



ONAWAY
AREA SCHOOLS

COPESD Proposed Special Education Millage Renewal



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

On November 3, voters in the Onaway Area Community Schools and across our three-county region will consider a proposed renewal of the COPESD special education millage. If approved, this renewal would continue to generate nearly \$3 million in annual funding dedicated to mandated special education services and programs. All of these dollars get **distributed to local school districts**, just as they have for the past 25 years.



Critical Support for Students

Every dollar from the millage renewal remains local and is distributed to Onaway Area Community Schools and our neighboring districts. These funds support:

- ✓ Specialized instructional support
- ✓ Early intervention services
- ✓ Classroom and behavioral supports
- ✓ Specialized transportation
- ✓ Equipment for students with disabilities
- ✓ Transition programming and postsecondary supports



The proposal is **NOT a new tax**. It would **renew** an existing millage that has supported special education services and programs for students throughout the region for more than two decades.



Impact on our Schools

This millage is a key funding source for the special education services we offer in the Onaway Area Community Schools—generating about **\$167,291 in revenue** in the 2025-26 school year. This amounts to roughly **\$338 per student** attending our schools.

These funds cover various mandated special education programs and services that otherwise would need to be paid for through our regular operating budget.

Because state and federal funding do not fully cover the cost of special education, we rely on a combination of funding sources to meet these obligations—including the millage.



COPESD
TO ENGAGE LEARNERS IN WAYS
THAT FOSTER GROWTH & SUCCESS

Key Facts & Information



What's on the ballot November 3?

- Community members throughout our region will vote on renewing the existing COPESD special education millage.
- Election date: **Tuesday, November 3, 2026.**
- If approved by voters, the proposed measure would generate **nearly \$3 million in annual funding** for mandated special education services and programs.

Understanding the Renewal Rate

- One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of **taxable property value**.
Taxable value is typically 50% of market or sale value.
- The proposed renewal rate is **0.6231 mill**.
- Estimated impact: Approximately **62 cents annually** for every \$1,000 of taxable property value.
- **Example:** A home with a *sale* value of \$300,000 would have an estimated annual impact of \$93.46.



School Districts Supported by the Renewal

- Cheboygan Area Schools
- Gaylord Community Schools
- Inland Lakes Schools
- Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools
- Mackinaw City Public Schools
- **Onaway Area Community Schools**
- Posen Consolidated School District
- Rogers City Area Schools
- Vanderbilt Area School District
- Wolverine Community School District



CHECK OUT THESE INFORMATIONAL REELS!

Scan the QR codes or visit the links below to informational reel videos on the proposed special education millage renewal.

What's on the Ballot this November:



bit.ly/copesdontheballot

Key Services Funded by the Millage:



bit.ly/copesdservicesfunded

Property Tax Impact of the Millage:



bit.ly/copesdntaximpact