

# Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Bond Proposal Information

Election November 5, 2024



# Agenda



- Introduction/ District Overview
- Why a bond proposal?
- What is included in the bond proposal?
- How would this bond proposal be funded?
- Questions





# Our District



## Highlights

- 1,480 Students
- 31% Economically Disadvantaged
- 37% School of Choice
- 93% Graduation Rate
- 27% Fund Balance as % of Revenue
- M-Step/ SAT Well Above State & ISD Averages

## Challenges

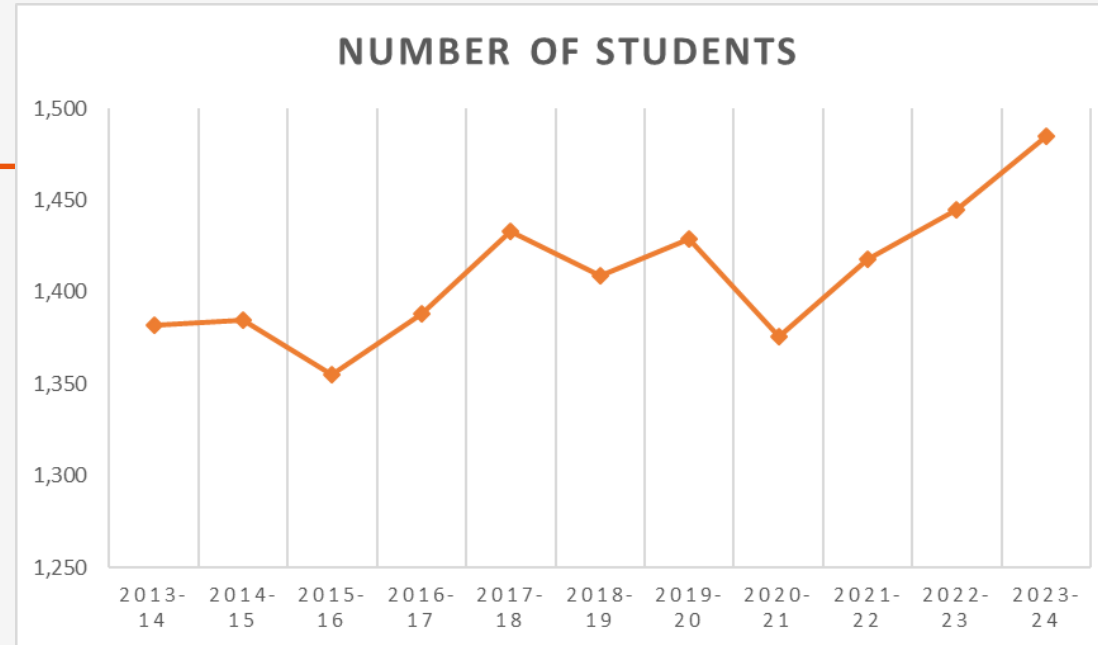
- Growth, Space, Student Mental Health

## Student Success

- All three schools in the top 3% in the state based on student achievement
- Houghton Elementary – 2023 National Blue Ribbon School
- Diverse Offering- including AP, Dual Enrollment & CTE
- Vibrant/ High Ranking Band & Choir
- High Achieving Athletics, Robotics, BPA & Math Teams

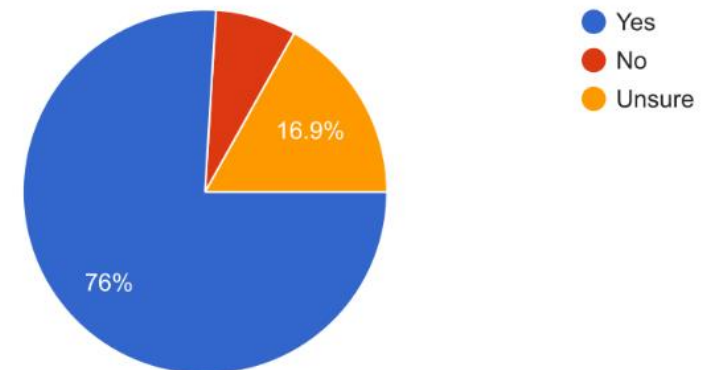
# Why a Bond Proposal?

- Growth has outpaced projections from enrollment studies/space studies & show we are out of space at our elementary school.
- **HPTS Community Led Process** –Three Community Forums and Parent, Student and Community Surveys (Over 620 Responses)– Winter 2024, Steering Committee– Spring 2024



5. Our current millage rate will begin to drop in 2029. If a solution to space constraints involved a bond, would you support a plan that extends the current millage rate an additional two years, but does not raise taxes?

362 responses



# Why a Bond Proposal?

In Michigan, funds are not specifically given by the state for capital outlay projects.





# What is included in the bond proposal?



## NEW- Early Childhood Center

- Young 5's & Kindergarten Classrooms
- Space to Expand 4 Year Old Classes
- Meets the Needs of Youngest Learners

## Elementary School Highlights

- Secure Entry & Flex Space Additions
- Technology, Mechanical Updates
- Update Fire Alarm System
- Reduced Students in this Footprint

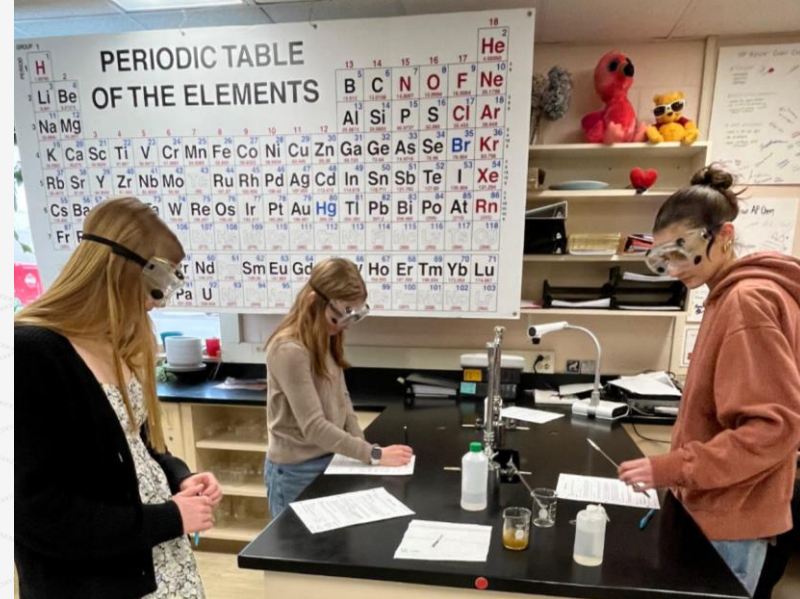




# What is included in the bond proposal?

## Middle School/ High School Highlights

- Secure Entry to Each Building
- Middle School Rec Area (Playground)
- Technology, Mechanical Updates
- Upgrades/Modernization of Science Labs, Welding Lab, Wood Shop & Small Engines Lab
- Create a Robotics Lab
- Auditorium Lighting and Sound Updates
- Expand Student Parking



# Financial Information of Bond Proposal

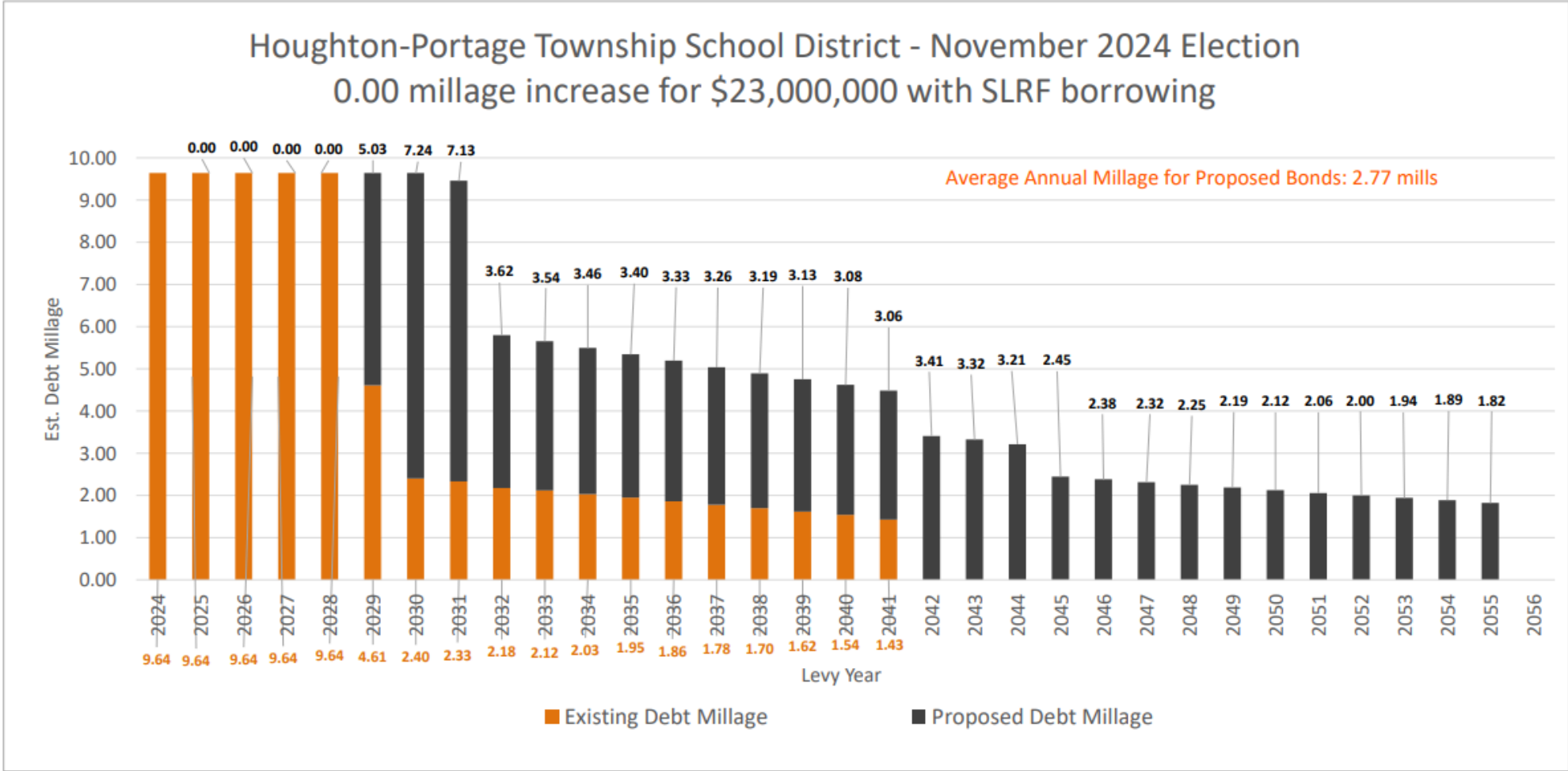


- \$23 Million in Funds Generated
- 0.0 Millage Rate Increase Over Current Levy
- Extends Current Rate an Additional Two Years





# Financial Information of Bond Proposal



# Financial Information of Bond Proposal



## HOUGHTON-PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Houghton-Portage Township School District, Houghton County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Three Million Dollars (\$23,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing, and equipping a new early childhood center and an addition to the elementary school; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and acquiring, preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2025, under current law, is 0 mill (\$0.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.77 mills (\$2.77 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).



# BONDS 101

## Compliance and Legal Use of Capital Bond Funds

### CAN

#### Bond Proceeds **Can** Be Used For:

- Construction of new school buildings & additions to existing buildings
- Remodeling of buildings or infrastructure
- Purchasing school buses
- Purchasing technology (with certain limitations)
- Energy conservation improvements
- Asbestos abatement
- Purchasing land
- Developing/improving sites
- Developing/improving athletic facilities
- Purchasing loose furnishings & equipment

### CANNOT

#### Bond Proceeds **Cannot** Be Used For:

- Employee salaries, benefits, or professional development
- General operating repairs, parts, labor, maintenance, or maintenance contracts
- Textbooks/curriculum
- Student supplies, office supplies, or instructional materials
- Automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Uniforms
- Technology software systems or subscription services

Questions?

Don't Forget to  
Vote by Tuesday  
November 5, 2024





For Questions or Additional  
Information Contact:

**Anders Hill**, Superintendent,  
Houghton-Portage Township Schools

[ahill@hpts.us](mailto:ahill@hpts.us)

906-482-0450 ext. 1030



Thank You!

## Appendix – School of Choice (SOC)

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As advocates for kids, our motivation is to serve all students who chose our district. We believe excluding families based on where they can afford or find housing is a disservice to our community.

Open enrollment creates opportunities for students and our community. This is how:

**Expands Education Programing-** More students means increased funding to offer more educational opportunities like elementary interventions, 14 AP offerings, hands-on classes, robust fine arts programs, and a variety of extracurricular and athletic offerings. Roughly 65% of our revenue is tied to student counts to pay for programing, wages and facilities maintenance.

**Attracts & Retains Teacher-Leaders-** Our teachers and administrators are able to specialize and work on teams to support and mentor each other improving student outcomes.

**Supports Community Growth-** Having a top-tier and nationally recognized K12 school district both attracts families with needed skill sets to the area as well as equips students with valuable skill sets to bolster local talent. Families relocating to areas with desirable schools can stimulate housing markets and local businesses, leading to increased tax revenue and economic development opportunities.

**Operational Efficiency-** Research shows that a minimum population of 1,500 students is required to achieve operational efficiency within a K12 district. We are able to optimally leverage district assets to influence student outcomes. We do more for kids as a larger district.



## Appendix – HPTS Programs

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Elementary School- 5 Essential Classes (Music, Physical Education, Technology, Library and Art), Young 5's Kindergarten, After School and Summer Child Care, Elementary Basketball, Elementary Choir (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades), Student Council, Title I and Special Education Departments, School Nurse, School Resource Officer, School Social Workers, Behavior Health Coordinator and Counselor

Middle School- Variety of Electives (Service Learning, JROTC, Drama, 3D Printing, Shop Classes, etc.), Band (123 Students) and Choir (53 Students), Student Council, 8 Athletics Offerings, Various Clubs and Extra Curricular Opportunities (Math Club, Robotics, etc.), Mentoring Program, School Resource Officer, School Social Workers, Behavior Health Coordinator and Counselor

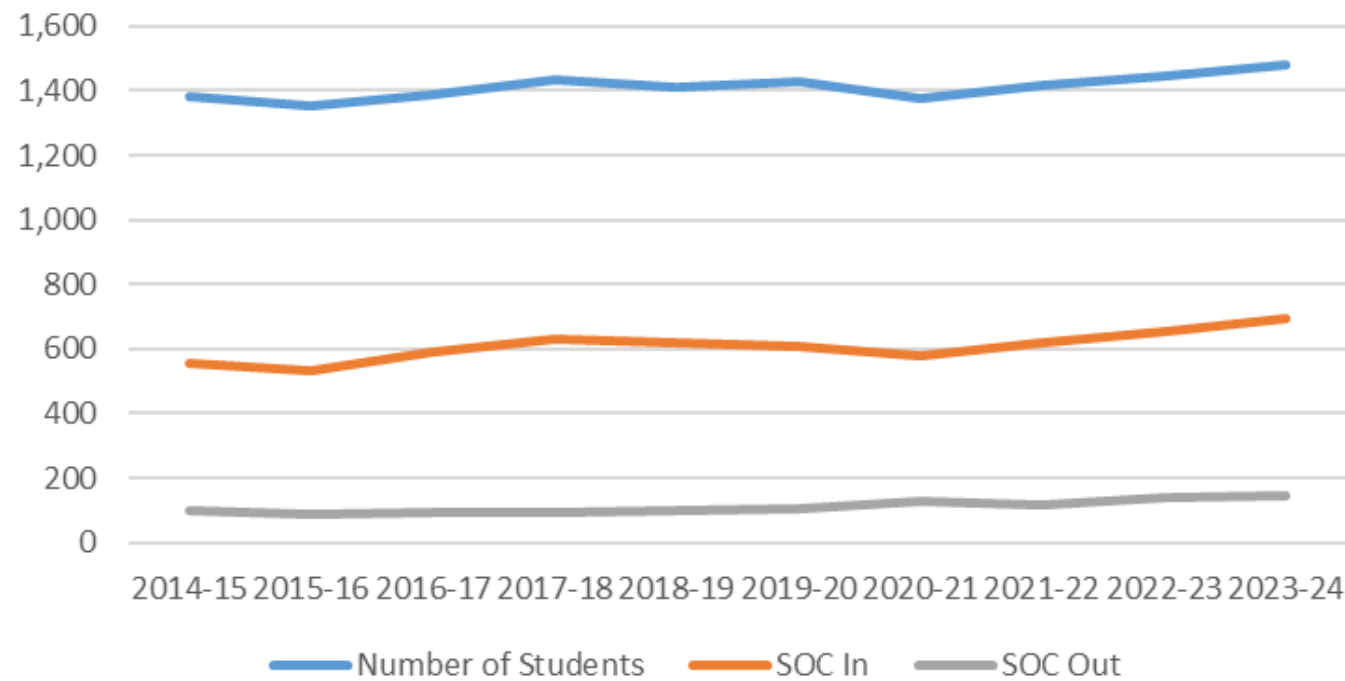
High School- Variety of Electives (JROTC, Weights and Cardio, Digital Publishing, Small Engines, CAD Drafting, etc.), 13 Advanced Placement Courses, Career and Tech Ed Programs, Dual Enrollment Offerings through MTU and GCC, Online Classes, Band (73 Students- Marching and Pep Bands) and Choir (52 Students), Student Council, 19 MHSAA Varsity Athletics Offerings, Various Clubs and Extra Curricular Opportunities (Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, Travel Club, Robotics, Drone, etc.), School Resource Officer, School Social Workers, Behavior Health Coordinator and Counselor

# Appendix – Enrollment Graph with School of Choice (SOC)



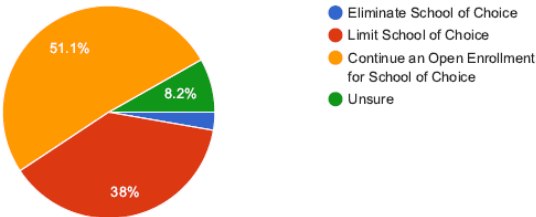
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Enrollment vs. SOC



4. As advocates for kids, our motivation is to serve all students who choose our district. Allowing School of Choice allows us to expand educational programming, attract and retain teachers, and support community growth. Houghton and Portage Township growth and School of Choice has created a need for more space in our buildings. Knowing the pro's and con's of school of choice, should the district do one of the following: Eliminate School of Choice, Limit School of Choice, or Continue open enrollment for School of Choice?

366 responses



Year	Total Students	SOC In	SOC Out	Gross SOC	Net SOC
2014-15	1,385	554	-100	40%	33%
2015-16	1,355	534	-86	40%	33%
2016-17	1,388	590	-91	43%	36%
2017-18	1,433	629	-95	44%	37%
2018-19	1,409	617	-97	44%	37%
2019-20	1,429	606	-103	43%	35%
2020-21	1,376	578	-129	42%	33%
2021-22	1,418	621	-119	44%	35%
2022-23	1,445	656	-137	45%	36%
2023-24	1,478	692	-148	47%	37%