

Saugatuck Public Schools

Building & Site Sinking Fund Proposal – Frequently Asked Questions

What is on the ballot?

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, voters in Saugatuck Public Schools will consider a building and site sinking fund millage proposal.

What is being proposed?

The proposal is primarily a renewal of the district's existing sinking fund millage, with a restoration that would return the millage rate to 0.5 mills. This was the rate approved by voters in 2022 at the last sinking fund renewal. If approved, the proposal would authorize the district to levy up to 0.5 mills for a period of three years for purposes permitted under Michigan law related to building and site improvements.

What is a sinking fund millage?

A sinking fund millage is a funding mechanism allowed under Michigan law for building and site-related improvements. It is separate from a bond.

How is a sinking fund different from a bond?

- A **bond** allows a district to borrow money for large projects and repay it over time.
- A **sinking fund** allows a district to collect funds annually and use them for eligible projects without borrowing.

What can sinking fund millage revenues be used for?

Under Michigan law, sinking fund millage revenues may be used for:

- Construction or repair of school buildings
- Safety and security improvements
- Technology infrastructure
- Other building and site-related projects

Sinking fund millage revenues cannot be used for:

- Employee salaries
- Routine operating expenses

How might the district use these funds?

If approved, the district may allocate sinking fund revenue toward eligible projects such as:

- Mechanical systems not addressed by prior bond work
- Safety and security-related improvements
- Instructional technology
- Facility and site upgrades

Final decisions regarding specific projects are made by the Board of Education in accordance with legal requirements.

How has the district used sinking fund revenues in the past?

Historically, the district has used sinking fund revenues for purposes including:

- Mechanical system repairs
- Roofing
- School security measures
- Instructional technology

Where can I find more information?

Additional information about the proposal, including ballot language and election details, is available at: www.SaugatuckPublicSchools.com or through local election authorities.

You may also contact Mark Neidlinger, Superintendent, at mneidlinger@Saugatuckps.com.

When is the election?

Tuesday, May 5, 2026.
