



2023 Special Education Millage Information

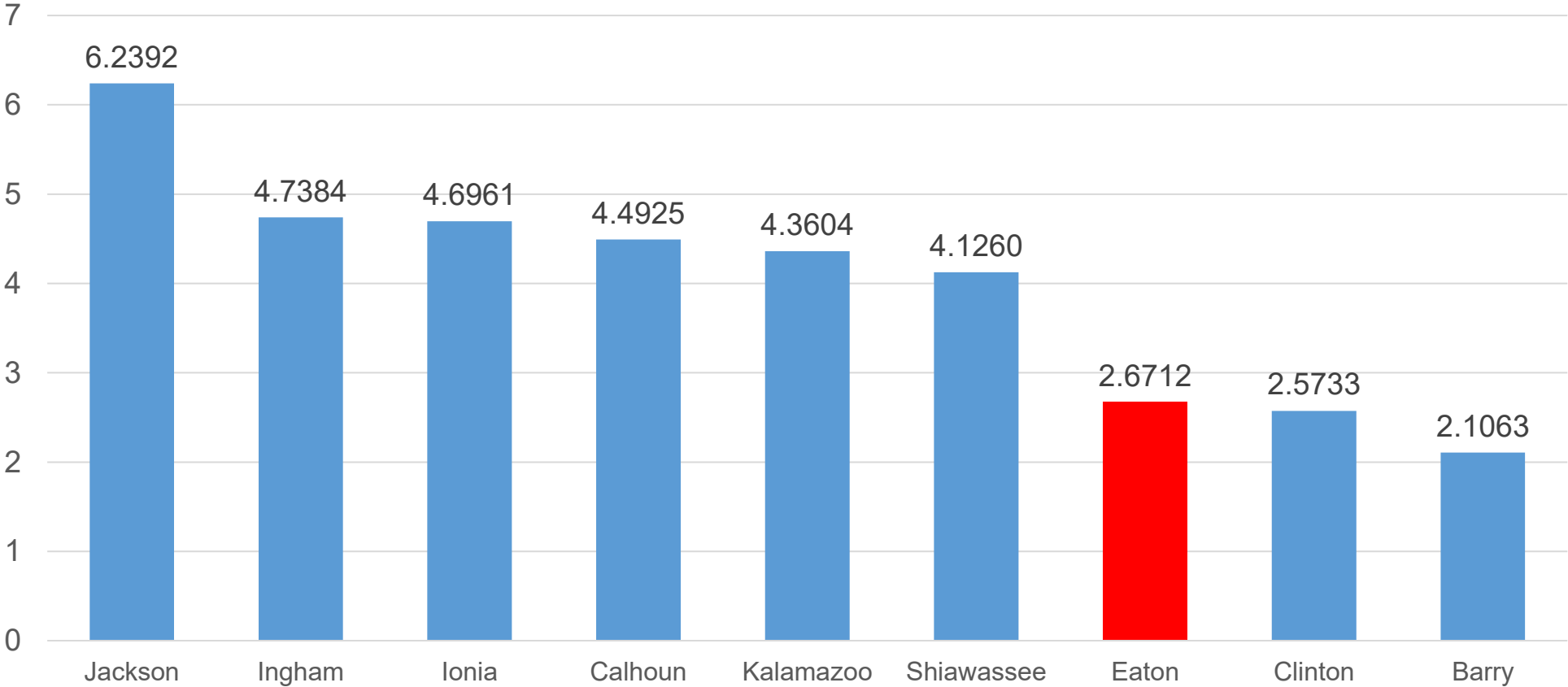
Updated August 29, 2023

Why do we have a Special Education Millage?

- In 1975 passed Public Law 94-142 which **required state to support students with handicaps and disabilities.**
- In 1985 Eaton County **voters approved 3 mills** to support local school districts with the costs to educate student with disabilities.
- Under the Headlee Act, state law requires school millages to roll back when property values rise higher than inflation. This has resulted in a **steady decrease in special education funding since 1985.**
- Currently, Eaton County school districts are **underfunded by \$6.1million** for providing required special education services.
- Due to special education underfunding, **school districts must pull funds allocated by the state to support all students** to fill the gap in special education funding.

How does Eaton compare to other counties?

Mills for Surrounding Counties



Source: 2022-23 State Aid Financial Status Report

Millage Request

- Eaton RESA will place a Special Education Millage on the November 7, 2023, ballot.
- The proposed millage increase is **0.9 mils for 10 years** (\$.90 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).
- The proposed millage would collect approximately **\$3 million per year** in the first year and similar annual funding each year for 10 years.
- The proposed millage would apply to all taxable properties in the Eaton RESA service area including Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) properties.
- Two-part millage - Headlee restoration (.3288) and increase (.5712) which will cut local districts' special education shortfall by almost half.

Funding Breakdown

In order to put the millage on the November ballot, all local districts in the Eaton RESA service area agreed to support both the restoration millage as well as a millage increase to help close the gap in Special Education funding.

If approved, this millage would restore the current special education millage that has been reduced (.3288) due to the Headlee Rollback to the full amount originally approved by voters in 1985. In addition, .5712 would be added to the current special education millage for a total of **.9 mills generating approximately \$3 million each year over the next 10 years.**

Headlee Restoration Millage: 0.3288

Millage Increase: 0.5712

Total Millage Request: 0.9

What does this millage increase mean for your school district?

District	Total Student Enrollment	Annual Funding Increase	Total Funds Over 10 Years
Charlotte	2,378	\$624,427	\$6.2 Million
Eaton Rapids	1,982	\$661,246	\$6.6 Million
Grand Ledge	5,096	\$1,289,880	\$12.9 Million
Maple Valley	912	\$226,727	\$2.2 Million
Potterville	753	\$248,880	\$2.4 Million

Funding Breakdown - Cost to Residents

What Would This Cost Taxpayers?

If this proposed millage passes, the cost to homeowners would be .9 mills, or approximately \$7.50/month or \$90/year for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000/market value of \$200,000.

Taxable Value (2022)	Revenue Generated at 0.9 mills
\$3,390,920,358	\$3,051,828
Market Value of Residence	Annual Cost per Household (annually)
\$200,000	\$90
\$300,000	\$135
\$400,000	\$180
\$500,000	\$225
\$1,000,000	\$450

Why now?

- Federal, state and local special education revenues underfund Eaton RESA service area programs by nearly **\$6.1 million dollars annually**. Because of this shortfall, general education funds are being diverted to pay for Special Education programs and services.
- A **3.0 mils millage was previously approved by voters in 1985**; since then, the cost of providing Special Education services has increased and district **budgets have been negatively impacted** as a result of the Headlee Amendment rollbacks.
- Currently, due to the **Headlee Amendment rollback**, the Eaton RESA Special Education millage is levied at 2.6712 mils. This equals an annual **shortage of \$1.1 million (of the \$31.7 million) current year budget**.
- Headlee Amendment rollbacks occur when the taxable values increase at higher rate than the rate of inflation causing a permanent reduction in Special Education funds delivered. Funding can only be restored through a restoration millage approved by voters.
- This **millage would not fully fund special education**. However, it would **reduce** the amount that is being used from **general education to fund special education**.

Why now?

- Eaton RESA's Special Education Millage is below the state average, which is 3.03 mills.
- 14.6% of students in the Eaton RESA service area receive Special Education, this year that is 1,880 students.
- Programs and demand for programs have grown and changed since 1985, and now include:
 - Expanded center-based programming including emotionally impaired programs for K-12 students
 - Programming for elementary students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Expanded transition programs focused on post-secondary outcomes
 - School year and summer work experience programs including student-run businesses and independent living skills
 - Technology tools have expanded to support communication and learning



**Additional information
can be found at
www.eatonresa.org**

