



ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS

A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

October 16, 2020

Dear Royal Oak Schools families,

At Royal Oak Schools, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, employees and families. Our district's operating millage proposal, which will generate \$23 million for general operations of the school district, supports our safe return to school. This funding constitutes 46% of our operating budget to fund our schools and programs.

Royal Oak Schools has a proven track record^[1] of success inside and outside the classroom, and this fiscally responsible proposal will support our efforts to continue that proud tradition of excellence and keep our home and property values high.^[2]

The operating millage proposal will also help prepare our kids for the jobs of the future including in the skilled trades, and provide programming for both special education and general education students. The ballot includes a proposal to restore and extend the non-homestead millage which is levied at 18 mills for a period of 10 years.

The District's operating millages were last approved in 2013, with a small, non-homestead-only proposal approved in 2016. The current millage expired with the 2020 tax levy.

This restoration millage will support the District's efforts to continue providing comprehensive curriculum and educational opportunities to ALL students of Royal Oak Schools.

The levy of the non-homestead millage is required for Royal Oak Schools to receive its full per-pupil funding from Lansing, and every dollar spent will be tracked to ensure transparency and accountability.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. We hope you will get out and exercise your right to vote on November 3. If you have any questions, please visit our website for more information at <https://www.royalockschools.org/community/operating-millage-proposal/>.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, Superintendent

Royal Oak Schools

[1] "Royal Oak Schools Financial Statements June 30, 2020," https://secure.munetrix.com/app_assets/docs/school_transparency/63040FS-2560-1600442705-3838.pdf

[2] "School Spending Raises Property Values," <https://www.nber.org/digest/jan03/w9054.html>