by completing this quick form. Knowing who will not be riding allows us to create more efficient bus routes for our students. Thank you!

[Hartland Schools 2026-2027 Bus Opt Out Form](#)

Hartland Music Hall Roof Replacement Drive

Dear Community,

The Hartland Music Hall was built in 1858 and is a cornerstone building in the Village of Hartland. As with any aging building, it is in regular need of tender loving care. The Hartland Consolidated School Foundation, which was created by John Robert Crouse Sr., owns the Music Hall and the Croumaine Library leases the building from the HCS Foundation.

In the past year, the HCS Foundation has needed to deplete fund surplus to repair the Hall's structural foundation and to offset a portion of the cost to refurbish the pipe organ. This year, it is time for a new roof as leaks are becoming regular!

This repair has required the HCS Foundation to redirect grants which have been regularly funded by the Foundation over the years. Your help is needed to ensure that activities such as the performance of Handel's *Messiah*, weddings, musical events, theatrical performances, State of the Township addresses, educational programs, community meetings, etc. can continue to occur in this building.

Please spread the word that the Hartland Area Project is running a "roof replacement" campaign to ensure this community asset remains a viable asset for years to come. If you are willing to support this campaign with a monetary donation please visit the [Hartland Area Project Website](#) and then the RED Donation button in the upper right hand corner. Thank you for your consideration and for spreading the word.



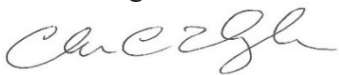
Vaccinations or Vaccination Waivers

The district has been notified that we are below the minimum threshold for students with up-to-date vaccinations or waivers on file. State law requires a 5% (\$2.5 million) deduction in foundation allowance for districts failing to meet the standard of 90% vaccination or waiver coverage in the fall and 95% by February. Under the law, districts may remove students from attending school without either up-to-date vaccinations or a waiver on file. We have no choice but to notify parents that we will be excluding their children starting the first week of the second semester if their vaccination records are not up to date and in compliance. This gives you plenty of notice and time to make all necessary arrangements with doctors or the Livingston County Health Department to obtain a waiver. The district has set the date of September 18, 2026 to either have your child's vaccination records up to date or a waiver on file.

hARTLand Art Walk Information

A colorful promotional graphic for the hARTLand Art Walk. It features four photographs of student artwork: a blue sculpture of a creature, a drawing of a snowman, a painting of a red and yellow dragon, and a drawing of a classical statue holding a red rose. The text on the graphic includes: "Students in Grades K-12: Will your artwork win a prize at the 2026 hARTLand Art Walk?", "Enter before August 28 here: www.hartlandartwalk.com", and "2026 Dates: September 27 through October 4!". The hARTLand logo is at the bottom right, with a paintbrush graphic.

Where Eagles Soar,



Chuck Hughes

“One day you will look back and realize that you worried too much about things that don’t really matter.”

Anonymous

Notice of Web Accessibility: In order to remain compliant with web accessibility when sharing this Weekly Update, any public service announcement shared with me must be forwarded with a link that I can include in the text for people to view information if they choose to do so.

HARTLAND TRANSPORTATION NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

Join a team that values family, flexibility, and making a difference every day.



HEAR FROM OUR DRIVERS



“

Tara Minton

Hartland Driver • 3 Years

I love working with kids. Seeing them every day and being part of their routine is the best part of my job. The schedule matches my own kids' schedules perfectly, allowing me to be present for my family. I also get to work alongside great people who make coming to work enjoyable and who I know I can count on.

”



“

Harvey Archer

Hartland Driver • 2 Years

I truly enjoy the students on the bus and being a part of the community. This job is perfect for anyone looking for a fulfilling role after retirement or for someone looking for a full-time position. The office staff is top-notch, and my fellow drivers are a pleasure to work with as well.

”



“

Bill Kreeger

Hartland Driver • 2 Years

The best thing about being a driver is getting to know the kids and hearing how their day is going. It keeps me in tune with the schools and the community.

”



UP TO

\$5,000

SIGN ON
BONUS!



FULL-TIME POSITIONS

- Starting wages of \$21.30 up to \$23.65 per hour.
- Paid Health Benefits or \$5,000 Cash In-Lieu
- Paid Holidays, Personal Days & Sick Days
- Drivers are guaranteed minimum 20 hours with the option to get up to 40 hours a week.



PART-TIME POSITIONS

- Flexible days available
- Starting wage at \$21.30/hr.
- \$10 for each AM and or PM route driven.
- Up to \$2,000 attendance bonus starting in the 2nd year driving with Hartland.



GIVE US A CALL TODAY

*to see how
bus driving would
fit in your life!*



**HARTLAND
TRANSPORTATION**

Come Drive With Us!

810-626-2175 | livingstonesa.org