



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Charles Hughes, Superintendent

9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100

Fax (810) 626-2101

August 12, 2026

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

What is a sinking fund millage?

A sinking fund millage is a voter-approved property tax used specifically for school building and site improvements. Sinking funds are a “pay as you go” system that enable school districts to fund infrastructure projects without borrowing money and paying interest.

How can sinking fund millages be spent?

Sinking funds are legally restricted to specific capital improvements, including:

- Building repairs and construction
- Site improvements
- School security
- Technology upgrades
- Transportation & utility vehicles

How is a sinking fund different from a Bond?

Mechanism

- **Bond:** Operates like a mortgage, funds are borrowed up front to fund large scale capital improvements
- **Sinking Fund:** Operates like a savings account, funds are collected annually via millage and spent as they become available

Debt & Interest

- **Bond:** Yes. Principal and interest payments are due over time (25-30 years)
- **Sinking Fund:** None. No borrowing or interest payments

Typical Uses

- **Bond:** Large-scale building additions, renovations, or technology infrastructure projects
- **Sinking Fund:** Smaller, ongoing facility maintenance or repair, technology devices, or vehicles

Both bonds and sinking funds require voter approval and neither can be used for general operating costs.

Can sinking funds be used for salaries and benefits?

- **NO!** Sinking funds cannot be used for salaries and benefits, teaching supplies, textbooks, or regular maintenance of facilities.

First Day of School

The first day is one week from today. The district is ready to accept students. Please know that at times we have late resignations or need to add sections to a grade. We always have a plan, but sometimes patience is asked for as we work to fill all the necessary teaching positions. Building administrators will communicate with you if this is the case. Rest up and get ready for an exciting year.

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 repairs. The Hartland Consolidated Schools Foundation, which was created by John Robert Crouse Sr., owns the Music Hall, and the Crouaine 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.



Backpack Distribution Success

I want to thank LESA, the Community for all the donations, and the HCS and LESA staff and their children for helping to distribute over 150 backpacks filled with school supplies inside here in Hartland. I understand that the schools in Livingston County distributed almost 1,100 backpacks. It is great to be able to help our students get prepared for a good start.



Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Gunn and Dr. Poelke distributing the last of the backpacks.



Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Conley, Mrs. Gregory, Mr. Reck, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Ferris, Mr. Howerton, Mrs. Gunn, Dr. Poelke and Mrs. Grostic



Mrs. Guss, Joey and Emerson prepared to serve! Mrs. Grostic and Kinsley ready for the next car.



hARTLand Art Walk Information



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](#)

Bus Drivers Wanted

Look at the flyer at the end of this Weekly Update and see what drivers say about this “best job ever” experience.

Transportation Information

Bussing information for the 2026–2027 school year is now live! Parents and guardians can view their student’s bussing information through the MyRide K-12 app and the Parent Portal.

Where Eagles Soar,

Chuck Hughes

“Never let hard lessons harden your heart; the hard lessons of life are meant to make you better, not bitter.”
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