

STRONG Schools

STRONG Communities



**Enhancement
Millage Election
Tuesday, May 2**

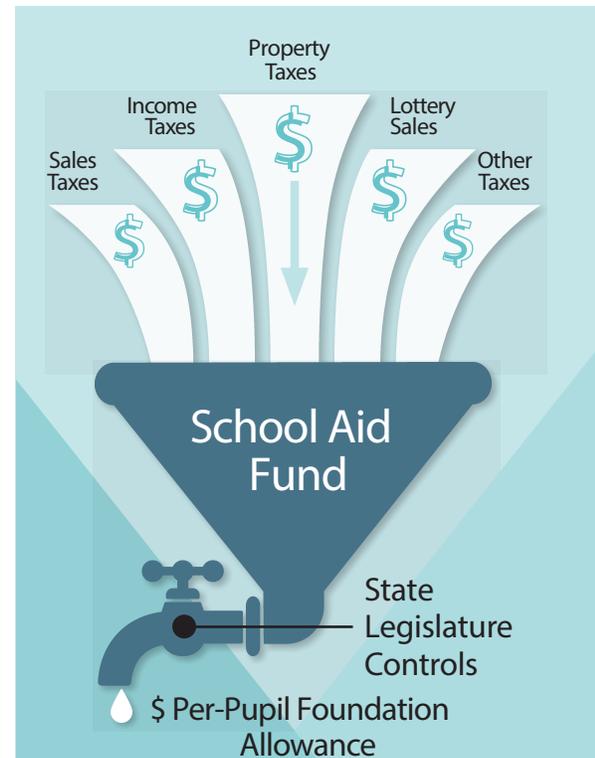
Your *Vote Counts* 

Vote: Strong Schools, Strong Communities

Understanding School Funding in Forest Hills

Public schools are facing many budget challenges. The first is inadequate funding received from its largest source—the School Aid Fund. This fund is made up of money generated from state sales tax, income tax, property tax, lottery sales and other taxes. School Aid Fund monies vary every year and are dependent upon the economy and budget priorities at the state level. Public school districts, like Forest Hills, have no control over how much the state decides to give to public education each year. With state revenue sources eroding, financial cuts to school budgets are no longer feasible nor sustainable. In fact, FHPS receives less in our per-pupil Foundation Allowance than we did in 2007.

Another budget challenge that all public schools face in Michigan is the rate of inflation is increasing faster than the rate of the per-pupil revenue increase from the state. The rate of inflation outpaces our rate of revenue increase and the gap is widening. To manage the small increases in per-pupil revenue, Forest Hills has cut \$20 million in expenses over the last 10 years. We aren't alone. Like many of our neighboring districts, we have had to dip into our fund reserves. We have made reductions as far from the classroom as possible. However, it is getting harder to squeeze any more out of our budget without impacting students.



Forest Hills Public Schools is receiving \$8,229 per pupil in 2016-2017 from the School Aid Fund. This is less than it was 10 years ago. A school's per-pupil allowance is determined each year at the state level. This allowance has failed to keep up with the rate of inflation.

For additional information, visit the FHPS website: www.fhps.net, or call 616-493-8800.

 An enhancement millage is the only option for school districts to request operational funding from the public beyond funding provided by the state.

 Since 2008-09, state funding has not kept up with inflation, causing districts to reduce or eliminate programs, classroom materials, and staff.

 If the proposal is approved, Forest Hills Public Schools would receive approximately \$2.1 million annually for the next 10 years.

FHPS Continues to Make Cuts ...



... And Spend Savings



FHPS has cut over \$20 million in expenses over the last 10 years. FHPS has used its fund balance to help make up for inadequate state funding.



Forest Hills Public Schools