



Sinking Fund Millage Renewal



Shall the currently authorized millage rate of 1.2750 mills (\$1.2750 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property in Ontonagon Area School District, Ontonagon County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2027 to 2036, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2027 is approximately \$290,603 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy)?

Ontonagon School District

May 2026 Election

Is This A New Tax?

No, this is a renewal of the current sinking fund and will not increase the current sinking fund. It renews the current sinking fund millage for an additional 10 years.

What Will It Be Used For?

Primarily for projects that have been identified as important repairs for the facilities by the district and/or Michigan Statewide School Facilities Study. This state wide study identified needed repair and update items that the district needs to address.

- Replace windows and exterior doors that are original to the building for energy efficiency
- Update original science labs that are no longer functional
- Create updated secure entrances to increase safety
- New air handling systems
- Update fire protection system
- Gym floor resurfacing
- Football stadium bathrooms
- Finish parking lot resurfacing and adjust traffic flow for pickup and drop off

What Is A Sinking Fund Millage?

A sinking fund millage is a limited use property tax, considered a “pay as you go” method for funding building repair and infrastructure projects. No debt or interest expense is incurred with a sinking fund. The tax renewal that is generated each year is designed to be used for building upgrades and allowable purposes. Sinking fund expenditures are audited for compliance to these rules each year.



Why Does the District Have A Sinking Fund?

The sinking fund allows for the district to systematically respond to the needs of the facilities by doing repairs and improvements on an ongoing basis to ensure we keep our facilities up to date and in working order. This allows for the district to have set dollars to plan for facility projects. The district, in collaboration with a state audit of facilities, has identified over a Million dollars worth of projects over the next 10 years that would improve school safety or building and site repair improvements to keep the facility in good repair, to help ensure the building can continue to be utilized well into the future.

What CAN the district spend a sinking fund on? Building upgrades and repair items to keep the building and facilities in good repair .

The District CANNOT spend sinking funds on are things such as salaries and benefits for employees, equipment, textbooks, furniture, purchase of land or buildings, etc.

Facility Updates Completed to Date

With the current sinking fund millage, the district has been able to update and repair a number of needed items within the school. Below are a number of items:

- Remodeled original locker rooms
- New track
- Blacktopped part of school parking lot
- New cafeteria floor
- Repair boiler
- Repair gym floor
- Updated emergency lighting within the building
- Remodeled original bathrooms
- Updated Security camera



Bathroom Remodel



Locker Room Remodel



New Track and Front Circle Drive

Informational Meetings

To learn more about the sinking fund millage renewal please join us for informational meetings at the school district library:

- Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 PM
- Tuesday, April 21 at 5:00 PM

Ontonagon Area School District



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