

PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JANUARY 29, 2026

NEW ISSUE—Book-Entry-Only

RATINGS†\*: S&P Global Ratings AA / A+  
Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program / Underlying

In the opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., Bond Counsel, under existing law, (i) the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof, (ii) interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the extent and subject to the conditions described herein, and (iii) interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax to the extent and subject to the conditions described herein. See "TAX MATTERS" herein.



**\$29,340,000\*\***  
**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND BERRIEN, STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**2026 REFUNDING BONDS**  
**(GENERAL OBLIGATION - UNLIMITED TAX)**

Dated: Date of Delivery

Due: May 1, as shown below

The 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation – Unlimited Tax) (the "Bonds") were authorized by the Board of Education of the Dowagiac Union School District, Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, State of Michigan (the "School District") by resolutions adopted on October 20, 2025 and expected to be adopted on February \_\_, 2026 (together, the "Resolutions"). The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of two prior bond issues of the School District. The Bonds will pledge the full faith and credit of the School District for payment of the principal and interest thereon and will be payable from ad valorem taxes, which may be levied on all taxable property in the School District without limitation as to rate or amount.

The Bonds are expected to be fully qualified as of the date of delivery for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program pursuant to Act 92, Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended, enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the School District will be or is unable to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds when due, the School District shall borrow and the State of Michigan shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the School District to make the payment. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," herein.

The Bonds are issuable only as fully registered bonds without coupons and, when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as Bondholder and nominee for The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York. DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Purchases of beneficial interests in the Bonds will be made in book-entry-only form in the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Purchasers of beneficial interests in the Bonds (the "Beneficial Owners") will not receive certificates representing their beneficial interest in Bonds purchased. So long as Cede & Co. is the Bondholder, as nominee of DTC, references herein to the Bondholders or registered owners shall mean Cede & Co., as aforesaid, and shall not mean the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds. See "THE BONDS—Book-Entry-Only System" herein.

Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid by the corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan (the "Paying Agent"). So long as DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., is the Bondholder, such payments will be made directly to such Bondholder. Disbursement of such payments to DTC's Direct Participants is the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of DTC's Direct Participants and Indirect Participants, as more fully described herein. Interest will be payable semiannually on November 1 and May 1, commencing November 1, 2026 to the Bondholders of record as of the applicable record dates as stated in the Bonds.

(Base CUSIP\$: \_\_\_\_\_)

Maturity**	Amount**	Interest Rate	Yield	CUSIP\$	Maturity**	Amount**	Interest Rate	Yield	CUSIP\$
2027	\$1,945,000				2035	\$1,895,000			
2028	1,990,000				2036	1,995,000			
2029	2,225,000				2037	2,095,000			
2030	1,275,000				2038	2,200,000			
2031	1,430,000				2039	2,310,000			
2032	1,575,000				2040	2,420,000			
2033	1,715,000				2041	2,465,000			
2034	1,805,000								

THE BONDS OR PORTIONS OF THE BONDS MATURING ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 2037\*\* ARE SUBJECT TO OPTIONAL REDEMPTION BEGINNING MAY 1, 2036\*\*, IN THE MANNER AND AT THE TIMES DESCRIBED HEREIN. See "THE BONDS — Optional Redemption" herein.

The Bonds will be offered when, as and if issued by the School District and accepted by the Underwriter subject to the approving legal opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan, Bond Counsel. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Underwriter by Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., Detroit, Michigan. It is expected that the Bonds will be available for delivery through DTC on or about March \_\_, 2026.

This cover page contains certain information for quick reference only. It is not a summary of this issue. Investors must read the entire Official Statement to obtain information essential to the making of an informed investment decision.

STIFEL

The date of this Official Statement is February \_\_, 2026.

† For an explanation of the ratings, see "RATINGS" herein.

\* As of date of delivery.

\*\* Preliminary, subject to change.

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No dealer, broker, salesperson or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than as contained in this Official Statement in connection with the offer made hereby and, if given or made, such other information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the School District or the Underwriter. This Official Statement and the information contained herein are subject to completion and amendment. These securities may not be sold nor may an offer to buy these securities be accepted prior to the time the Official Statement is delivered in final form. Under no circumstances shall this Official Statement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

Information herein has been obtained from the School District, The Depository Trust Company and other sources believed to be reliable. The Underwriter has reviewed the information in this Official Statement in accordance with, and as part of, its responsibility to investors under the federal securities laws as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction, but the Underwriter does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information (except for information under the section captioned "UNDERWRITING," which was obtained from the Underwriter).

Upon issuance, the Bonds will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any state securities law and will not be listed on any stock or other securities exchange. Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other federal, state, municipal or other governmental entity or agency will have passed upon the adequacy of this Official Statement, or, except for the School District and the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan, approved the Bonds for sale.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING, THE UNDERWRITER MAY OVERALLOT OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS THAT STABILIZE OR MAINTAIN THE MARKET PRICE OF THE BONDS AT A LEVEL ABOVE THAT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL IN THE OPEN MARKET. SUCH STABILIZING, IF COMMENCED, MAY BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, INVESTORS MUST RELY ON THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFERING, INCLUDING THE MERITS AND RISKS INVOLVED. THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED BY ANY FEDERAL OR STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY. FURTHERMORE, THE FOREGOING AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OR DETERMINED THE ADEQUACY OF THIS DOCUMENT. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
243 South Front Street  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047-1738  
(269) 782-4400

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Ickes, President  
Christina Carpenter, Vice President  
Stephanie Cooper-Tucker, Secretary  
Tracey Hatcher, Treasurer  
Dominique Charles, Trustee  
Jeff de Varona, Trustee  
Randi Taggart, Trustee

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Greg Blomgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Stacy D. Ritchie, Director of Finance

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**relating to**  
  
**\$29,340,000<sup>1</sup>**  
**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND BERRIEN, STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**2026 REFUNDING BONDS**  
**(GENERAL OBLIGATION – UNLIMITED TAX)**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Official Statement, which includes the cover page and Appendices, is to furnish information in connection with the issuance and sale by Dowagiac Union School District, Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, State of Michigan (the "School District") of its 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the "Bonds") in the principal amount of \$29,340,000<sup>1</sup>.

**PURPOSE AND SECURITY**

The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of the School District's outstanding 2015 Refunding Bonds, dated August 27, 2015, which are due and payable May 1, 2027 through May 1, 2031, inclusive, and the 2016 School Building and Site Bonds, dated March 2, 2016, which are due and payable May 1, 2027 through May 1, 2041, inclusive (collectively, the "Prior Bonds"); and paying the costs of issuing the Bonds.

The Bonds, as authorized for issuance by the resolutions of the Board of Education of the School District adopted on October 20, 2025 and expected to be adopted on February \_\_, 2026 (together, the "Resolutions"), are a full faith and credit unlimited tax general obligation of the School District. The principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable from the proceeds of ad valorem taxes levied on all taxable property in the School District which may be levied without limitation as to rate or amount. As of the date of delivery, the Bonds are expected to be fully qualified for participation in the State of Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

**QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

An application will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury to obtain, and it is the School District's expectation that the Bonds will receive, final qualification as of the date of delivery to participate in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program pursuant to Act 92 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended ("Act 92"), enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the School District will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds when due, the School District shall borrow and the State of Michigan (the "State") shall lend to it from the School Loan Revolving Fund (the "School Loan Revolving Fund") established by the State, an amount sufficient to enable the School District to make the payment. Article IX, Section 16 of the State Constitution as implemented by Act 112 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1961, as amended, authorizes the State, without approval of its electors, to borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge the State's full faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided under such section. Loans to school districts for such purposes are made from the proceeds of such State borrowing. See APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

Complete financial statements of all of the State's funds as included in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report ("ACFR") prepared by the State's Office of the State Budget are available from the Budget website: [www.michigan.gov/budget](http://www.michigan.gov/budget). The State has agreed to file its ACFR with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (as described in Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) of the Securities and Exchange

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

Commission) annually, so long as any bonds qualified for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program remain outstanding.

### **PLAN OF REFUNDING**

A portion of the proceeds of the Bonds, together with other available funds of the School District, will be used to pay certain costs of issuance relating to the refunding of the Prior Bonds and to establish an escrow fund (the "Escrow Fund") composed of cash and non-callable direct obligations of, or obligations the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America or other obligations the principal of and interest on which are fully secured by the foregoing. The Escrow Fund will be held by the corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") and will be used to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds. The Escrow Fund will be held by the Escrow Agent pursuant to an escrow agreement (the "Escrow Agreement") which irrevocably directs the Escrow Agent to make the payment of principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds at call for redemption. The Escrow Fund will be such that the cash and the principal of and interest payments received on investments will be sufficient, without reinvestment except as provided in the Escrow Agreement, to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds as they are called for redemption, as set forth in the following table.

#### **Principal of and Interest on the Prior Bonds to be paid from the Escrow Fund<sup>1</sup>**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
05/01/2026	\$32,355,000.00	\$777,475.00	\$33,132,475.00

The accuracy of the mathematical computations of (i) the adequacy of the cash and certain obligations to be held in the Escrow Fund and used, together with the earnings thereon, to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds at call for redemption, and (ii) demonstrating that the yield on the Prior Bonds as originally issued is not less than the yield on the obligations held in the Escrow Fund that were purchased with the contribution from the Prior Bonds debt retirement funds, supporting the conclusion of Bond Counsel that the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes as indicated under the caption "TAX MATTERS" herein, will be verified by Robert Thomas CPA, LLC, Shawnee Mission, Kansas (the "Verification Agent"). Such verification of accuracy of the computations shall be based upon information supplied by the Underwriter and the interpretations of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as provided by Bond Counsel.

### **ESTIMATED SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS**

#### **SOURCES**

Par Amount of the Bonds  
Original Issue Premium  
Original Issue Discount  
Contribution from Prior Bonds Debt Retirement Funds  
Total Sources

#### **USES**

Escrow Fund  
Underwriter's Discount  
Costs of Issuance for the Bonds  
Total Uses

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

## **THE BONDS**

### **Description and Form of the Bonds**

The Bonds will be issued in book-entry-only form as one fully registered Bond per maturity, without coupons, in the aggregate principal amount for each maturity set forth on the cover page hereof and may be purchased in denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. The Bonds will be dated as of, and bear interest from, the date of issuance. Interest on the Bonds shall be payable semiannually each November 1 and May 1 to maturity or early redemption, commencing November 1, 2026. Interest on the Bonds shall be computed using a 360-day year with twelve 30-day months, and the Bonds will mature on the dates and in the principal amounts and will bear interest at the rates as set forth on the cover of this Official Statement.

The corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, will serve as the paying agent (the "Paying Agent") and also as bond registrar and transfer agent if the Bonds cease to be held in book-entry-only form. Interest on the Bonds shall be payable when due by check or draft to the person or entity who or which is, as of the fifteenth (15th) day of the month preceding each interest payment date, the registered owner of record, at the owner's registered address. For a description of payment of principal and interest, transfers, exchanges on the Bonds, which are held in the book-entry-only system, see "Book-Entry-Only System" below. For a description of transfers and exchanges on the Bonds if the Bonds cease to be held in book-entry-only form, see "Transfer Outside Book-Entry-Only System" below.

### **Book-Entry-Only System**

The information in this section has been furnished by The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"). No representation is made by the School District, the Paying Agent or the Underwriter as to the completeness or accuracy of such information or as to the absence of material adverse changes in such information subsequent to the date hereof. No attempt has been made by the School District, the Paying Agent or the Underwriter to determine whether DTC is or will be financially or otherwise capable of fulfilling its obligations. Neither the School District nor the Paying Agent will have any responsibility or obligation to Direct Participants, Indirect Participants (both as defined below) or the persons for which they act as nominees with respect to the Bonds, or for any principal, premium, if any, or interest payment thereof.

DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee), or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds, each in the aggregate principal amount of such maturity and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC System is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). DTC has a Standard & Poor's rating of AA+. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of the notices be provided directly to them.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the Bonds within a maturity are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such maturity to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor such other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the School District as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Payments of principal and interest and redemption amounts, if any, on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detailed information from the School District or Paying Agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC nor its nominee, Paying Agent, or the School District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payments of principal, interest and redemption amounts, if any, to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) are the responsibility of the School District or Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the School District or Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the



event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The School District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered.

#### **Transfer Outside Book-Entry-Only System**

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued, the Paying Agent shall keep the registration books for the Bonds (the "Bond Register") at its corporate trust office. Subject to the further conditions contained in the Resolutions, the Bonds may be transferred or exchanged for one or more Bonds in different authorized denominations upon surrender thereof at the corporate trust office of the Paying Agent by the registered owners or their duly authorized attorneys; upon surrender of any Bonds to be transferred or exchanged, the Paying Agent shall record the transfer or exchange in the Bond Register and shall authenticate replacement bonds in authorized denominations; during the fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the date of mailing of any notice of redemption or any time following the mailing of any notice of redemption, the Paying Agent shall not be required to effect or register any transfer or exchange of any Bond which has been selected for such redemption, except the Bonds properly surrendered for partial redemption may be exchanged for new Bonds in authorized denominations equal in the aggregate to the unredeemed portion; the School District and the Paying Agent shall be entitled to treat the registered owners of the Bonds, as their names appear in the Bond Register as of the appropriate dates, as the owners of such Bonds for all purposes under the Resolutions. No transfer or exchange made other than as described above and in the Resolutions shall be valid or effective for any purposes under the Resolutions.

#### **Optional Redemption**<sup>1</sup>

The Bonds or portions of the Bonds in multiples of \$5,000 maturing on or after May 1, 2037<sup>1</sup>, are subject to redemption at the option of the School District in such order as the School District may determine and by lot within any maturity, on any date occurring on or after May 1, 2036<sup>1</sup>, at par plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

#### **Notice of Redemption and Manner of Selection**

Notice of redemption of any Bond shall be given not less than thirty (30) days and not more than sixty (60) days prior to the date fixed for redemption by mail to the registered owner at the registered address shown on the registration books kept by the Paying Agent. The Bonds shall be called for redemption in multiples of \$5,000 and Bonds of denominations of more than \$5,000 shall be treated as representing the number of Bonds obtained by dividing the face amount of the Bond by \$5,000 and such Bonds may be redeemed in part. The notice of redemption for Bonds redeemed in part shall state that upon surrender of the Bond to be redeemed a new Bond or Bonds in an aggregate face amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the Bond surrendered shall be issued to the registered owner thereof.

If less than all of the Bonds of any maturity shall be called for redemption prior to maturity, unless otherwise provided, the particular Bonds or portions of Bonds to be redeemed shall be selected by lot by the Paying Agent, in the principal amounts designated by the School District. Any Bonds selected for redemption will cease to bear interest on the date fixed for redemption, whether presented for redemption, provided funds are on hand with the Paying Agent to redeem said Bonds. Upon presentation and surrender of such Bonds at the corporate trust office of the Paying Agent, such Bonds shall be paid and redeemed.

So long as the book-entry-only system remains in effect, in the event of a partial redemption the Paying Agent will give notice to Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC, only, and only Cede & Co. will be deemed to be a holder of the Bonds. DTC is expected to reduce the credit balances of the applicable DTC Participants in respect of the Bonds and in turn the DTC Participants are expected to select those Beneficial Owners whose ownership interests are to be extinguished or reduced by such partial redemption, each by such method as DTC or such DTC Participants, as the case may be, deems fair and appropriate in its sole discretion.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

## **TAX PROCEDURES**

Article IX, Section 3, of the Michigan Constitution provides that the proportion of true cash value at which property shall be assessed shall not exceed 50% of true cash value. The Michigan Legislature by statute has provided that property shall be assessed at 50% of its true cash value, except as described below. The Michigan Legislature or the electorate may at some future time reduce the percentage below 50% of true cash value.

On March 15, 1994, the electors of the State approved an amendment to the Michigan Constitution permitting the Legislature to authorize ad valorem taxes on a non-uniform basis. The legislation implementing this constitutional amendment added a new measure of property value known as "Taxable Value." Beginning in 1995, taxable property has two valuations -- State equalized valuation ("SEV") and Taxable Value. Property taxes are levied on Taxable Value. Generally, Taxable Value of property is the lesser of (a) the Taxable Value of the property in the immediately preceding year, adjusted for losses, and increased or reduced by the lesser of the inflation rate or 5%, plus additions, or (b) the property's current SEV. Under certain circumstances, therefore, the Taxable Value of property may be different from the same property's SEV.

When property is sold or transferred, Taxable Value is adjusted to the SEV, which under existing law is 50% of the current true cash value. The Taxable Value of new construction is equal to current SEV. Taxable Value and SEV of existing property are also adjusted annually for additions and losses.

Responsibility for assessing taxable property rests with the local assessing officer of each township and city. Any property owner may appeal the assessment to the local board of review, the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and ultimately to the Michigan appellate courts.

The Michigan Constitution also mandates a system of equalization for assessments. Although the assessors for each local unit of government within a county are responsible for actually assessing at 50% of true cash value, adjusted for Taxable Value purposes, the final SEV and Taxable Value are arrived at through several steps. Assessments are established initially by the municipal assessor. Municipal assessments are then equalized to the 50% levels as determined by the county's department of equalization. Thereafter, the State equalizes the various counties in relation to each other. SEV is important, aside from its use in determining Taxable Value for the purpose of levying ad valorem property taxes, because of its role in the spreading of taxes between overlapping jurisdictions, the distribution of various State aid programs, State revenue sharing and in the calculation of debt limits.

Property that is exempt from property taxes, e.g., churches, government property, public schools, is not included in the SEV and Taxable Value data in the Official Statement. Property granted tax abatements under Act 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, amended, is recorded on a separate tax roll while subject to tax abatement. The valuation of tax-abated property is based upon SEV but is not included in either the SEV or Taxable Value data in the Official Statement except as noted. Under limited circumstances, other State laws permit the partial abatement of certain taxes for other types of property for periods of up to 12 years.

## **LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND BONDHOLDERS' REMEDIES**

The Resolutions authorizing the issuance of the Bonds and State law obligate the School District to levy a tax annually in an amount sufficient so that the estimated collections therefrom, together with other amounts, if any, to be borrowed from the School Loan Revolving Fund for the Bonds, will be sufficient to pay promptly when due the principal of and interest on the Bonds becoming due prior to the time of the next tax levy. The tax levy shall not be subject to limitation as to rate or amount. Taxes for the payment of the principal of or interest on the Bonds are certified for collection each year with the school tax levies. In the event of the failure of the proper officials to certify taxes for the payment of the principal and interest requirements, a timely action in the nature of mandamus could compel certification and collection of adequate taxes or could compel the School District to make application to borrow the necessary funds from the School Loan Revolving Fund and thus prevent a default. However, if a paying agent for any bonds of the School District qualified for State loans as provided in Article IX, Section 16, of the State Constitution notifies the State Treasurer that the School District has failed to deposit sufficient funds to pay principal and interest on

the qualified bonds when due or if a bondholder notifies the State Treasurer that the School District has failed to pay principal or interest on such qualified bonds when due, whether or not the School District has filed a draw request with the State Treasurer, the State Treasurer shall promptly pay the principal or interest on the qualified bonds when due.

If sufficient funds for full payment of debt service on the Bonds do not reach the Paying Agent five business days prior to the debt service payment due date, the Paying Agent will notify the School District of the amount of insufficient funds four business days prior to the due date. In the event that the School District does not immediately resolve the insufficient funds situation, the Paying Agent will notify the Michigan Department of Treasury of the deficiency three business days before the payment due date and the State Treasurer shall make the payment.

Any amount paid by the State Treasurer as described in the preceding paragraphs shall be deemed a loan made to the School District pursuant to the requirements of said Article IX, Section 16, of the State Constitution. Registered owners of the Bonds may attempt to obtain a money judgment against the School District for the principal amount of the Bonds or interest not paid when due and may periodically attempt to enforce the collection of the money judgment by requiring the tax assessing officers for the School District to place the amount of such judgment on the next tax rolls of the School District. The rights of the holders of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof are subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted and their enforcement also may be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases. See APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

## **SOURCES OF SCHOOL OPERATING REVENUE**

On March 15, 1994, the electors of the State of Michigan approved a ballot proposition to amend the State Constitution of 1963, in part, to increase the State sales tax from 4% to 6% as part of a complex plan to restructure the source of funding of public education (K-12) in order to reduce reliance on local property taxes for school operating purposes and to reduce the per pupil finance resource disparities among school districts.

The State school aid package passed by the Legislature as part of the school finance reform legislation instituted a per pupil foundation allowance beginning in fiscal year 1994/95. With the passage of Public Act 48 of 2021, the Legislature eliminated the foundation allowance range in 2021/22 that had been in place since the passage of the school finance reform legislation in 1994. In Public Act 15 of 2025 ("PA 15"), the Legislature established a 2025/26 target foundation allowance of \$10,050 per pupil. In the future, the foundation allowance may be adjusted annually by an index based upon the change in revenues to the State school aid fund and change in the total number of pupils statewide. The foundation allowance is funded by locally raised property taxes plus State school aid. The revenues for the State's contribution to the foundation allowance are derived from a mix of taxing sources, including, but not limited to, a statewide property tax of 6 mills on all taxable property<sup>1</sup>, a State sales and use tax, a real estate transfer tax and a cigarette tax.

Generally, school districts are required to levy a local property tax of not more than 18 mills or the number of mills levied in 1993 for school operating purposes, whichever is less, on non-homestead properties<sup>2</sup> in order for the school district to receive its per pupil foundation allowance. An intermediate school district may seek voter approval for up to three enhancement mills for distribution to local constituent school districts on a per pupil basis. Proceeds of the enhancement mills are not counted toward the foundation allowance. Furthermore, school districts whose per pupil foundation allowance in 2025/26 calculates to an amount in excess of \$10,050 are authorized to levy additional millage to obtain the foundation allowance, first by levying such amount of the 18 mills against homestead property<sup>3</sup> as is necessary to hold themselves harmless

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<sup>1</sup> "Taxable property" in this context does not include industrial personal property.

<sup>2</sup> "Non-homestead property" includes all taxable property other than principal residence, qualified agricultural property, qualified forestry property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, and industrial personal property. Commercial personal property, to the extent not otherwise exempt, is exempt from the first 12 mills of not more than 18 mills levied by school districts.

<sup>3</sup> "Homestead property", in this context, means principal residence, qualified agricultural property, qualified forestry property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, certain industrial personal property and certain commercial personal property, to the extent not otherwise exempt.

and, if the 18 mills is insufficient, to then levy such additional mills against all property uniformly as is necessary to obtain the foundation allowance. The School District's 2025/26 per pupil foundation allowance does not exceed \$10,050, and the School District does not levy such additional millage.

State aid appropriations and the payment schedule for State school aid may be changed by the Legislature at any time. If the amount appropriated from the State school aid fund exceeds the amount available for expenditure for a fiscal year, in the absence of overriding legislative action by the Legislature, the School Aid Act subjects most state aid payable to school districts for that fiscal year to an automatic proration on a per pupil basis in an amount necessary to eliminate the portion of the overage attributable to the appropriation to all school districts. See "STATE AID PAYMENTS" in APPENDIX B.

Public Act 120 of 2024 amended the State School Aid Act for the 2024/25 fiscal year, maintaining the School District's foundation allowance from the previous year at \$9,608 per pupil.

PA 15 amended the State School Aid Act for the 2025/26 fiscal year, increasing the School District's foundation allowance to \$10,050 per pupil.

Pursuant to PA 15, the School District may be eligible to receive various categorical grants for specific purposes, such as special education, "at-risk" students, meal programs, early education, career and technical education programs, and other instructional and non-instructional programs. The annual amendments to the State School Aid Act determine the type and amount of those categorical funds. For further information regarding the School District's receipt of categorical funds for the 2024/25 fiscal year, see the School District's audited financial statements in APPENDIX D.

THE SOURCES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPERATING REVENUE DO NOT IMPACT THE TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX SCHOOL BONDS AND DO NOT AFFECT THE OBLIGATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO LEVY TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE ON GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE BONDS OFFERED HEREIN.

### **MICHIGAN PROPERTY TAX REFORM**

On November 5, 2013, March 28, 2014, and April 1, 2014, a package of bills amended and replaced legislation enacted in 2012 to phase-out most personal property taxation in Michigan. The bills were contingent on Michigan voters approving a ballot question authorizing a new municipal entity, the Local Community Stabilization Authority ("LCSA"), to levy a local component of the statewide use tax and distribute that revenue to local units of government to offset their revenue losses resulting from the personal property tax reform. On August 5, 2014, voters approved that ballot question.

The bill package, together with the original 2012 legislation, created two new exemptions from the personal property tax. Under the "small taxpayer exemption," the commercial and industrial personal property of each owner with a combined true cash value in a local tax collecting unit of less than \$80,000 became exempt from ad valorem taxes in that collecting unit beginning in 2014, with such threshold being increased by the legislature to a combined true cash value in a local tax collecting unit of less than \$180,000 beginning in 2023. For businesses that do not qualify for the "small taxpayer exemption," all "eligible manufacturing personal property" (personal property used more than 50% of the time in industrial processing or direct integrated support) purchased and placed into service before 2006 or during or after 2013 became exempt beginning in 2016. Taxation on "eligible manufacturing personal property" placed into service after 2006 but before 2013 will be phased-out over time; with the exemption taking effect after the property has been in service for the immediately preceding 10 years. The legislation extends certain personal property tax exemptions and tax abatements for technology parks, industrial facilities and enterprise zones that were to expire after 2012, until the voter approved personal property tax exemptions take effect.

Pursuant to voter approval in August 2014, the legislation also includes a formula to reimburse school districts for 100% of their lost operating millage revenue and lost sinking fund millage revenue. To provide the reimbursement, the legislation reduces the state share of the use tax and authorizes the LCSA to levy a local component of the use tax and distribute that revenue to qualifying local units. However, the

reimbursement for the school district's operating millage will come from the State use tax component, which is deposited into the State school aid fund.<sup>1</sup> While the legislation provides reimbursement for prospective school operating losses, pursuant to legislative changes made in 2020, the School District will be reimbursed for debt millage calculated pursuant to a statutory formula.

## **LITIGATION**

The School District has not been served with any litigation, administrative action or proceeding, and to the knowledge of the appropriate officials of the School District no litigation or administrative action or proceeding has been threatened, restraining or enjoining, or seeking to restrain or enjoin, the issuance and delivery of the Bonds, or questioning or contesting the validity of the Bonds or the proceedings or authorities under which they are authorized to be issued, sold, executed and delivered. A certificate to such effect will be delivered to the Underwriter at the time of the original delivery of the Bonds.

## **TAX MATTERS**

### **State**

In the opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan ("Bond Counsel"), based on its examination of the documents described in its opinion, under existing State of Michigan statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof.

### **Federal**

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, based upon its examination of the documents described in its opinion, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals; however, interest on the Bonds held by an "applicable corporation" as defined in Section 59(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") is included in annual "adjusted financial statement income" for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on an applicable corporation. The opinions set forth in the preceding sentence are subject to the condition that the School District comply with all requirements of the Code, that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The School District has covenanted to comply with such requirements. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements may cause the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in gross income for federal income tax purposes to be retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. Bond Counsel will express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences with respect to the Bonds.

There are additional federal tax consequences relative to the Bonds and the interest thereon. The following is a general description of some of these consequences but is not intended to be complete or exhaustive and investors should consult with their tax advisors with respect to these matters. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be aware that (i) interest on the Bonds is included in the effectively connected earnings and profits of certain foreign corporations for purposes of calculating the branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code, (ii) interest on the Bonds may be subject to a tax on excess net passive income of certain S Corporations imposed by Section 1375 of the Code, (iii) interest on the Bonds is included in the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining the taxability of social security or railroad retirement benefits, (iv) the receipt of interest on the Bonds by life insurance companies may affect the federal tax liability of such companies, (v) in the case of property and casualty insurance companies, the amount of certain loss deductions otherwise allowed is reduced by a specific percentage of, among other things, interest on the Bonds, (vi) holders of the Bonds may not deduct interest on indebtedness incurred or

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<sup>1</sup> A school district that increases its millage rate, without voter approval, to replace debt millage revenue loss would not be eligible to receive reimbursement distributions. Because much of the reimbursement funds are deposited into the State school aid fund, the legislature may, in the future, change the funding formulas in the State School Aid Act of 1979 or appropriate funds therein for other purposes.

continued to purchase or carry the Bonds, and (vii) commercial banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions may not deduct their costs of carrying certain obligations such as the Bonds.

### **Original Issue Premium**<sup>1</sup>

For federal income tax purposes, the initial offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses and brokers) of certain Bonds, as set forth on the cover of this Official Statement, may be greater than the stated redemption prices at maturity (the "Premium Bonds"), and constitutes for the original purchasers of the Premium Bonds an amortizable bond premium. Such amortizable bond premium is not deductible from gross income. The amount of amortizable bond premium allocable to each taxable year is generally determined on the basis of a taxpayer's yield to maturity determined by using the taxpayer's basis (for purposes of determining loss on sale or exchange) of such Premium Bonds and compounding at the close of each six-month accrual period. The amount of amortizable bond premium allocable to each taxable year is deducted from the taxpayer's adjusted basis of such Premium Bonds to determine taxable gain upon disposition (including sale, redemption or payment on maturity) of such Premium Bonds.

### **Original Issue Discount**<sup>1</sup>

The initial public offering prices of certain Bonds, as set forth on the cover page of this Official Statement, may be less than the stated redemption prices at maturity (hereinafter referred to as the "OID Bonds"), and, to the extent properly allocable to each owner of such OID Bond, the original issue discount is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes with respect to such owner. Original issue discount is the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of an OID Bond over the initial offering price to the public (excluding bond houses and brokers) at which price a substantial amount of the OID Bonds were sold. Under Section 1288 of the Code, original issue discount on tax-exempt bonds accrues on a compound basis. For an owner who acquires an OID Bond in this offering, the amount of original issue discount that accrues during any accrual period generally equals (i) the issue price of such OID Bond plus the amount of original issue discount accrued in all prior accrual periods, multiplied by (ii) the yield to maturity on such OID Bond (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each accrual period and properly adjusted for the length of the accrual period), less (iii) any interest payable on such OID Bond during such accrual period. The amount of original issue discount so accrued in a particular accrual period will be considered to be received ratably on each day of the accrual period, will be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, and will increase the owner's tax basis in such OID Bond. Any gain realized by an owner from a sale, exchange, payment or redemption of an OID Bond would be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of such OID Bond. Owners of OID Bonds should consult with their individual tax advisors to determine whether the application of the original issue discount federal regulations will require them to include, for state and local income tax purposes, an amount of interest on the OID Bonds as income even though no corresponding cash interest payment is actually received during the tax year.

### **Future Developments**

No assurance can be given that any future legislation or clarifications or amendments to the Code or to Michigan statutes, if enacted into law, will not contain proposals which could cause the interest on the Bonds to be subject directly or indirectly to federal or State income taxation, adversely affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds, or otherwise prevent bondholders from realizing the full current benefit of the status of the interest thereon.

Furthermore, no assurance can be given that the impact of any future court decisions will not cause the interest on the Bonds to be subject directly or indirectly to federal or State income taxation, adversely affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds, or otherwise prevent bondholders from realizing the full current benefit of the status of the interest thereon.

It is to be understood that the rights of the holders of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

INVESTORS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACQUISITION, HOLDING OR DISPOSITION OF THE BONDS, INCLUDING THE TREATMENT OF ORIGINAL ISSUE PREMIUM OR ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT, IF ANY.

### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale by the School District of the Bonds are subject to the approving opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan. Except to the extent necessary to issue its approving opinion as to the validity of the Bonds, Bond Counsel has made no inquiry as to any financial information, statements or materials contained in any financial documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds, and accordingly will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of any such financial information, statements or materials.

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Underwriter by its counsel, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., Detroit, Michigan.

### **APPROVAL BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY**

The School District has received a letter from the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan stating that the School District is in material compliance with the criteria of the Revised Municipal Finance Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, for a municipality to be granted qualified status. The School District may therefore issue the Bonds without further approval from the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan.

### **RATINGS**

S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard and Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"), will assign, as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, its municipal bond rating of "AA" to the Bonds based upon the fact that each Bond will be fully qualified for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program as of its date of delivery. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN," "LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND BONDHOLDERS' REMEDIES" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," herein.

S&P will also assign, as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, its underlying municipal bond rating of "A+" to the Bonds without regard to qualification of the Bonds for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program.

No application has been made to any other ratings service for a rating on the Bonds. The School District furnished to S&P certain materials and information in addition to that provided herein. Generally, rating agencies base their ratings on such information and materials, and on investigations, studies and assumptions. There is no assurance that such ratings will prevail for any given period of time or that they will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely by S&P if, in its judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any such downward revision or withdrawal of such ratings may have an adverse affect on the market price of the Bonds. Any ratings assigned represent only the views of S&P. Further information is available upon request from S&P Global Ratings, 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041, telephone: (212) 438-1000.

### **UNDERWRITING**

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated (the "Underwriter" or "Stifel"), has agreed, subject to the terms of the Bond Purchase Agreement, to purchase the Bonds from the School District. The Bond Purchase Agreement provides, in part, that the Underwriter, subject to certain conditions, will purchase from the School District the aggregate principal amount of Bonds for a purchase price as set forth therein. The Underwriter has further agreed to offer the Bonds to the public at the approximate initial offering prices corresponding to the yields as set forth on the cover hereto. The Underwriter may offer and sell the Bonds to certain dealers and others at prices lower than the offering prices corresponding to the yields stated on the cover hereto. The

offering prices may be changed from time to time by the Underwriter. The aggregate underwriting fee for the Bonds equals \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds.

The Bond Purchase Agreement provides that the obligations of the Underwriter are subject to certain conditions, including, among other things, that (i) no event has occurred which impairs or threatens to impair the validity of the Bonds or the status of the Bonds or the interest thereon as exempt from taxation in the State of Michigan and interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes (except as described under the heading "TAX MATTERS" herein), and (ii) proceedings relating to the Bonds are not pending or threatened by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Bond Purchase Agreement further provides that the School District will provide to the Underwriter, within seven business days of the date of the Bond Purchase Agreement, an electronic copy of the Official Statement to enable the Underwriter to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(4) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Stifel and its affiliates comprise a full-service financial institution engaged in activities which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. Stifel and its affiliates may have provided, and may in the future provide, a variety of these services to the School District and to persons and entities with relationships with the School District, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of these business activities, Stifel and its affiliates may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and actively traded securities, derivatives, loans and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to assets, securities and/or instruments of the School District (directly, as collateral securing other obligations or otherwise) and/or persons and entities with relationships with the School District.

Stifel and its affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire such assets, securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve securities and instruments of the School District.

### **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR'S OBLIGATION**

The School District has retained PFM Financial Advisors LLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan, as municipal financial advisor (the "Municipal Advisor") in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. In preparing portions of the Official Statement, the Municipal Advisor has relied upon governmental officials and other sources which have access to relevant data, to provide accurate information for the Official Statement and the Municipal Advisor has not been engaged, nor has it undertaken, to independently verify the accuracy of such information. To the best of the Municipal Advisor's knowledge and belief, the information contained in the Official Statement, which it assisted in preparing, while it may be summarized, is complete and accurate. The Municipal Advisor is not a public accounting firm and has not been engaged by the School District to compile, review, examine or audit any information in the Official Statement in accordance with accounting standards.

The Municipal Advisor is an independent advisory firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities and therefore will not participate in the underwriting of the Bonds. PFM Financial Advisors LLC is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board as a municipal advisor.

Requests for information concerning the School District should be addressed to PFM Financial Advisors LLC, 555 Briarwood Circle, Suite 333, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, telephone: (734) 994-9700.

### **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE**

Prior to delivery of the Bonds, the School District will execute a Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "Agreement") for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds and the Beneficial Owners (as hereinafter defined under this caption only) to send certain information annually and to provide notice of certain events to certain information repositories pursuant to the requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the "Rule") adopted



by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. "Beneficial Owner" means, under this caption only, any person, which has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of, any Bonds (including any person holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or any other intermediaries). The information to be provided on an annual basis, the events which will be noticed on an occurrence basis and the other terms of the Agreement, are set forth in "APPENDIX F: Form of Continuing Disclosure Agreement." Additionally, the School District shall provide certain annual financial information and operating data generally consistent with the information contained within the tables under the headings "ENROLLMENT - Historical Enrollment," "STATE AID PAYMENTS," "PROPERTY VALUATIONS - History of Valuations," "MAJOR TAXPAYERS," "SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)," "TAX LEVIES AND COLLECTIONS," "RETIREMENT PLAN - Contribution to MPSERS," "LABOR RELATIONS," "DEBT STATEMENT - DIRECT DEBT," and "SCHOOL LOAN REVOLVING FUND (SLRF) PROGRAM" as it relates to the School District's School Loan Revolving Fund balance, if any, in APPENDIX B and General Fund Budget Summary in APPENDIX C.

A failure by the School District to comply with the Agreement will not constitute an event of default under the Resolutions and Beneficial Owners of the Bonds are limited to the remedies described in the Agreement. A failure by the School District to comply with the Agreement must be reported by the School District in accordance with the Rule and must be considered by any broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer before recommending the purchase or sale of the Bonds in the secondary market. Consequently, such a failure may adversely affect the transferability and liquidity of the Bonds and their market price.

The School District has not, in the previous five years, failed to comply in any material respect with any previous continuing disclosure agreement or undertaking executed by the School District pursuant to the Rule.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

All information contained in this Official Statement, in all respects, is subject to the complete body of information contained in the original sources thereof. In particular, no opinion or representation is rendered as to whether any projection will approximate actual results, and all opinions, estimates and assumptions, whether or not expressly identified as such, should not be considered statements of fact.

The School District certifies that to its best knowledge and belief, this Official Statement, insofar as it pertains to the School District and its economic and financial condition, is true and correct as of the date of this Official Statement, and does not contain, nor omit, any material facts or information which would make the statements contained herein misleading.

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND BERRIEN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent of Schools

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**APPENDIX A  
STATE QUALIFICATION**

**ARTICLE IX, SECTION 16 OF THE  
1963 STATE OF MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION**

**State loans to school districts.**

Sec. 16. The state, in addition to any other borrowing power, may borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge its faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided in this section.

**Amount of loans.**

If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for the payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

**Qualified bonds.**

The term "qualified bonds" means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section.

**Repayment of loans, tax levy by school district.**

After a school district has received loans from the state, each year thereafter it shall levy for debt service, exclusive of levies for nonqualified bonds, not less than 13 mill or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, until the amount loaned has been repaid, and any tax collections therefrom in any year over and above the minimum requirements for principal and interest on qualified bonds shall be used toward the repayment of state loans. In any year when such levy would produce an amount in excess of the requirements and the amount due to the state, the levy may be reduced by the amount of the excess.

**Bonds, state loans, repayment.**

Subject to the foregoing provisions, the legislature shall have the power to prescribe and to limit the procedure, terms and conditions for the qualification of bonds, for obtaining and making state loans, and for the repayment of loans.

**Power to tax unlimited.**

The power to tax for the payment of principal and interest on bonds hereafter issued which are the general obligations of any school district, including refunding bonds, and for repayment of any state loans made to school districts, shall be without limitations as to rate or amount.

**Rights and obligations to remain unimpaired.**

All rights acquired under Sections 27 and 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908, by holders of bonds heretofore issued, and all obligations assumed by the state or any school district under these sections, shall remain unimpaired.

## **SCHOOL BOND QUALIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND LOAN ACT**

### **Act 92 of 2005**

AN ACT to prescribe the procedures, terms, and conditions for the qualification or approval of school bonds and other bonds; to authorize this state to make loans to certain school districts for the payment of certain bonds and to authorize schools to borrow from this state for that purpose; to prescribe the terms and conditions of certain loans to school districts; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and certain state and local officials; to provide for certain fees; to prescribe certain penalties; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

#### **388.1921 Short title.**

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "school bond qualification, approval, and loan act".

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

#### **388.1922 Purpose of act.**

Sec. 2. The purpose of this act is to implement section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 and to provide for loans to school districts.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

#### **388.1923 Definitions.**

Sec. 3. As used in this act:

(a) "Computed millage" means the number of mills in any year, not less than 7 mills and not more than 13 mills, determined on the date of issuance of the order qualifying the bonds or on a later date if requested by the school district and approved by the state treasurer, that, if levied by the school district, will generate sufficient annual proceeds to pay principal and interest on all the school district's qualified bonds plus principal and interest on all qualified loans related to those qualified bonds no later than the final mandatory repayment date. Based on changes of circumstances, including, but not limited to, additional bond qualification, refundings, changes in qualified loan interest rates, changes in taxable values, and assumptions contained in any then currently effective guidelines issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 5(2)(c), the school district shall not less than annually, beginning on October 1, 2013, using methods prescribed in this act, recalculate the computed millage necessary to generate sufficient annual levy proceeds to pay principal and interest on all of the school district's qualified bonds and principal and interest on all qualified loans related to those qualified bonds not later than the final mandatory repayment date. If the school district determines that the recalculated computed millage is lower than its current millage levy rate, the school district shall promptly notify the state treasurer in writing of the recalculated computed millage. Immediately thereafter, the school district shall decrease its millage levy rate to the recalculated computed millage, but not below the computed millage established pursuant to the most recent order qualifying bonds for that school district, or to the minimum levy prescribed by law for receipt of qualified loans, whichever rate is higher. If the school district determines that the recalculated computed millage is higher than its current millage levy rate, the school district shall promptly notify the state treasurer in writing of the recalculated computed millage. Immediately thereafter, the school district shall increase its millage levy rate to the recalculated computed millage, subject to 1 of the following exceptions, and subject to any maximum millage levy rate otherwise prescribed for by law:

(i) For each school district's first recalculated computed millage required as of October 1, 2013, increase its millage levy by a percentage amount equal to the equivalent percentage of taxable value change for that school district over the immediately preceding 5 years, but not higher than the recalculated computed millage.

(ii) For each school district's subsequent recalculated computed millage beginning October 1, 2014 and each year thereafter, increase its millage levy by a percentage amount equal to the percentage of taxable value decline for the immediately preceding year ending September 30, but not to a rate higher than the recalculated computed millage.

(iii) If it is determined that a district's current computed millage is sufficient to pay all qualified loans by the mandatory final loan repayment date, no recalculation of the computed millage is required.

(b) "Final mandatory repayment date" means the final mandatory repayment date determined by the state treasurer under section 9.

(c) "Michigan finance authority" means the Michigan finance authority created under Executive

Reorganization Order No. 2010-2, MCL 12.194.

(d) "Qualified bond" means a bond that is qualified under this act for state loans as provided in section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. A qualified bond includes the interest amount required for payment of a school district's net interest obligation under an interest rate exchange or swap, hedge, or other agreement entered into pursuant to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821, but does not include a termination payment or similar payment related to the termination or cancellation of an interest rate exchange or swap, hedge, or other similar agreement. A qualified bond may include a bond issued to refund loans owed to the state under this act.

(e) "Qualified loan" means a loan made under this act or former 1961 PA 108 from this state to a school district to pay debt service on a qualified bond.

(f) "Revolving loan fund" means the school loan revolving fund created under section 16c of the shared credit rating act, 1985 PA 227, MCL 141.1066c.

(g) "School district" means a general powers school district organized under the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, or a school district of the first class as described in the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, having the power to levy ad valorem property taxes.

(h) "State treasurer" means the state treasurer or his or her duly authorized designee.

(i) "Taxable value" means the value determined under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27a.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1924 Qualification of new bonds; terms and conditions applicable to outstanding qualified bonds; application for prequalification.**

Sec. 4. (1) A school district may issue and market bonds as qualified bonds if the state treasurer has issued an order granting qualification under this act.

(2) Except with regard to qualification of new bonds, nothing in this act shall be construed to alter the terms and conditions applicable to outstanding qualified bonds issued in accordance with former 1961 PA 108. Unless otherwise amended as permitted by this act, outstanding qualified loans incurred in association with outstanding qualified bonds described in this subsection shall bear interest as provided in section 9(8) but otherwise shall be due and payable as provided in the repayment agreements entered into between the school district and the state before the effective date of this act.

(3) The state treasurer may qualify bonds for which the state treasurer has received an application for prequalification on or before May 25, 2005 without regard to the requirements of section 5(2)(f) if the electors of the school district approve the bonds at an election held during 2005.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1925 Preliminary qualification; application.**

Sec. 5. (1) A school district may apply to the state treasurer for preliminary qualification of a proposed school bond issue by filing an application in the form and containing the information required by this act.

(2) An application for preliminary qualification of a school bond shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The proposed ballot language to be submitted to the electors.

(b) A description of the project or projects proposed to be financed.

(c) A pro forma debt service projection showing the estimated mills the school district will levy to provide revenue the school district will use to pay the qualified bonds, any outstanding qualified bonds, and any outstanding or projected qualified loans of the school district. For the purpose of the pro forma debt service projection, the school district may assume for the first 5 years following the date of the application the average growth or decline in taxable value for the 5 years or such other period of time requested by the school district if approved by the state treasurer preceding the date of the application and the average growth or decline rate for the 20 years immediately preceding the date of the application but not more than 3% or less than 0% growth rate, for the remaining term of the proposed bonds.

(d) Evidence that the rate of utilization of each project to be financed will be at least 85% for new buildings and 60% for renovated facilities. If the projected enrollment of the district would not otherwise support utilization at the rates described in this subsection, the school district may include an explanation of the actions the school district intends to take to address the underutilization, including, if applicable, actions to close school buildings or other actions designed to assure continued assured use of the facilities being financed.

(e) Evidence that the cost per square foot of the project or projects will be reasonable in light of economic conditions applicable to the geographic area in which the school district is located.

(f) Evidence that the school district will repay all outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed qualified bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed qualified bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

(g) The overall utilization rate of all school buildings in the school district, excluding special education purposes.

(h) The total bonded debt outstanding of the school district and the total taxable value of property in the school district for the school district fiscal year in which the application is filed.

(i) A statement describing any environmental or usability problems to be addressed by the project or projects.

(j) An architect's analysis of the overall condition of the facilities to be renovated or replaced as a part of the project or projects.

(k) An amortization schedule demonstrating that the weighted average maturity of the qualified bond issue does not exceed 120% of the average reasonably expected useful life of the facilities, excluding land and site improvements, being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the qualified bonds, determined as of the later of the date on which the qualified bonds will be issued or the date on which each facility is expected to be placed in service.

(l) An agreement that the school district will keep books and records detailing the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of the qualified bonds and, at the request of the state treasurer, the school district will promptly, but not later than the date specified in the request, which date shall be not less than 5 business days after the date of the request, submit information requested by the state treasurer related to the detailed information maintained by the school district as to the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of its qualified bonds.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1926 Prequalification of bonds; determination by state treasurer.**

Sec. 6. The state treasurer shall prequalify bonds of a school district if the state treasurer determines all of the following:

(a) The issuance of additional qualified bonds will not prevent the school district from repaying its outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

(b) The form and language of the ballot conforms with the requirements of this act.

(c) The school district has filed an application complying with the requirements of section 5.

(d) If the proposed bond issue is approved by the voters after September 30, 2012 and will result in additional qualified loans, the outstanding balance of all qualified loans on the most recent May 1 or November 1 did not exceed \$1,800,000,000.00. The \$1,800,000,000.00 limitation described in the immediately preceding sentence does not apply after June 30, 2016.

(e) The issuance of additional qualified bonds approved by voters after September 30, 2012 will not have an adverse financial impact on the school district, this state, or the school loan revolving fund. In making this determination, the state treasurer shall consider relevant factors, including, but not limited to, whether the issuance of the proposed bond issue will cause the aggregate outstanding amount of qualified and nonqualified bonds, including the proposed bond issue, and currently outstanding qualified loans of the school district to exceed 25% of the taxable value of the school district at the time the proposed bonds are issued.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1927 Qualification of bonds; determination by state treasurer; order; specifications; loan agreement; reapplication; qualification of refunding bonds; requirements.**

Sec. 7. (1) The state treasurer shall qualify bonds of a school district if the state treasurer determines all of the following:

(a) A majority of the school district electors have approved the bonds.

(b) The terms of the bond issue comply with applicable provisions of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852.

(c) The school district is in compliance with the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(d) The weighted average maturity of the qualified bond issue does not exceed 120% of the average reasonably expected useful life of the facilities, excluding land and site improvements, being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the bonds, determined as of the later of the date on which the qualified bonds

will be issued or the date on which each facility is expected to be placed in service.

(e) The school district has filed any information necessary to update the contents of the original application to reflect changes in any of the information approved in the preliminary qualification process.

(f) The school district has agreed that the school district will keep books and records detailing the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of the qualified bonds and, at the request of the state treasurer, the school district will promptly, but not later than the date specified in the request, which date shall be not less than 5 business days after the date of the request, submit information requested by the state treasurer related to the detailed information maintained by the school district as to the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of its qualified bonds.

(2) An order qualifying bonds shall specify the principal and interest payment dates for all the bonds, the maximum principal amount of and maximum interest rate on the bonds, the computed millage, if any, the final mandatory repayment date, and other matters as the state treasurer shall determine or as are required by this act.

(3) If the application for prequalification demonstrates that the school district will borrow from this state in accordance with this act, the state treasurer and the school district shall enter into a loan agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of any qualified loans to be made to the school district under this act.

(4) If a school district does not issue its qualified bonds within 180 days after the date of the order qualifying bonds, the order shall no longer be effective. However, the school district may reapply for qualification by filing an application and information necessary to update the contents of the original application for prequalification or qualification.

(5) The state treasurer shall qualify refunding bonds issued to refund qualified loans or qualified bonds if the state treasurer finds that all of the following are met:

(a) The refunding bonds comply with the provisions of the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(b) That the school district will repay all outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed qualified bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed qualified bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1928 Submission of ballot to electors; ballot.**

Sec. 8. A ballot submitted to the school electors of a school district after November 8, 2005 requesting authorization to issue unlimited tax general obligations that will be guaranteed by this state in accordance with section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 shall inform the electors that if the school district expects to borrow from this state to pay debt service on the bonds, the estimated total amount of the principal of that borrowing and the interest to be paid on that borrowing, the estimated duration of the millage levy, and the estimated computed millage rate for that levy. The ballot shall also inform the electors of the total amount of qualified bond and loan debt currently outstanding and that the estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1929 Amount of borrowing; limitation; payment date for outstanding qualified loans; order; maintenance of separate accounts for each school district; duration of millage levy; amended and restated repayment agreements; waiver of portion of millage levy; findings; interest; final or later mandatory repayment date.**

Sec. 9. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, a school district may borrow from the state an amount not greater than the difference between the proceeds of the school district's computed millage and the amount necessary to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies.

(2) For school districts having qualified loans outstanding as of July 20, 2005, the state treasurer shall review information relating to each school district regarding the taxable value of the school district and the actual debt service of outstanding qualified bonds as of July 20, 2005 and shall issue an order establishing the payment date for all those outstanding qualified loans and any additional qualified loans expected to be incurred by those school districts related to qualified bonds issued before July 20, 2005. The payment date shall be not later than 72 months after the date on which the qualified bonds most recently issued by the school district are due and payable. The payment date established pursuant to this subsection for a school district is a final mandatory repayment date.

(3) For qualified loans related to qualified bonds issued after July 20, 2005, the qualified loans shall be due



72 months after the date on which the qualified bonds for which the school borrowed from this state are due and payable. The due date determined pursuant to this subsection for a school district is a final mandatory repayment date. This section does not preclude early repayment of qualified bonds or qualified loans.

(4) The state treasurer shall maintain separate accounts for each school district on the books and accounts of this state noting the qualified bond, the related qualified loans, the final payment date of the bonds, the final mandatory repayment date of the qualified loans, and the interest rate accrued on the loans.

(5) For qualified loans relating to qualified bonds issued after July 20, 2005, a school district shall continue to levy the computed millage until it has completely repaid all principal and interest on its qualified loans.

(6) For qualified loans relating to qualified bonds issued before July 20, 2005, a school district shall continue to comply with the levy and repayment requirements imposed before July 20, 2005. Not less than 90 days after July 20, 2005, the state treasurer and the school district shall enter into amended and restated repayment agreements to incorporate the levy and repayment requirements applicable to qualified loans issued before July 20, 2005.

(7) Upon the request of a school district made before June 1 of any year, the state treasurer annually may waive all or a portion of the millage required to be levied by a school district to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds or qualified loans under this section if the state treasurer finds all of the following:

(a) The school board of the school district has applied to the state treasurer for permission to levy less than the millage required to be levied to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds or qualified loans under subsection (1).

(b) The application specifies the number of mills the school district requests permission to levy.

(c) The waiver will be financially beneficial to this state, the school district, or both.

(d) The waiver will not reduce the millage levied by the school district to pay principal and interest on qualified bonds or qualified loans under this act to less than 7 mills.

(e) The board of the school district, by resolution, has agreed to comply with all conditions that the state treasurer considers necessary.

(8) All qualified loans shall bear interest at 1 of the following rates:

(a) The greater of 3% or the average annual cost of funds used to make qualified loans plus 0.125%, but not less than the cost of funds on outstanding qualified notes and bonds issued by the Michigan finance authority to finance loans computed by the state treasurer not less often than annually.

(b) A lesser rate determined by the state treasurer to be necessary to maintain the exemption from federal income tax of interest on any bonds or notes issued to fund qualified loans.

(c) A higher rate determined by the state treasurer to be necessary to prevent the impairment of any contract of this state or the Michigan finance authority in existence on the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subdivision.

(9) A payment date determined under subsection (2) or a due date determined under subsection (3) is a final mandatory repayment date. Once established for a school district as provided in this section, a final mandatory repayment date shall apply to all qualified loans of the school district, whenever made, until 30 days after the date the school district has no outstanding qualified loans and no outstanding debt incurred to refund qualified loans. Notwithstanding this subsection, the state treasurer may determine a later mandatory repayment date for a school district that agrees to levy a higher millage, acceptable to the state treasurer, not to exceed 13 mills, than its existing computed millage.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2006, Act 71, Imd. Eff. Mar. 20, 2006;—Am. 2009, Act 50, Imd. Eff. June 18, 2009;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1930 Certificates of qualification or approval; file; delivery.**

Sec. 10. The state treasurer shall keep all certificates of qualification or approval in a permanent file and shall deliver copies of the certificates to the school district.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1931 Rules; bulletins.**

Sec. 11. The state treasurer may promulgate rules to implement this act pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, and may issue bulletins as authorized by this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1932 Failure to apply for prequalification, qualification, or approval of bond before issuance.**

Sec. 12. If a school district does not apply for prequalification or qualification or approval of a bond issue



before the issuance of those bonds, the state treasurer shall not approve or qualify those bonds as qualified bonds under this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**388.1933 School district owing revolving loan fund; filing annual loan activity application required; borrowing for debt service on qualified bonds; draw request; duties of state treasurer upon receipt of qualified loan confirmation; notification of no need to borrow by school district; invoice for repayment amount; remittance.**

Sec. 13. (1) If a school district owes a balance due to the revolving loan fund or has been identified as a potential borrower, the school district shall file an annual loan activity application with the state treasurer no less than 60 days before certifying its annual tax levy. The annual loan activity application shall be submitted in a format prescribed by the state treasurer and shall provide the taxable value, debt service, and any other information necessary to determine the proper required millage levy required under this act. The application shall contain a resolution passed by the local school board authorizing a designated school district official to complete all necessary documents to obtain a loan from the revolving loan fund or for making repayment to the revolving loan fund for the year.

(2) If a school district is eligible to borrow for debt service on qualified bonds, the school district shall file a draw request with the state treasurer not less than 30 days before each date on which the school district owes the debt service. The draw request shall include all of the following:

- (a) A statement of the debt service owed in the next 6 months.
- (b) A copy of the most recent bank statement showing the amount on hand in the debt service accounts for all qualified bonds.
- (c) A statement of any revenue received for payment of the debt service since the date of the bank statement.
- (d) A statement of any withdrawals made from the debt service account since the date of the bank statement.

(3) Not more than 7 days before the date established by the state treasurer for making qualified loans, the school district shall confirm in writing the final qualified loan amount to be drawn on a certificate in the form prescribed by the state treasurer.

(4) Upon receipt of a qualified loan confirmation described in subsection (3), the state treasurer shall determine the amount of the draw, which shall be the difference between the funds on hand in all debt service accounts and the amount of the debt service, and shall make a qualified loan in that amount to the school district no later than 6 days before the date the debt service is due.

(5) When a school district's current computed millage levy is sufficient to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, a school district shall notify the state treasurer in writing of no need to borrow no later than 30 days before the date set for payment of the qualified bonds.

(6) Within 30 days after receipt of the annual activity application under subsection (1), the state treasurer shall send an invoice to the school district for the amount of repayment the school district owes on its outstanding qualified loans, which shall be the difference between the debt service payable or paid to bondholders and the funds on hand at the school district, less a reasonable amount of funds on hand, as determined by the state treasurer, to cover minimum balance requirements or potential tax disputes. The school district shall remit the amount specified in the invoice within 30 days after the dated date of the invoice.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

**388.1934 Failure of school district to pay principal and interest due on qualified bonds; notice; payment by state treasurer; billing of school district for amount paid; remittance.**

Sec. 14. (1) If any paying agent for a school district's qualified bonds notifies the state treasurer that the school district has failed to deposit sufficient funds to pay principal and interest due on the qualified bonds when due, or if a bondholder notifies the state treasurer that the school district has failed to pay principal or interest on qualified bonds when due, whether or not the school district has filed a draw request with the state treasurer, the state treasurer shall promptly pay the principal or interest on the qualified bond when due.

(2) If the state treasurer pays any amount described in this section, the state treasurer shall bill the school district for the amount paid and the school district shall immediately remit the amount to the state treasurer. If the school district would have been eligible to borrow the debt service in accordance with the terms of this act, the school district shall enter into a loan agreement establishing the terms of the qualified loan as provided in this act. If the state treasurer directs the Michigan municipal bond authority to pay any amount described in this section, the state treasurer shall cause the Michigan municipal bond authority to bill the

school district for the amount paid and the school district shall immediately remit the amount to the Michigan municipal bond authority.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1935 Default; repayment.**

Sec. 15. (1) If a school district that owes this state loan repayments relating to qualified bonds fails to levy at least the computed millage upon its taxable value for debt retirement purposes for qualified bonds and for repayment of a qualified loan made under this act while any part of the qualified loan is unpaid or defaults in its agreement to repay a qualified loan or any installment of a qualified loan, the school district shall increase its debt levy in the next succeeding year to obtain the amount necessary to repay this state the amount of the default plus a late charge of 3% and shall pay that amount to this state together with any other amounts owed during the next tax year. The school district may use other funds to repay this state including a transfer of general funds of the school district, if approved by the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall not disburse state school aid to the school district until the school district has made satisfactory arrangements with the state treasurer for the payment of the amount in default.

(2) If a school district fails to process any report, application, confirmation, or repayment as required under this act, the state treasurer may withhold a school district's state aid funds until the school district complies with the requirements under this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1936 Charging and disposition of fees.**

Sec. 16. (1) The state treasurer may charge a prequalification application fee, a qualification application fee, and an annual loan activity fee in the amounts determined by the state treasurer to be required to pay the estimated administrative expenses incurred under this act for the fiscal year in which the state treasurer imposes the fee.

(2) The state treasurer shall deposit all fees collected under this act into a separate fund established within the state treasury, and shall use the proceeds of the fees solely for the purpose of administering and enforcing this act. The unexpended and unobligated balance of this fund at the end of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward over to the succeeding state fiscal year and shall not lapse to the general fund but shall be available for reappropriation for the next state fiscal year.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1937 False statement or unauthorized use of proceeds; violation as felony; penalty.**

Sec. 17. A person who knowingly makes a false statement or conceals material information for the purpose of obtaining qualification of a bond issue under this act or for the purpose of obtaining a qualified loan under this act, or who knowingly uses all or part of the proceeds of a qualified loan obtained under this act for any purpose not authorized by this act, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 4 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1938 Use of remaining proceeds.**

Sec. 18. If a school district has completed the projects approved by the school electors of the school district to be funded from proceeds of qualified bonds, a school district may use any remaining proceeds of the qualified bonds as follows:

(a) To pay debt service on the qualified bonds.

(b) To repay this state.

(c) If in the opinion of the school district's bond counsel use of the remaining proceeds for the purposes described in subdivisions (a) and (b) would adversely affect the federal tax treatment of interest on the qualified bonds, to pay for enhancements to the projects approved by the school electors as described in the ballot language proposing the qualified bonds.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1939 Actions by designee.**

Sec. 19. The state treasurer may designate in writing a person or persons to take any actions required to be taken by the state treasurer under this act. The signature of any designee shall have the same force and effect as the signature of the state treasurer for all purposes of this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**OPINION #4422 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DATED MARCH 12, 1965**

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW:  
SCHOOL BONDS:  
MUNICIPAL FINANCE COMMISSION:

Article 9, § 16, Michigan Constitution of 1963, requires school districts to borrow and State to lend sufficient sum to cover debt service payments on qualified bonds of school districts. Although this is not a pledge of full faith and credit of the State, the Municipal Finance Commission may and must enforce the duty of the district to borrow and the State to lend such sum.

No. 4422

March 12, 1965.

Hon. Sanford A. Brown  
State Treasurer  
Lansing, Michigan

You have asked in your letter of February 5 whether Article IX, § 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 pledges the full faith and credit of the State to the payment of principal and interest of qualified school bonds.

Article IX, § 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 provides in pertinent part as follows:

"The state \* \* \* may borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge its faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided in this section.

"If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

"The term 'qualified bonds' means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section."

Thus, the school district is required to borrow and the State to lend an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make payments of principal and interest due on qualified bonds, and the state is empowered to borrow and to issue its notes or bonds for the purpose of making such loans, and to pledge its full faith and credit for such state bonds or notes.

The constitutional provision quoted does not pledge the full faith and credit of the state to all qualified bonds. The state is not primarily liable on qualified bonds of a school district. Rather, the state is required to lend whatever the school district needs, from time to time, to meet debt service requirements on such bonds.

You ask what remedies are available to enforce the obligation of the state.

The quoted language makes it mandatory upon the school district to borrow and upon the state to lend "an amount necessary to enable the school district to make the payment." Under Chapter II, Section 2(f) of the Municipal Finance Act [C.L. 1948 § 132.2; M.S.A. 1958 Rev. Vol. § 5.3188(4)f], the Municipal Finance Commission has power to enforce compliance with any law by, inter alia, the "institution of appropriate proceedings in the courts of the state, including those for writs of mandamus and injunction."

The Commission could and indeed must enforce the duty of the district to borrow and the state to lend. The bondholders also would have an action to enforce the duty of the district to borrow and of the state to lend.

Thus the bondholders are assured of the availability of state funds where needed to meet debt service requirements on qualified bonds. This is not a pledge of full faith and credit, but gives the bondholders as much or more protection as would such a pledge.

FRANK J. KELLEY,  
Attorney General

**OPINION #4508 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DATED AUGUST 29, 1966**

BONDS: Qualified bonds of school districts.

CONSTITUTION OF 1963: School Bond Loan Fund.

SCHOOLS: Bond Loans.

STATE TREASURER: Payment of principal and interest on qualified school district bonds.

Authority of State Treasurer and procedures to be followed in paying from the School Bond Loan Fund principal and interest on qualified school bonds upon presentment by a bondholder.

No. 4508      Hon. Allison Green  
                    State Treasurer  
                    Capitol Building  
                    Lansing, Michigan

August 29, 1966.

You have requested my opinion on what procedures should be followed by the state treasurer preparatory to making loans to local school districts which are unable to make payments on principal and interest of qualified school district bonds.<sup>1</sup>

Loans to bonded school districts are authorized by Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, which in part contains pertinent language:

"If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for the payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

"The term 'qualified bonds' means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section."

Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, is a continuation with minor revisions of the provisions relating to school bond financing which appeared in Sections 27 and 28 of Article X, Constitution of 1908. Section 27, Article X, Constitution of 1908, was proposed by joint resolution of the legislature in 1955 and approved by the people at the regular election of April 4, 1955. The loan provisions of Section 27 ceased to have effectiveness after July 1, 1962, and were replaced by the provisions of Section 28, Article X, Constitution of 1908, which was proposed by joint resolution of the legislature in 1960 and approved by the people at the general election of November 8, 1960. Section 28 by its own terms took effect on July 1, 1962.

Section 28, Article X, Constitution of 1908, was implemented by the legislature by the enactment of Act 108, P.A. 1961, which took effect September 8, 1961. The first section of Act 108, P.A. 1961, stated that the purpose of the act was to implement Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908. The Constitution of 1963 took effect on January 1, 1964. In anticipation of the effectiveness of that Constitution, the legislature passed Act 33, P.A. 1963, Second Extra Session, such act to take effect on January 1, 1964. Act 33, P.A. 1963, Second Extra Session, amended Sections 1, 3, 8 and 9 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, and further amended section 7 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, as amended by Act 131, P.A. 1962. The first section of amendatory Act 33 stated that the act's purpose was to implement Section 16 of Article IX of the Constitution of 1963. Subsequent amendment has been made to Sections 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, by Act 169, P.A. 1964, which act also added a new Section 4a.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>In your letter of request you stated that you were familiar with Opinion No. 4422 issued by me on March 12, 1965, in which it was ruled that Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, requires school districts to borrow and the state to lend sufficient sums to cover debt service payments on qualified bonds of school districts but that this requirement is not a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state; the Municipal Finance Commission however may and must enforce the duty of the school district to borrow and have the state to lend the necessary amounts.

<sup>2</sup>Act 108, P.A. 1961, in its present amended form appears in M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. § S 3.424(111) et seq.

Answer to your question is to be found in amended Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the act. These sections present two situations in which you may become involved as state treasurer. The first situation is where a loan is to be made to the school district to permit the district to meet the principal and interest requirements on its bonds without a default in payment; the second is where the principal or interest on the bonds has not been paid when due upon proper presentation because of inadequate funds resulting in a default in payment.

Under amended Section 6 of the act, in any school district where the amount necessary to be levied in any year for principal and interest on qualified bonds exceeds 7 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of the school district as last equalized by the state, such school district on or before 60 days prior to the time of certification of its tax levy to the assessing officer shall file with the superintendent of public instruction<sup>3</sup> a preliminary application for a loan from the state in the amount of any part of such excess over 7 mills which the school district does not propose to levy in such year.<sup>4</sup> Amended Section 6 specifies the information to be supplied in the application. The superintendent of public instruction if he finds the application in proper form shall approve or deny the application in whole or in part and notify the school district of his action. Amended Section 7 of the act provides that if a loan from the state shall become necessary for the payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds in accordance with an approved preliminary application to the superintendent of public instruction or by virtue of a supplemental application, it shall be the duty of the superintendent of public instruction after audit to forward to the state treasurer a statement setting forth the amount to be loaned to the school district for the payment of principal and interest and the date on or before which loan shall be made.<sup>5</sup> The superintendent shall prepare a voucher as a basis for the issuance of a warrant and upon receipt of such statement and warrant, it shall be the duty of the state treasurer to loan to the school district from the school bond loan fund the amount set forth in the statement of the superintendent of public instruction on or before the date specified therein. The state treasurer upon making such loan shall obtain from the school district a receipt for the amount so loaned which receipt shall specify the terms of repayment in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of Article IX, Constitution of 1963 and the act. The school district treasurer upon receipt of the loan is required to deposit the same in the debt retirement fund to be used solely for the payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds.

The foregoing summaries of the procedures prescribed by amended Section 6 and 7 relate to the first situation above-described where the loan to the school district is to be made before the school district has defaulted in the payment of the principal or interest on its bonds.

The second situation described above is covered by amended Section 8 of the act which prescribes that in the event the principal or interest on any qualified bond is not paid when due, upon proper presentation of the bond or interest coupon to the agent or officer charged with making payment thereof, the state treasurer shall forthwith pay such principal or interest upon presentation of the bond or coupon to him. Any amount so paid by the state treasurer shall be deemed a loan to the school district made pursuant to the requirements of Section 16, Article IX, Constitution of 1963, and the act and the school district shall give a receipt therefor and repay the loan in the manner provided in the act for the repayment of loans.

The method of processing loans to school districts under amended Sections 6 and 7 before default in payment of principal or interest is adequately spelled out in those sections and no additional comment from me is necessary. Your real concern is in regard to the applicable procedures which you should follow in the situation where the school district has defaulted in the payment of principal or interest on its bonds and the bond or bonds and the interest coupons have not been paid when due by the paying agent because of lack of funds. In the event of such a happening it is assumed for the purposes of this opinion that the holder of the bond or of the interest coupon will make demand on you as state treasurer for the prompt payment of the obligation thereunder. Should such demand be made on you as state treasurer, you would be entitled to take the following action before making payment:

- a. Ascertaining from the superintendent of public instruction or from the records in your own office that the bonds involved are duly qualified bonds as defined and described in amended Section 3 of the act;
- b. Requiring proof reasonably satisfactory to you that the bond or bonds or the interest coupons have been properly presented for payment to the paying agent or officer charged with the responsibility for making payment thereof and that payment has been refused because sufficient monies had not been deposited by the school district for that purpose; such proof of nonpayment may be furnished you in the form of a certificate from the paying agent.

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<sup>3</sup>Article VIII, Section 3, Constitution of 1963 requires the state board of education to appoint a superintendent of public instruction who shall be the principal executive officer of the department of education and who shall have powers and duties provided by law. Section 14 of Act 287, P.A. 1964 (M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. § 15.1023(14)) specifies that after June 30, 1965, a reference in any law to the powers and duties of the superintendent of public instruction shall be deemed to be made to the state board of education, subject to exceptions not pertinent here, and that the state board of education may delegate any of its functions to the superintendent. Section 300 of Act 380, P.A. 1965, creates a department of education. Section 301 of that act provides that the head of the department of education is the state board of education. Section 303 of that act transfers by a Type III transfer all powers, duties and functions then vested by law in the superintendent of public instruction to the department of education. Section 305 of the act specifies that the principal executive officer of the department of education is the superintendent of public instruction. Act 380 appears in M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. at § 3.29(1) et seq. Act 380, P.A. 1965, was amended without regard to the sections involved here by Act 407, P.A. 1965. Without doubt, under the foregoing provisions the state board of education could delegate to the superintendent of public instruction the performance of all of the functions and duties imposed on the board in connection with the School Bond Loan Fund.

<sup>4</sup>Other details set forth in amended Section 6 have been omitted.

<sup>5</sup>Other details set forth in amended Section 7 have been omitted.

c. Notification to the school district given by you or your designee of the action taken by paying agent in refusing payment of the bonds or interest coupons on presentment because of the failure of the school district to have deposited funds with the paying agent for that purpose and verification from the school district of the fact of such failure to supply the required funds; notification to the school district by you or your designee that payment of the required amounts were to be made from the school bond loan fund by you as state treasurer and that such payment would be in the form of a loan to the school district which the school district would be required to be repay to the school bond loan fund in the manner required by law; the school district will be required to furnish you as state treasurer with a receipt evidencing the loan and specifying the terms of repayment, as required by law.

Upon the fulfillment of the above conditions in a manner reasonably acceptable to you, you would be authorized to make payment of the amounts due on the bonds and interest coupons and thereupon to demand their surrender and delivery to you as state treasurer.

Because of the safeguards built into the Michigan Constitution and statutes there should be no default of Michigan qualified school bonds. The School Loan Fund Program will have afforded the school district access to loan funds prior to the due date of the principle [sic] and interest on such bonds. In order to advise of the procedures in the remote possibility of nonpayment, however, I have set forth the foregoing guide lines [sic].

FRANK J. KELLEY,  
Attorney General

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## APPENDIX B<sup>1</sup>

### DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### GENERAL FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SCHOOL INFORMATION

##### LOCATION AND AREA

Dowagiac Union School District (the "School District") occupies an area of 121 square miles. The School District includes all of the City of Dowagiac and portions of the Townships of La Grange, Pokagon, Silver Creek, Volinia and Wayne in the County of Cass, a portion of the Township of Keeler in the County of Van Buren and portions of the Townships of Bainbridge, Berrien and Pipestone in the County of Berrien.

The School District is located the following distances from these commercial and industrial areas:

25 miles northeast of South Bend, Indiana  
45 miles southwest of Kalamazoo  
90 miles south of Grand Rapids  
115 miles east of Chicago, Illinois  
180 miles southwest of Detroit

##### POPULATION

The U.S. Census reported and 2023 estimated populations for the School District, City of Dowagiac and the County of Cass are as follows:

	School District	City of Dowagiac	County of Cass
2023 Estimate	14,946	5,677	51,606
2020 U.S. Census	14,909	5,721	51,589
2010 U.S. Census	15,158	5,879	52,293

Source: U.S. Census Bureau via [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) website

##### BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education (the "Board") consists of seven members who are elected at large and serve overlapping terms. The Board annually elects a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Board is responsible for the selection and appointment of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board meets as a single body to set or amend policy, develop long-range educational goals and act upon recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board is also responsible for adopting and periodically amending the operating budget and evaluating school programs in accordance with governing laws.

##### ENROLLMENT

###### Historical Enrollment

Historical fall enrollment for the School District is as follows:

School Year End 30-Jun	Full-time Equivalent	Change	School Year End 30-Jun	Full-time Equivalent	Change
2026*	1,830	0.99%	2021	2,058	-6.67%
2025	1,812	-2.58	2020	2,205	0.32
2024	1,860	-1.59	2019	2,198	-1.30
2023	1,890	-5.64	2018	2,227	0.00
2022	2,003	-2.67	2017	2,227	-1.33

\*Unaudited.

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<sup>1</sup>Information included in APPENDIX B of this Official Statement was obtained from the School District unless otherwise noted.

2025/2026 Fall Count\*

Kindergarten	145	7 <sup>th</sup>	144
1 <sup>st</sup>	116	8 <sup>th</sup>	128
2 <sup>nd</sup>	132	9 <sup>th</sup>	156
3 <sup>rd</sup>	134	10 <sup>th</sup>	146
4 <sup>th</sup>	170	11 <sup>th</sup>	129
5 <sup>th</sup>	160	12 <sup>th</sup>	104
6 <sup>th</sup>	166	Total	<u>1,830</u>

\*Unaudited.

Source: School District and Michigan Department of Education via website [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

The following is a table showing the existing School District facilities.

Facility	Grades Served	Year Built	Last Remodel/Additions	Type of Construction
<i>Elementary Schools:</i>				
Sister Lakes	K - 5	1940	2019	Masonry
Patrick Hamilton	K - 5	1956	2019	Masonry
Justus Gage	K - 5	1952	2019	Masonry
Kincheloe	K - 5	1969	2019	Masonry
<i>Middle School:</i>				
Dowagiac	6 - 8	2004	--	Masonry
<i>High School:</i>				
Union	9 - 12	1961	2025	Masonry
<i>Additional Facilities:</i>				
Alternative Ed. Bldg	--	1979	--	Sheet Metal
Tech/Autoshop	--	1977	1989	Masonry
Warehouse	--	1972	--	Sheet Metal
Bus Garage	--	1972	--	Sheet Metal

## OTHER SCHOOLS

The following parochial school is located within the School District's boundaries:

Name of School	Grades Served	Approximate Enrollment
Calvary Bible Academy	K - 11	18

Source: 2026 Michigan Education Directory

## STATE AID PAYMENTS

The School District's primary source of funding for operating costs is the State School Aid per pupil foundation allowance. Public Act 15 of 2025 set the target foundation allowance at \$10,050 for fiscal year 2025/2026.

In future years, this allowance may be adjusted by an index based upon the change in revenues to the state school aid fund and the change in the total number of pupils statewide. The State may reduce State School Aid appropriations at any time if the State's revenues do not meet budget expectations. See "SOURCES OF SCHOOL OPERATING REVENUE" herein for additional information.

The following table shows a five-year history and a current year estimate of the School District's total state aid revenues, including categoricals and other amounts, and the per pupil state aid foundation allowance, which reflects the changes in sources of school operating revenue described herein:

Fiscal Year End 30-Jun	Foundation Allowance per Pupil	Total State Aid Payments <sup>1</sup>	Blended Pupil Count	Amount Received per Pupil <sup>2</sup>
2026	\$10,050	\$16,767,560 <sup>3</sup>	1,828.38 <sup>3</sup>	\$9,171 <sup>3</sup>
2025	9,608	17,056,056	1,817.49	9,384
2024	9,608	18,084,951	1,858.99	9,728
2023	9,150	17,454,924	1,895.50	9,209
2022	8,700	15,534,792	1,996.13	7,782
2021	8,111	15,629,300 <sup>4</sup>	2,166.65	7,214 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Includes payments received for MPSERS UAAL rate stabilization. See "RETIREMENT PLAN - Contribution to MPSERS" herein.

<sup>2</sup>Represents the "Total State Aid Payments" divided by the "Blended Pupil Count".

<sup>3</sup>Preliminary estimate, subject to change.

<sup>4</sup>Public Act 165 of 2020 restored the State school aid reductions contained in Public Act 146 of 2020 for the 2020/21 fiscal year, added a onetime \$65 per pupil payment and added other appropriations for qualifying school districts.

Source: Michigan Department of Education via website [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## PROPERTY VALUATIONS

In accordance with Act No. 539, Public Acts of Michigan, 1982, and Article IX, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution, the ad valorem State Equalized Valuation (SEV) represents 50% of true cash value. SEV does not include any value of tax exempt property (e.g. churches, governmental property) or property granted tax abatements under Act No. 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, as amended. **Since 1994, ad valorem property taxes are assessed on the basis of Taxable Value, which is subject to assessment caps. SEV is used in the calculation of debt margin and true cash value.** See "TAX PROCEDURES" herein for further information.

Taxable property in the School District is assessed by the local municipal assessor, and is subject to review by the County Equalization Departments.

### History of Valuations

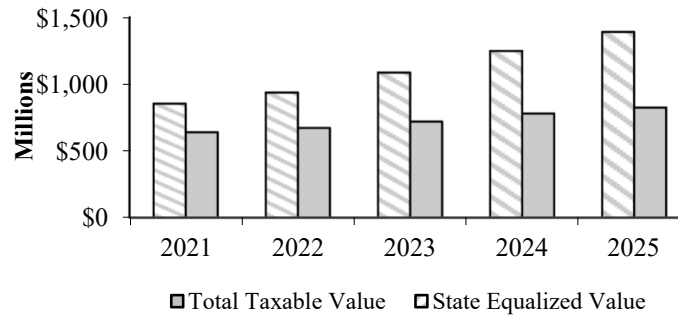
A history of the property valuations in the School District is shown below:

Year	Principal Residence <sup>1</sup>	Non- Principal Residence <sup>1</sup>	Total Taxable Value	Percent Change	State Equalized Value	Percent Change
2025	\$398,710,292	\$424,809,158	\$823,519,450	5.72%	\$1,390,347,900	11.45%
2024	376,440,584	402,510,908	778,951,492	8.37	1,247,558,100	14.88
2023	344,839,377	373,943,692	718,783,069	7.03	1,085,925,500	15.91
2022	327,511,181	344,064,529	671,575,710	5.02	936,839,500	9.77
2021	310,318,456	329,125,405	639,443,861	----	853,457,500	----

<sup>1</sup>All industrial personal property is included in the principal residence tax base. While commercial personal property continues to be included in the non-principal residence tax base, it is exempt from 12 of the 18 operating mills levied on non-principal residence property only. In 2025, industrial personal property had a taxable value of \$183,500 and commercial personal property had a taxable value of \$5,173,500 in the School District.

Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

### History of Valuations



### Annual Equivalent Valuation

A summary of the 2025 valuation is as follows:

2025 Taxable Value	\$823,519,450
Plus: 2025 Equivalent IFT Taxable Value <sup>1</sup>	573,941
Total 2025 Equivalent Taxable Value	\$824,093,391
Less: 2025 Disabled Veterans Exemption Taxable Value <sup>2</sup>	(4,067,657)
Net 2025 Annual Equivalent Valuation	<u>\$820,025,734</u>

<sup>1</sup>See "INDUSTRIAL FACILITY TAX ABATEMENTS" herein.

<sup>2</sup>Represents value which is exempt from taxes pursuant to Michigan's General Property Tax Act Section 7b, MCL 211.7b, which states real property used and owned as a homestead by either (1) a disabled veteran who was discharged from the United States armed forces under honorable conditions or (2) the disabled veteran's un-remarried, surviving spouse is exempt from property taxes, subject to certain application requirements.

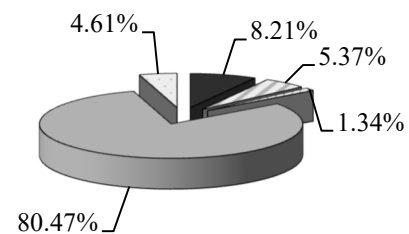
Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

### Tax Base Composition

A breakdown of the School District's 2025 Taxable Value by class and use is as follows:

	2025	Percent
By Class:	Taxable Value	of Total
Real Property	\$785,586,703	95.39%
Personal Property	37,932,747	4.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$823,519,450</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
By Use:		
Agricultural	\$67,626,413	8.21%
Commercial	44,198,404	5.37
Industrial	11,059,558	1.34
Residential	662,702,328	80.47
Personal	37,932,747	4.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$823,519,450</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Taxable Value by Use



■ Agricultural ■ Commercial ■ Industrial ■ Residential ■ Personal

A breakdown of the School District's 2025 Taxable Value by municipality is as follows:

Municipality	2025 Taxable Value	Percent of Total
<i>County of Cass</i>		
City of Dowagiac	\$112,164,591	13.62%
Township of La Grange	37,407,856	4.54
Township of Pokagon	62,538,254	7.59
Township of Silver Creek	323,169,646	39.24
Township of Volinia	1,094,865	0.13
Township of Wayne	101,747,162	12.36
<i>County of Van Buren</i>		
Township of Keeler	180,290,243	21.89
<i>County of Berrien</i>		
Township of Bainbridge	3,755,853	0.46
Township of Berrien	95,519	0.02
Township of Pipestone	1,255,461	0.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$823,519,450</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

## INDUSTRIAL FACILITY TAX ABATEMENTS

Under the provisions of Act 198 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1974 ("Act 198"), plant rehabilitation districts and/or industrial development districts may be established. Businesses in these districts are offered certain property tax incentives to encourage restoration or replacement of obsolete facilities and to attract new facilities to the area. An industrial facilities tax ("IFT") is paid, at a lesser effective rate and in lieu of ad valorem property taxes, on such facilities for a period of up to 12 years. Qualifying facilities are issued abatement certificates for specific periods.

After expiration of the abatement certificate, the then-current SEV of the facility is returned to the ad valorem tax roll. The owner of such facility may obtain a new certificate, provided it has complied with the provisions of Act 198.

The 2025 Taxable Value for the properties which have been granted IFT abatements within the School District's boundaries is \$1,147,881, all of which is taxed at ½ rate. For purposes of computing "Equivalent" Taxable Value, it has been shown in the "History of Valuations" section as 50% of the Taxable Value.

Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

## MAJOR TAXPAYERS

Shown below are the ten largest taxpayers in the School District based on their 2025 total valuation subject to taxation.

Taxpayer	Product/Service	2025 Taxable Value
AEP/ Indian Michigan Power	Utility	\$21,276,033
Hassle Farms, LLC	Farm	5,618,319
Midwest Energy Cooperative	Utility	3,530,128
SEMCO Energy Gas Co.	Utility	3,180,151
Polk Properties LLC	Property Management	2,712,799
Schwartz Julia J Trust	Residential	2,570,385
R & D Real Estate LLC	Farm	2,544,504
Atrium Timbers LLC	Assisted Living	2,281,100
Lambro Dowagiac LLC	Grocery/Retail	2,124,768
Chinodin	Storage Facility	1,926,444
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$47,764,631</b>
Total 2025 Taxable Value		\$823,519,450
Top 10 Taxpayers as a % of 2025 Total Taxable Value		5.80%

Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

## CONSTITUTIONAL MILLAGE ROLLBACK

Article IX, Section 31 of the Michigan Constitution (also referred to as the “Headlee Amendment”) requires that if the total value of existing taxable property (Taxable Valuation) in a local taxing unit, exclusive of new construction and improvements, increases faster than the U.S. Consumer Price Index from one year to the next, the maximum authorized tax rate for that local taxing unit must be reduced through a Millage Reduction Fraction unless new millage is authorized by a vote of the electorate of the local taxing unit.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)

The following table shows the total School District tax rates for the past five years.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Operating – Voted	17.9070	18.0000	18.0000	17.7063	17.8509
Debt	4.3000	4.3000	5.1000	5.2500	5.2500
Total Non-Principal Residence	22.2070	22.3000	23.1000	22.9563	23.1009
Total Principal Residence	4.3000	4.3000	5.1000	5.2500	5.2500

The School District levies voted operating millage on non-principal residence property and authorized debt millage on all taxable property within the School District. The voted operating millage expires with the 2028 levy. In November 2025 voters approved a 0.5 mill sinking fund millage commencing with the 2026 levy and expiring with the 2035 levy.

### OTHER JURISDICTIONS’ TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)

The following table provides the 2025 and 2024 tax rates for select units of government that overlap with the School District’s boundaries.

	2025	2024
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000
County of Berrien	5.9668	5.9668
County of Cass	6.8888	6.9551
County of Van Buren	7.3080	7.4214
City of Dowagiac	16.8562	17.2931
Township of La Grange	0.8619	0.8619
Township of Volina	5.6779	5.7216
Township of Wayne	0.8465	0.8482
Lake Michigan College	2.2654	2.2654
Southwestern Michigan College	2.3650	2.3864
Cass District Library	0.7397	0.7468
Dowagiac District Library	1.6482	1.6643

Source: Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties Equalization Departments

## TAX LEVIES AND COLLECTIONS

The School District’s fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. School District property taxes are due December 1 of each fiscal year and are payable without interest or penalty on or before the following February 14. All real property taxes remaining unpaid on March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the levy are turned over to the County Treasurers for collection. Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties (the “Counties”) annually pay from their Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund delinquent taxes on real property to all taxing units in the Counties, including the School District, shortly after the date delinquent taxes are returned to the County Treasurers for collection.

A history of tax levies and collections for the School District is as follows:

Levy Year	Operating Tax Levy	Collections to March 1, Each Year		Collections Plus Funding to June 30, Each Year	
2025	\$7,480,660*	In Process of Collections		N/A	
2024	7,057,226	\$6,391,431	90.57%	\$7,057,226	100.00%
2023	6,614,000	5,929,180	89.65	6,607,731	99.91
2022	6,066,960	5,407,025	89.12	6,063,779	99.95
2021	5,858,692	5,264,015	89.85	5,762,937	98.37
2020	5,656,430	5,100,773	90.18	5,628,833	99.51

\*Estimated.

## RETIREMENT PLAN

For the period October 1 through September 30, the School District pays an amount equal to a percentage of its employees' wages to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System ("MPERS"), which is a statewide retirement plan for employees of Michigan public schools administered by the State of Michigan. These contributions are established and required by law and are calculated by using the contribution rates as determined annually by the State.

MPERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer, statewide plan. Pension benefits, and retiree health benefits, are established by law and funded through employer contributions. The cost of retiree health benefits is funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis, with retirees paying some of the costs. Current year liability for retiree health benefits is reflected in the figures provided below. Further information regarding MPERS, including retiree health benefits, can be found at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

Public Act 75 of 2010 ("Act 75") significantly modified MPERS and among other provisions required all employees hired after July 1, 2010 to participate in a new Pension Plus Plan which provides a combined defined benefit and defined contribution structure. Public Act 92 of 2017 ("Act 92") further modified MPERS for all employees hired on or after February 1, 2018. Act 92 requires all employees hired on or after February 1, 2018 to elect to participate in a new 401(k) style defined contribution plan or a new hybrid plan with different assumptions and cost sharing.

### Contribution to MPERS

The School District's estimated annual contribution to MPERS for the 2025-26 fiscal year and the previous four fiscal years are shown below:

Fiscal Year Ended 30-Jun	Pension Amount	Health Care Amount	Total Amount	State Aid MPERS Direct Offset Payments <sup>2</sup>
2026 <sup>1</sup>	\$4,945,000	\$65,000	\$5,010,000	\$1,770,963
2025	4,744,973	61,243	4,806,216	1,432,936
2024	4,530,492	943,014	5,473,506	2,241,455
2023	5,262,016	920,313	6,182,329	3,184,974
2022	3,845,238	892,825	4,738,063	1,837,933

<sup>1</sup>Estimated.

<sup>2</sup>Represents the amount the School District received in state aid categorical revenue (Section 147c MPERS UAAL Rate Stabilization and One-Time Deposits) to directly pay for a portion of the School District's MPERS unfunded liability. This amount is included in the Total Amount shown in the table above.

Effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014, GASB Statement 68 requires all reporting units in a multi-employer cost sharing pension plan to record a balance sheet liability for their proportionate share of the net pension liability of the plan. The School District implemented GASB 68 in its year ended June 30, 2015 financial statements. In its June 30, 2025 financial statements, the School District reported a proportionate share of the net pension liability of \$26,621,865 as of September 30, 2024.

Effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017, GASB Statement 75 requires all reporting units in a multi-employer cost sharing OPEB plan to record a balance sheet liability for their proportionate share of the net OPEB liability of the plan. The School District implemented GASB 75 in its year ended June 30, 2018 financial statements. In its June 30, 2025 financial statements, the School District reported a proportionate share of the net OPEB asset of \$4,542,993 as of September 30, 2024.

For additional information regarding the Pension Plan and Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB), see the Notes to the Financial Statements in the School District's audited financial statements in APPENDIX D.

*Source: Audited Financial Statements and School District*

## LABOR RELATIONS

The School District has labor agreements with the following employee groups. The agreements all provide for complete and comprehensive salary, wage, fringe benefit and working conditions provisions. The number of employees and duration of the agreements are as follows:

Employee Group	No. of Employees	Affiliation	Exp. Date of Contract
Administrators	17	Non-Affiliated	N/A
Teachers	120	MEA	06/30/2027
Secretaries	15	Non-Affiliated	N/A
Aides	44	Non-Affiliated	N/A
Maintenance/Custodial/Transportation	29	MEA	06/30/2027
Other	20	Non-Affiliated	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>245</b>		

The School District has not experienced a strike by any of its bargaining units within the past ten years.

## DEBT STATEMENT\* - (As of 01/29/2026 – including the Bonds described herein)

### DIRECT DEBT:

Dated Date	Purpose	Bond Type	Final Maturity	Principal Outstanding before Refunding	Refunding (Refunded) Bonds	Principal Outstanding after Refunding
08/27/15	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/31	\$7,395,000	(\$6,280,000)	\$1,115,000*
03/02/16	Building & Site	UTQ	05/01/41	26,950,000	(26,075,000)	875,000*
__/_/26	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/41	0	29,340,000	29,340,000*
<b>NET DIRECT DEBT</b>				<b>\$34,345,000</b>		<b>\$31,330,000*</b>

### OVERLAPPING DEBT:

Percent Share	Municipality	Net Debt	District's Share	
100.00%	City of Dowagiac	\$380,000	\$380,000	
2.71	Township of Bainbridge	0	0	
0.04	Township of Berrien	0	0	
85.05	Township of Keeler	0	0	
25.03	Township of La Grange	1,230,909	308,097	
1.21	Township of Pipestone	0	0	
62.68	Township of Pokagon	0	0	
95.51	Township of Silver Creek	0	0	
1.67	Township of Volinia	767,648	12,820	
88.18	Township of Wayne	444,000	391,519	
0.05	County of Berrien	2,820,276	1,410	
20.13	County of Cass	1,720,000	346,236	
4.01	County of Van Buren	10,430,132	418,248	
33.23	Heritage Southwest ISD	0	0	
0.05	Lake Michigan College	21,340,000	10,670	
23.67	Southwestern Michigan College	17,330,000	4,102,011	
4.08	Cass District Library	5,020,000	204,816	
98.16	Dowagiac District Library	5,475,000	5,374,260	
TOTAL OVERLAPPING DEBT				11,550,087
NET DIRECT AND OVERLAPPING DEBT				\$42,880,087*

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

Source: Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan



## SCHOOL LOAN REVOLVING FUND (SLRF) PROGRAM

The School District did not have a SLRF balance as of January 29, 2026.

## OTHER DEBT

The School District has no short-term borrowing outstanding.

## DEBT HISTORY

The School District has no record of default on its obligations.

## FUTURE FINANCING

The School District does not have plans for any capital financings in the next 12 months.

## DEBT RATIOS\*

Estimated School District Population	14,946
2025 Taxable Value	\$823,519,450
2025 State Equalized Value (SEV)	\$1,390,347,900
2025 True Cash Value (TCV)	\$2,780,695,800
Per Capita 2025 Taxable Value	\$55,099.66
Per Capita 2025 State Equalized Value	\$93,024.75
Per Capita 2025 True Cash Value	\$186,049.50
Per Capita Net Direct Debt	\$2,096.21
Per Capita Net Direct and Overlapping Debt	\$2,869.00
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 Taxable Value	3.80%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 Taxable Value	5.21%
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 SEV	2.25%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 SEV	3.08%
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 TCV	1.13%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 TCV	1.54%

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

## LEGAL DEBT MARGIN\* - (As of 01/29/2026 – including the Bonds described herein)

2025 State Equalized Value	\$1,390,347,900
Legal Debt Limit - 15% of SEV	\$208,552,185
Total Bonded Debt Outstanding	\$31,330,000
Less: SLRF Qualified Bonds <sup>1</sup>	<u>(31,330,000)</u>
Net Amount Subject to Legal Debt Limit	<u>0</u>
LEGAL DEBT MARGIN AVAILABLE	<u><u>\$208,552,185</u></u>

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

<sup>1</sup> Section 1351(3) of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, provides that the bonded indebtedness of a school district shall not exceed 15% of the total assessed valuation of the district. Bonds not included in the computation of the legal debt margin are (1) any bond qualified under Article IX, Section 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and (2) deficit budget bonds as authorized under Section 1356. In addition, Section 605 of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, provides, in relevant part, that debt evidenced by a refunding security shall not be deemed to be within any statutory or charter limitation of outstanding debt limit.

## EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Listed below are the largest employers that are located within the School District and Cass County:

Employer	Product or Service	Approx. No. of Employees
<i>Within the School District</i>		
Berrybrook Enterprises	Fruit & Vegetable Grower	600
Southwestern Michigan College	Education	490
Dowagiac Union School District	Education	245
Beacon Dowagiac*	Health Care	204
Timbers of Cass County	Nursing Home	166
Creative Foam Corp.	Foam Automotive Products	150
Lyons Industries, Inc.	Corrugated Showroom Displays & Storage	125
Autocam Corp.	Screw Machine Products	120
City of Dowagiac	Government	72
Michigan Die Casting, LLC	Aluminum Die Castings	60
J.A.C. Custom Pouches, Inc.	Tool & Utility Pouch Manufacturer	60
NN, Inc.	Precision Machined Components for Automotive	50
<i>Within the County of Cass</i>		
Pokagon Band	Government	300
Edwardsburg Public Schools	Education	320
North American Forest Products	Lumber & Trusses	275
DUO FORM	Plastic Thermoforming	275
Patrick Industries, Inc.	Wood Products	275
Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area	Ski Resort	200
EQ United	Warehouse & Distribution	160
Ameri-Kart Corporation-Michigan	Plastics Products	150
Cass County	Government	125
K&M Machine-Fabrication, Inc.	Machining & Fabricating	110
Cassopolis Public Schools	Education	98

\*Beacon Dowagiac was formerly known as Borgess Lee Hospital, and is now a part of the Beacon Health System.

Source: 2025 Michigan Manufacturers Directory, MEDC website via [www.michiganbusiness.org](http://www.michiganbusiness.org), and individual employers.

## EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey reports the occupational breakdown of persons 16 years and over for the City of Dowagiac and the County of Cass as follows:

	City of Dowagiac		County of Cass	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PERSONS BY OCCUPATION	2,520	100.00%	23,855	100.00%
Management, Business, Science & Arts	435	17.26	7,947	33.31
Service	833	33.06	3,674	15.40
Sales & Office	370	14.68	4,408	18.48
Natural Resources, Construction & Maintenance	332	13.17	2,757	11.56
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	550	21.83	5,069	21.25

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey reports the breakdown by industry for persons 16 years and over for the City of Dowagiac and the County of Cass as follows:

	City of Dowagiac		County of Cass	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>PERSONS BY INDUSTRY</b>	2,520	100.00%	23,855	100.00%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	33	1.31	510	2.14
Construction	151	5.99	2,157	9.04
Manufacturing	464	18.41	5,740	24.06
Wholesale Trade	80	3.17	658	2.76
Retail Trade	297	11.79	2,337	9.80
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	167	6.63	1,081	4.53
Information	0	0.00	214	0.90
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	65	2.58	1,023	4.29
Professional, Scientific & Management Services	246	9.76	1,805	7.57
Educational, Health & Social Services	607	24.09	5,092	21.34
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Food Services	237	9.40	1,717	7.20
Other Services except Public Administration	127	5.04	931	3.90
Public Administration	46	1.83	590	2.47

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, reports unemployment averages for the County of Cass as compared to the State of Michigan as follows:

	Annual Average	County of Cass	State of Michigan
November, 2025		4.4%	4.9%
2024		5.1	4.7
2023		4.4	3.9
2022		4.2	4.2
2021		4.8	5.7

## POPULATION BY AGE

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey reports the breakdown of population by age for the City of Dowagiac and the County of Cass as follows:

	City of Dowagiac		County of Cass	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	5,677	100.00%	51,606	100.00%
0 through 19 years	1,425	25.10	11,936	23.13
20 through 64 years	3,137	55.26	28,329	54.89
65 years and over	1,115	19.64	11,341	21.98
Median Age	37.3 years		45.5 years	

**INCOME**

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey reports the breakdown of household income for the City of Dowagiac and the County of Cass as follows:

	City of Dowagiac		County of Cass	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME	2,638	100.00%	21,089	100.00%
Less than \$ 10,000	226	8.57	1,047	4.96
\$ 10,000 to \$ 14,999	296	11.22	703	3.33
\$ 15,000 to \$ 24,999	303	11.49	1,556	7.38
\$ 25,000 to \$ 34,999	370	14.03	1,836	8.71
\$ 35,000 to \$ 49,999	459	17.39	2,712	12.86
\$ 50,000 to \$ 74,999	380	14.40	3,546	16.81
\$ 75,000 to \$ 99,999	236	8.95	2,726	12.93
\$100,000 to \$149,999	113	4.28	3,222	15.28
\$150,000 to \$199,999	222	8.42	2,094	9.93
\$200,000 or MORE	33	1.25	1,647	7.81
Median Income	\$38,433		\$68,011	

# APPENDIX C

## GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY AND COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Dowagiac Union School District General Fund Budget Summary

	As Adopted 2025/26
<b>Revenues</b>	
Local Sources	\$7,598,230
Local Sources-Pokagon	184,000
State Sources	16,001,058
Federal Sources	1,102,474
Intermediate School Districts	125,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>\$25,010,762</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Instructional Services	
Basic Program	\$11,673,282
Added Needs	3,163,226
Adult & Continuing Education	135,000
Support	
Pupil	1,247,683
Instructional Staff	1,240,554
General Administration	417,740
School Administration	1,699,892
Business Services	773,829
Operation & Maintenance	2,566,892
Transportation	1,299,062
Central Services	704,267
Athletics	785,588
Community Services	140,520
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$25,847,537</u>
<b>Excess of Expenditures (over) under Revenues</b>	<u>(\$836,775)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	
Operating Transfers In	\$35,000
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	(\$801,775)
<b>Beginning Fund Balance - July 1</b>	<u>\$6,692,907</u>
<b>Projected Fund Balance - June 30</b>	<u><u>\$5,891,132</u></u>

Source: School District

**Dowagiac Union School District  
General Fund**

**Comparative Balance Sheet**

	For Fiscal Years Ended June 30th		
	2023	2024	2025
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$487,671	\$309,080	\$210,515
Investments	3,582,249	5,498,901	7,042,956
Receivables			
Accounts Receivable	19,437	20,137	34,652
Intergovernmental	3,981,242	3,769,898	3,474,103
Due from Other Funds	8,390	55,480	10,171
Inventories	89,590	88,458	108,583
Prepaid Expenses	1,407	1,407	--
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$8,169,986</u>	<u>\$9,743,361</u>	<u>\$10,880,980</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	--	\$26,395	\$82,584
Due to Other Funds	\$142,948	--	2,620
Accrued Salaries and Related Items	1,160,374	1,406,519	1,576,806
Accrued Retirement	893,521	797,232	687,634
Unearned Revenue	1,023,877	1,697,740	1,838,429
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$3,220,720</u>	<u>\$3,927,886</u>	<u>\$4,188,073</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable			
Inventories	\$89,590	\$88,458	\$108,583
Prepays	1,407	1,407	--
Assigned for			
Compensated Absences	435,882	463,374	--
Capital Projects	500,000	500,000	500,000
Debt Service	90,900	--	--
Subsequent Year Expenditures	547,108	383,971	836,775
Unassigned	3,284,379	4,378,265	5,247,549
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u>\$4,949,266</u>	<u>\$5,815,475</u>	<u>\$6,692,907</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<u><u>\$8,169,986</u></u>	<u><u>\$9,743,361</u></u>	<u><u>\$10,880,980</u></u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements

**Dowagiac Union School District  
General Fund**

**Comparative Statement of Revenues,  
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance**

	For Fiscal Years Ended June 30th		
	2023	2024	2025
<b>Revenue</b>			
Local Sources	\$6,902,728	\$7,319,801	\$7,936,318
State Sources	17,340,659	17,415,978	16,836,845
Federal Sources	4,258,358	2,131,050	1,709,949
Intermediate School Districts	142,036	261,369	160,490
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$28,643,781</u>	<u>\$27,128,198</u>	<u>\$26,643,602</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current:			
Instruction	\$16,812,655	\$15,218,498	\$15,355,098
Supporting Services	11,230,831	10,272,547	10,315,766
Community Service	140,014	128,010	134,306
Debt Service			
Principal Repayment	90,900	90,900	--
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$28,274,400</u>	<u>\$25,709,955</u>	<u>\$25,805,170</u>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over (Under)</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>	<u>\$369,381</u>	<u>\$1,418,243</u>	<u>\$838,432</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Operating Transfers In	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$39,000
Operating Transfers Out	(600,084)	(600,034)	--
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>(\$552,084)</u>	<u>(\$552,034)</u>	<u>\$39,000</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	(\$182,703)	\$866,209	\$877,432
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning</b>	<u>\$5,131,969</u>	<u>\$4,949,266</u>	<u>\$5,815,475</u>
<b>Fund Balance - Ending</b>	<u><u>\$4,949,266</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,815,475</u></u>	<u><u>\$6,692,907</u></u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements

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## **APPENDIX D**

### **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The auditor was not requested to examine or review and therefore has not examined or reviewed any financial documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds and accordingly has not conducted any post-audit review procedures and will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of such financial documents, statements or materials.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Education  
Dowagiac Union Schools

### Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Dowagiac Union Schools, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Dowagiac Union Schools' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Dowagiac Union Schools, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Dowagiac Union Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 12 to the financial statements, the District adopted GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Dowagiac Union Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Dowagiac Union Schools' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Dowagiac Union Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information, as identified in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Dowagiac Union Schools' basic financial statements. The accompanying additional supplementary information, as identified in the table of contents, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the additional supplementary information, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 14, 2025 on our consideration of Dowagiac Union Schools' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Dowagiac Union Schools' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Dowagiac Union Schools' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

October 14, 2025

## **DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

As management of the Dowagiac Union Schools (the District), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

The management's discussion and analysis is provided at the beginning of the annual financial report to provide in layman's terms the past and current position of the District's financial condition. This summary should not be taken as a replacement for the annual financial report which consists of the financial statements and other supplementary and additional information that presents all the District's revenue and expenditures by program.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Reporting the School District as a Whole - District-wide Financial Statements**

One of the most important questions asked about the District is, "As a whole, what is the District's financial condition as a result of the year's activities?" The statement of net position and the statement of activities, which appear first in the District's financial statements, report information about the District as a whole and its activities in a way that helps answer this question. We prepare these statements to include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District's net position. In order to measure the District's financial health or financial position, we examine the difference between assets, deferred outflow of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows, as reported in the statement of net position. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position, as reported in the statement of activities, are indicators of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The relationship between revenues and expenses is the District's operating results.

It is important to remember that the School District's goal is to provide the best educational opportunities and services possible to Dowagiac students and not to generate profits as commercial entities do. In keeping, the District must account for the long term stability and continuation of the District by weighing expenditures against the ability to continue existence. The District must keep in check significant decreases in net position over time.

The statement of net position and statement of activities report the governmental activities for the School District, which encompass all of the District's services, including instruction, support services, community services, athletics, and food services. Property taxes, unrestricted State aid (foundation allowance revenue), and State and federal grants finance most of these activities.

Our financial statements provide insights into the results of this year's operations.

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the District are exceeded by its liabilities and deferred inflows at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$(1,413,380). The District's total net position increased by \$7,726,786.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$10,314,522, an increase of \$906,196 in comparison with the prior year.

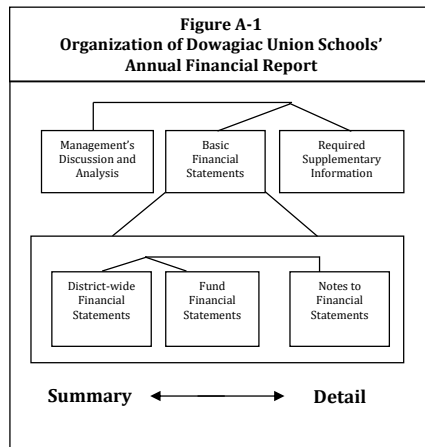
**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

- At the end of the current fiscal year, the total and unassigned fund balance for the District's operating fund (general fund) was \$6,692,907 and \$5,247,549 or approximately 26% and 20%, respectively, of the total expenditures of this operating fund.

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of three parts - management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the District:

- The first two statements are *District-wide financial statements* that provide both *short-term* and *long-term* information about the District's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of the District, reporting the District's operations in more detail than the District-wide notes to financial statements.
- The *governmental funds* statements tell how basic services like instruction and support services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.
- *Fiduciary funds* statements provide information about the financial relationships in which the District acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others.



The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the District's budget for the year and required pension and OPEB information. Figure A-1 shows how the various parts of this annual report are arranged and related to one another.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**Figure A-2  
Major Features of District-wide and Fund Financial Statements**

Category	District-wide Statements	Fund Financial Statements
		Governmental Funds
Scope	* Entire District	* The activities of the District that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as general education and building maintenance.
Required financial statements	* Statement of net position * Statement of activities	* Balance sheet * Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances
Accounting basis and measurement focus	* Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	* Modified accrual accounting and current financial resources focus
Type of asset/liability information	* All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	* Generally assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included
Type of inflow/outflow information	* All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	* Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year, expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable

Figure A-2 summarizes the major features of the District's financial statements, including the portion of the District's activities they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis highlights the structure and contents of each of the statements.

**DISTRICT-WIDE STATEMENTS**

The District-wide statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The two District-wide statements report the District's net position and how they have changed. Net position - the difference between the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources is one way to measure the District's financial health or position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess the overall health of the District, you need to consider additional nonfinancial factors such as changes in the District's property tax base and the condition of school buildings and other facilities.

In the District-wide financial statements, the District's activities:

- Governmental Activities - Most of the District's basic services are included here, such as regular and special education, transportation and administration. Property taxes and state formula aid finance most of these activities.

**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the District's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds - not the District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices the District uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs:

- Some funds are required by State law and by bond covenants.
- The District establishes other funds to control and manage money for particular purposes (like repaying debt, and its capital projects fund) or to show that it is properly using certain revenues (like school lunch).

The District has two kinds of funds:

- Governmental Funds - Most of the District's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out, and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the District-wide statements, we provide additional information with the governmental funds statements that explain the relationship (or differences) between them.
- Fiduciary Funds - The District is the trustee, or fiduciary, for assets that belong to others, such as the scholarship fund. The District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. We exclude these activities from the District-wide financial statements because the District cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE**

**Summary of Net Position**

The District's combined net position at year end is \$(1,413,380). Restricted net position represents legal constraints from debt covenants and legislation that limit the District's ability to use the net position for day-to-day operations. The following is a summary of the District's net position at June 30, 2025 and 2024.

<b>Table A-3 Dowagiac Union Schools Net Position</b>		
	2025	2024*
Current and other assets	\$ 14,552,460	\$ 13,402,585
Net other postemployment benefit asset	4,542,993	642,472
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization	57,803,037	59,384,567
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>76,898,490</b>	<b>73,429,624</b>
Deferred outflows of resources	9,094,110	12,856,868
Long-term obligations outstanding	39,218,530	40,942,207
Other liabilities	4,510,363	4,279,484
Net pension liability	26,621,865	37,156,756
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>70,350,758</b>	<b>82,378,447</b>
Deferred inflows of resources	17,055,222	12,608,506
Net position		
Net investment in capital assets	19,686,229	19,106,787
Restricted for debt service	1,359,111	1,444,535
Restricted for food service	108,494	32,583
Restricted for net other postemployment benefits	4,542,993	642,472
Unrestricted	(27,110,207)	(29,926,838)
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ (1,413,380)</b>	<b>\$ (8,700,461)</b>
*The 2024 numbers have not been updated for the adoption of GASB 101		

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

<b>Table A-4 Dowagiac Union Schools Changes in Net Position</b>		
	2025	2024*
Revenues		
Program revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 197,184	\$ 190,483
Operating grants and contributions	9,582,143	11,083,073
General revenues		
Property taxes	10,530,592	10,285,446
Investment	339,384	287,899
State aid-unrestricted	11,745,275	11,415,800
Intermediate sources	210,155	129,888
Other	563,572	560,965
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>33,168,305</b>	<b>33,953,554</b>
Expenses		
Instruction	11,425,267	13,070,318
Support services	8,790,587	9,392,151
Community services	134,306	128,010
Food services	1,756,876	1,825,729
Student/school activities	152,124	181,335
Interest on long-term debt	1,447,838	1,520,498
Unallocated depreciation/amortization	1,734,521	1,679,420
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>25,441,519</b>	<b>27,797,461</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>\$ 7,726,786</b>	<b>\$ 6,156,093</b>
*The 2024 numbers have not been updated for the adoption of GASB 101		

**District Governmental Activities**

The District's financial condition has come about through a number of areas.

- The State Foundation Allowance remained the same at \$9,608 in 2024 and 2025.
- Student counts in the District have fluctuated over the past several years. Dowagiac Union Schools does participate in Schools of Choice and the Seat-Time Waiver Program to attract new students to the District. The District also provides an Alternative Education Program.
- The District's payment into Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS) in 2025 increased to an average rate of 30.63% compared to 30.13% in 2024.
- The District implements cost saving activities to keep pace with the revenues and expenditures in efforts to balance the budget each year.

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT'S FUNDS**

The District as a whole has a combined fund balance of \$10,314,522 compared to \$9,408,326, in 2024. The fund balance increased by \$906,196 during the year. There are debt service funds with a combined net fund balance of \$1,631,536, and food service and student/school activities, which are special revenue funds, with net fund balances of \$308,378 and \$138,158, respectively. The general fund increased its fund balance by \$877,432. The major capital projects fund had a fund balance of \$1,543,543. The general fund's expenditures and operating transfers were within 3.4% of yearly revenues.

**General Fund and Budget Highlights**

During the 2025 fiscal year the original District budget was amended once to reflect changes which affected the District.

The amendment took place in June, when more accurate revenues, expenditures, and grants were adjusted. However, there were a few adjustments that took place after the amendment that affected the fund balance positively. The District received some unexpected revenue in the August state aid to help offset retirement costs. The District was able to shift some general fund expenses to grants prior to the end of the fiscal year. Now that these grants are ending this is a one-year anomaly.

The amendment was done to more accurately reflect actual revenues and expenditures, with an estimated \$132,344 of revenues exceeding expenditures. Taking into account transfers in and out, the District anticipated \$171,344 net change in the fund balance.

The final results showed that net revenues were less than the final amendment, by \$118,187. The expenditures came in less than projected due to estimating some expenses higher than what came in as actual. These actual expenditures resulted in the net change in fund balance in \$877,432.

**CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

**Capital Assets**

The District's capital assets are as follows:

<b>Table A-5 Dowagiac Union Schools</b>				
	2025		2024	
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	\$ 1,209,864	\$ -	\$ 1,209,864	\$ 1,209,864
Construction in progress	19,100	-	19,100	-
Buildings and improvements	73,317,971	18,852,983	54,464,988	55,796,605
Buses and other vehicles	2,432,435	1,588,511	843,924	1,017,800
Furniture and equipment	3,654,719	2,519,855	1,134,864	1,172,091
Right to use - subscription-based IT	289,550	159,253	130,297	188,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 80,923,639</b>	<b>\$ 23,120,602</b>	<b>\$ 57,803,037</b>	<b>\$ 59,384,567</b>

The change in the net book value is due to current year depreciation/amortization and additions.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

At year end the District had \$39,218,530 long-term obligations outstanding as shown in Table A-6. More detailed information is available in the notes of the financial statements.

An increase in compensated absences of \$34,660 was recorded.

<b>Table A-6</b> <b>Dowagiac Union Schools</b> <b>Outstanding Long-Term Obligations</b>		
	2025	2024*
General obligation bonds	\$ 38,280,791	\$ 40,478,833
Compensated absences	937,739	463,374
Total	<u>\$ 39,218,530</u>	<u>\$ 40,942,207</u>
*The 2024 numbers have not been updated for the adoption of GASB 101		

**FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE**

At the time these financial statements were prepared and audited, the District was aware of four existing circumstances that could significantly affect its financial health in the future:

- The District is hoping student enrollment would remain flat, but was prepared for a decline in student count for the 2025-2026 school year, however, enrollment is expected to increase for 2025-2026 school year due to increased kindergarten classes.
- The District has a three year contracts with the DEA and DUESPA Unions, 2024-2027.

**CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Business Office, Dowagiac Union Schools, 243 S Front, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047.

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2025**

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,455,266
Investments	7,328,617
Receivables	
Accounts receivable	38,936
Intergovernmental	3,594,178
Inventories	135,463
Net other postemployment benefits asset	4,542,993
Capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized	1,228,964
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>56,574,073</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>76,898,490</u></b>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred charge on refunding, net of amortization	163,983
Related to other postemployment benefit	1,053,084
Related to pension	<u>7,877,043</u>
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>9,094,110</u></b>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	82,584
Accrued interest payable	272,425
Accrued salaries and related items	1,576,806
Accrued retirement	687,634
Unearned revenue	1,890,914
Noncurrent liabilities	
Due within one year	2,110,124
Due in more than one year	37,108,406
Net pension liability	<u>26,621,865</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>70,350,758</u></b>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Related to other postemployment benefit	6,258,180
Related to pension	9,364,106
Related to state aid funding for pension	<u>1,432,936</u>
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>17,055,222</u></b>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	19,686,229
Restricted for debt service	1,359,111
Restricted for food service	108,494
Restricted for net other postemployment benefits	4,542,993
Unrestricted	<u>(27,110,207)</u>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b><u>\$ (1,413,380)</u></b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

			Program Revenues	Governmental Activities
				Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
Functions/Programs	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities				
Instruction	\$ 11,425,267	\$ -	\$ 6,875,645	\$ (4,549,622)
Support services	8,790,587	160,789	763,960	(7,865,838)
Community services	134,306	-	-	(134,306)
Food services	1,756,876	36,395	1,788,633	68,152
Student/school activities	152,124	-	153,905	1,781
Interest on long-term debt	1,447,838	-	-	(1,447,838)
Unallocated depreciation/amortization	<u>1,734,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,734,521)</u>
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b><u>\$ 25,441,519</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 197,184</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,582,143</u></b>	<b><u>(15,662,192)</u></b>
General revenues				
Property taxes, levied for general purposes				7,151,383
Property taxes, levied for debt service				3,379,209
Investment earnings				339,384
State sources - unrestricted				11,745,275
Intermediate sources				210,155
Other				<u>563,572</u>
<b>Total general revenues</b>				<b><u>23,388,978</u></b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>				<b><u>7,726,786</u></b>
NET POSITION, beginning of year, as previously reported				(8,700,461)
Adjustment to beginning net position				<u>(439,705)</u>
NET POSITION, beginning of year, as restated				<u>(9,140,166)</u>
NET POSITION, end of year				<b><u>\$ (1,413,380)</u></b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2025**

	General Fund	Capital Projects - Building & Site	Total Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 210,515	\$ 1,543,543	\$ 1,701,208	\$ 3,455,266
Investments	7,042,956	-	285,661	7,328,617
Receivables				
Accounts receivable	34,652	-	4,284	38,936
Intergovernmental	3,474,103	-	120,075	3,594,178
Due from other funds	10,171	-	2,620	12,791
Inventories	108,583	-	26,880	135,463
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 10,880,980</b>	<b>\$ 1,543,543</b>	<b>\$ 2,140,728</b>	<b>\$ 14,565,251</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 82,584	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 82,584
Due to other funds	2,620	-	10,171	12,791
Accrued salaries and related items	1,576,806	-	-	1,576,806
Accrued retirement	687,634	-	-	687,634
Unearned revenue	1,838,429	-	52,485	1,890,914
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,188,073</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,656</b>	<b>4,250,729</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Nonspendable				
Inventories	108,583	-	26,880	135,463

See notes to financial statements.

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	General Fund	Capital Projects - Building & Site	Total Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES (continued)</b>				
<b>FUND BALANCES (continued)</b>				
Restricted for				
Debt service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,631,536	\$ 1,631,536
Special revenue food service	-	-	281,498	281,498
Committed for student/school activities	-	-	138,158	138,158
Assigned for:				
Capital projects	500,000	1,543,543	-	2,043,543
Subsequent year expenditures	836,775	-	-	836,775
Unassigned	5,247,549	-	-	5,247,549
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>6,692,907</b>	<b>1,543,543</b>	<b>2,078,072</b>	<b>10,314,522</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 10,880,980</b>	<b>\$ 1,543,543</b>	<b>\$ 2,140,728</b>	<b>\$ 14,565,251</b>
<b>Total governmental fund balances</b>				\$ 10,314,522
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:				
Deferred charge on refunding, net of amortization				163,983
Deferred outflows of resources - related to pension				7,877,043
Deferred outflows of resources - related to other postemployment benefit				1,053,084
Deferred inflows of resources - related to pension				(9,364,106)
Deferred inflows of resources - related to other postemployment benefit				(6,258,180)
Deferred inflows of resources - related to state funding for pension				(1,432,936)
Some assets are not current financial resources and therefore are not reported in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet. Noncurrent assets at year-end consist of:				
Net other postemployment benefits asset				4,542,993
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are not reported in the funds:				
The cost of the capital assets is			\$ 80,923,639	
Accumulated depreciation/amortization is			<u>(23,120,602)</u>	57,803,037
Long-term obligations are not due and payable in the current period and are not reported in the funds:				
General obligation bonds				(38,280,791)
Compensated absences				(937,739)
Accrued interest is not included as a liability in governmental funds, it is recorded when paid				(272,425)
Net pension liability				<u>(26,621,865)</u>
<b>Net position of governmental activities</b>				<b>\$ (1,413,380)</b>

See notes to financial statements.

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**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	General Fund	Capital Projects - Building & Site	Total Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Local sources				
Property taxes	\$ 7,151,383	\$ -	\$ 3,379,209	\$ 10,530,592
Food sales	-	-	36,395	36,395
Student/school activities	-	-	153,905	153,905
Investment earnings	212,895	52,601	73,888	339,384
Other	572,040	-	51,986	624,026
Total local sources	7,936,318	52,601	3,695,383	11,684,302
State sources	16,836,845	-	116,738	16,953,583
Federal sources	1,709,949	-	1,701,462	3,411,411
Intermediate school districts	160,490	150,000	-	310,490
TOTAL REVENUES	26,643,602	202,601	5,513,583	32,359,786
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction	15,355,098	-	-	15,355,098
Supporting services	10,315,766	-	-	10,315,766
Food service activities	-	-	1,756,876	1,756,876
Student/school activities	-	-	152,124	152,124
Community service activities	134,306	-	-	134,306

See notes to financial statements.

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	General Fund	Capital Projects - Building & Site	Total Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
EXPENDITURES (continued)				
Debt service				
Principal repayment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,920,000	\$ 1,920,000
Interest	-	-	1,711,350	1,711,350
Other	-	-	768	768
Capital outlay	-	91,342	15,960	107,302
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	25,805,170	91,342	5,557,078	31,453,590
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	838,432	111,259	(43,495)	906,196
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	39,000	-	-	39,000
Transfers out	-	-	(39,000)	(39,000)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	39,000	-	(39,000)	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	877,432	111,259	(82,495)	906,196
FUND BALANCES				
Beginning of year	5,815,475	1,432,284	2,160,567	9,408,326
End of year	\$ 6,692,907	\$ 1,543,543	\$ 2,078,072	\$ 10,314,522

See notes to financial statements.

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**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,  
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

<b>Net change in fund balances total governmental funds</b>	<b>\$ 906,196</b>
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. In the statement of activities these costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization:	
Depreciation/amortization expense	(1,734,521)
Capital outlay	152,991
Accrued interest on bonds is recorded in the statement of activities when incurred; it is not recorded in governmental funds until it is paid:	
Accrued interest payable, beginning of the year	285,225
Accrued interest payable, end of the year	(272,425)
The issuance of long-term obligations (e.g., bonds) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of principal of long-term bonds consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. The effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items are as follows:	
Long-term principal payments on obligations	1,920,000
Amortization of deferred charge on refunding	(27,330)
Amortization of bond premium	278,042
Compensated absences are reported on the accrual method in the statement of activities, and recorded as an expenditure when financial resources are used in the governmental funds:	
Accrued compensated absences, beginning of the year, as restated	903,079
Accrued compensated absences, end of the year	(937,739)
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:	
Other postemployment benefit related items	1,911,354
Pension related items	3,533,395
Restricted revenue reported in the governmental funds that is deferred to offset the deferred outflows related to section 147c pension contributions subsequent to the measurement period:	
State aid funding for pension, beginning of year	2,241,455
State aid funding for pension, end of year	(1,432,936)
<b>Change in net position of governmental activities</b>	<b><u>\$ 7,726,786</u></b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2025**

	Private Purpose Trust Fund
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 32,732</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Restricted	<u><u>\$ 32,732</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	Private Purpose Trust Fund
ADDITIONS	
Investment earnings	\$ 1,062
NET POSITION	
Beginning of year	<u>31,670</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 32,732</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Reporting Entity

The Dowagiac Union Schools (the "District") is governed by the Dowagiac Union Schools' Board of Education (the "Board"), which has responsibility and control over all activities related to public school education within the District. The District receives funding from local, state, and federal sources and must comply with all of the requirements of these funding source entities. However, the District is not included in any other governmental reporting entity as defined by the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Board members are elected by the public and have decision-making authority, the power to designate management, the ability to significantly influence operations, and the primary accountability for fiscal matters. In addition, the District's reporting entity does not contain any component units as defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements.

Description of Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the District. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. *Governmental activities* normally are supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and nonexchange transactions.

Basis of Presentation - Government-wide Financial Statements

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from the governmental funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

Basis of Presentation - Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the District's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category - governmental and fiduciary - are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The District reports the following *Major Governmental Funds*:

The *General Fund* is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the District, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *Capital Projects Building and Site Fund* accounts for the receipt of transfers from the general fund and other revenue for the acquisition of capital assets or construction of major capital projects.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Basis of Presentation - Fund Financial Statements (continued)

Additionally, the District reports the following *Nonmajor Fund* types:

The *Special Revenue Funds* account for revenue sources that are legally restricted or committed to expenditures for specific purposes (not including expendable trusts or major capital projects). The District accounts for its food service and student/school activities as special revenue funds.

The *Debt Service Funds* accounts for the resources accumulated and payments made for principal and interest on long-term general obligation debt of governmental funds.

The 2016 *Capital Projects Funds* includes capital project activities funded with bonds. For this capital project, the school district has complied with the applicable provisions of Section 1351a of the Revised School Code. An audit was completed in 2020.

The 2016 capital projects fund includes capital project activities funded with bonds. For these capital projects, the school district has complied with the applicable provisions of the §1351a of the Revised School Code.

The District issued \$32,700,000 of bonds on March 2, 2016, at which time all funds were available for the intended purpose of the bond issue. Dowagiac Union Schools split the proceeds (73% and 23%) into two capital project funds. Beginning with the year of bond issuance, the District has reported the annual construction activity in the capital project funds. The projects for which the 2016 School Building and Site Bonds were issued were completed as of June 30, 2025 and the cumulative expenditures recognized for the construction period were as follows.

The following is a summary of the revenue and expenditures recognized for the capital projects bond activity since inception:

	2016 Project 2
Revenue and other financing sources	<u>\$ 10,812,545</u>
Expenditures and other financing uses	<u>\$ 10,812,545</u>

*Fiduciary Funds* account for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of others. Trust funds account for assets held by the District under the terms of a formal trust agreement. Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide financial statements.

The *Private Purpose Trust Fund* is accounted for using the accrual method of accounting. Private purpose trust funds account for assets where interest payments may be spent for student scholarships. These funds are not included in the District's government-wide financial statements.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Basis of Presentation - Fund Financial Statements (continued)

During the course of operations, the District has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year end are reported as due from/to other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, they are eliminated in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements.

Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, they are eliminated in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as *current financial resources* or *economic resources*. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The process of preparing financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the use of estimates and assumptions regarding certain types of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Such estimates primarily relate to unsettled transactions and events as of the date of the financial statements. Accordingly, upon settlement, actual results may differ from estimated amounts.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are the fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are generally collected within approximately 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Issuance of long-term debt and acquisitions under leases are reported as other financing sources.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (continued)

Property taxes, state and federal aid and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements have been met, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within 60 days of year-end).

The State of Michigan utilizes a foundation grant approach which provides for a specific annual amount of revenue per pupil based on a statewide formula. The foundation is funded from state and local sources. Revenues from state sources are primarily governed by the School Aid Act and the School Code of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Education administers the allocation of state funds to school districts based on information supplied by the districts. For the current year ended, the foundation allowance was based on pupil membership.

The state portion of the foundation is provided primarily by a state education property tax millage of 6 mills on Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) property and an allocated portion of state sales and other taxes. The local portion of the foundation is funded primarily by Non-PRE property taxes which may be levied at a rate of up to 18 mills as well as 6 mills for Commercial Personal Property Tax. The state revenue is recognized during the foundation period and is funded through payments from October to August. Thus, the unpaid portion at June 30 is reported as an intergovernmental receivable.

The District also receives revenue from the state to administer certain categorical education programs. State rules require that revenue earmarked for these programs be used for its specific purpose. Certain governmental funds require an accounting to the state of the expenditures incurred. For categorical funds meeting this requirement, funds received and accrued, which are not expended by the close of the fiscal year are recorded as unearned revenue.

All other revenue items are generally considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

The private-purpose trust fund is reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Budgetary Information

*Budgetary Basis of Accounting*

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the general fund and special revenue funds. Other funds do not have appropriated budgets.

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- a. The Superintendent submits to the School Board a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing on July 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The level of control is at the functional level as set forth and presented as required supplementary information.
- b. Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
- c. Prior to July 1, the budget is legally adopted by the School Board pursuant to the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (1968 PA 2). The Act requires that the budget be amended prior to the end of the fiscal year when necessary to adjust appropriations if it appears that revenues and other financing sources will be less than anticipated or so that expenditures will not be in excess of original estimates. Expenditures shall not be made or incurred, unless authorized in the budget, in excess of the amount appropriated. Violations, if any, in the general fund are noted in the required supplementary information section.
- d. Transfers may be made for budgeted amounts between major expenditure functions within any fund; however, these transfers and any revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the School Board.
- e. The budget was amended during the year with supplemental appropriations, the last one approved prior to year-end June 30, 2025.

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance

*Cash and Cash Equivalents*

The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, money market accounts, and certificates of deposits.

*Investments*

In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws, the District is authorized to invest in the following investment vehicles:

- a. Bonds, securities, and other obligations of the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (continued)

*Investments (continued)*

- b. Certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a bank which is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or a savings and loan association which is a member of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) or a credit union which is insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), but only if the bank, savings and loan association, or credit union is eligible to be a depository of surplus funds belonging to the State under section 5 or 6 of Act No. 105 of the Public Acts of 1855, as amended, being Section 21.145 and 21.146 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
- c. Commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the three (3) highest classifications established by not less than two standard rating services and which matures not more than 270 days after the date of purchase.
- d. The United States government or federal agency obligations repurchase agreements.
- e. Bankers acceptances of United States banks.
- f. Mutual funds composed of investment vehicles, which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan.

Michigan Compiled Laws allow for collateralization of government deposits, if the assets for pledging are acceptable to the State Treasurer under Section 3 of 1855 PA 105, MCL 21.143, to secure deposits of State surplus funds, securities issued by the Federal Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal National Mortgage Association, or Government National Mortgage Association.

*Inventories and Prepaid Items*

Inventories are valued at cost using the first-in/first-out (FIFO) method and consist of expendable supplies. The cost of such inventories is recorded as expenditures/expenses when consumed rather than when purchased.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements. The cost of prepaid items is recorded as expenditures/expenses when consumed rather than when purchased.

*Capital Assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, right to use assets, and transportation vehicles, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Group purchases are evaluated on a case by case basis. Donated capital assets are recorded at their estimated acquisition value at the date of donation. Land and construction in process, if any, are not depreciated. Right to use assets of the District are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of the subscription period or the estimated useful lives. The other capital assets of the District are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (continued)

*Capital Assets (continued)*

Capital Asset Class	Years
Building and building improvements	10 - 50
Buses and other vehicles	5 - 10
Furniture and equipment	5 - 20
Right to use - subscription-based IT	5

*Defined Benefit Plans*

For purposes of measuring the net pension and other postemployment benefit asset, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits, and pension and other postemployment benefits expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Michigan Public Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and additions to/deductions from MPERS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by MPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

*Deferred Outflows*

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/ expenditure) until then. The District has three items that qualify for reporting in this category. They are the deferred charge on refunding and pension and other postemployment benefits related items reported in the government-wide statement of net position. A deferred charge on refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. A deferred outflow is recognized for pension and other postemployment benefit related items. These amounts are expensed in the plan year in which they apply.

*Deferred Inflows*

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has three items that qualify for reporting in this category. The first is restricted section 147c state aid deferred to offset deferred outflows related to section 147c pension contributions subsequent to the measurement period. The second and third items are future resources yet to be recognized in relation to the pension and other postemployment benefit actuarial calculation. These future resources arise from differences in the estimates used by the actuary to calculate the pension and other postemployment benefit liability and the actual results. The amounts are amortized over a period determined by the actuary.



**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (continued)

*Net Position Flow Assumption*

Sometimes the District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted - net position and unrestricted - net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District's policy to consider restricted - net position to have been depleted before unrestricted - net position is applied.

*Fund Balance Flow Assumptions*

Sometimes the District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District's policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

*Fund Balance Policies*

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The District itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the District's highest level of decision-making authority. The Board of Education is the highest level of decision-making authority for the District that can, by adoption of a board action prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the board action remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another board action) to remove or revise the limitation.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The Board of Education has by resolution authorized the superintendent to assign fund balance. The Board of Education may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

The District shall ensure adequate funding is reserved for the general fund to maintain secure financial position. Fund balance shall not fall below 10% of the preceding year's expenditures.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (continued)

*Subscription-based IT Arrangements (SBITA)*

Subscriber: The District is a lessee for a subscription of an IT arrangement. The District recognizes a SBITA liability and an intangible right-to-use SBITA asset in the government-wide financial statements.

At the commencement of a subscription, the District initially measures the SBITA liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the SBITA term. Subsequently, the SBITA liability is reduced by the principal portion of SBITA payments made. The SBITA asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the SBITA liability, adjusted for SBITA payments made at or before the SBITA commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the SBITA asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life.

Key estimates and judgements related to leases included how the District determines (1) the discount rate it uses to discount the expected SBITA payments to present value, (2) SBITA term, and (3) SBITA payments.

The District uses the interest rate charged by the lessor as the discount rate. When the interest rate charged by the lessor is not provided, the District generally uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for SBITA.

The SBITA term includes the noncancelable period of the subscription. SBITA payments included in the measurement of the SBITA liability are composed of fixed payments and purchase option price that the District is reasonably certain to exercise.

The District monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of its SBITA and will remeasure the SBITA asset and liability if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the SBITA liability.

SBITA assets are reported with other capital assets and SBITA liabilities are reported with long-term obligations on the statement of net position.

Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses

*Program Revenues*

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment, and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational requirements of a particular function or segment. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes, unrestricted state aid, interest, and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

*Property Taxes*

Property taxes levied by the District are collected by various municipalities and periodically remitted to the District. The taxes are levied and become a lien as of July 1 and December 1 and are due upon receipt of the billing by the taxpayer and become a lien on the first day of the levy year. The actual due dates are September 14 and February 14, after which time the bills become delinquent and penalties and interest may be assessed by the collecting entity.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses (continued)

*Property Taxes (continued)*

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District levied the following amounts per \$1,000 of assessed valuation:

Fund	Mills
General fund	
Non-Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)	18.0000
Commercial Personal Property	6.0000
Debt service fund	
PRE, Non-PRE, Commercial Personal Property	4.3000

*Compensated Absences*

The District recognizes a liability for compensated absences for leave time that (1) has been earned for services previously rendered by employees, (2) accumulates and is allowed to be carried over to subsequent years, and (3) is more likely than not to be used as time off or settled during or upon separation from employment. The liability for compensated absences is reported as incurred in the government-wide financial statements. The liability for compensated absences includes salary and related benefits, where applicable.

*Long-term Obligations*

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities on the statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight line method which approximates the effective interest method over the term of the related debt. Bond issuance costs are reported as expenditures in the year in which they are incurred.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

**NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

As of June 30, 2025 the District had deposits and investments subject to the following risk:

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. As of June 30, 2025, \$2,991,479 of the District's bank balance of \$3,810,258 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized. The carrying value on the books for deposits at the end of the year was \$3,503,761.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)**

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments

For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

The District will minimize custodial credit risk, which is the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by; limiting investments to the types of securities allowed by law; and pre-qualifying the financial institutions, broker/dealers, intermediaries and advisors with which the District will do business.

Interest Rate Risk

In accordance with its investment policy, the District will minimize interest rate risk, which is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates, by; structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market; and, investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the District's cash requirements.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Weighted Average Maturity (Years)
MILAF External Investment Pool - CMC	\$ 1,434	N/A
MILAF External Investment Pool - MAX	7,041,522	N/A
Michigan CLASS Investment Pool	269,898	0.1053
	<u>\$ 7,312,854</u>	

One day maturity equals 0.0027, one year equals 1.00.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The District will minimize concentration of credit risk, which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the District's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized. Obligations of the U.S. government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government are not considered to have credit risk and do not require disclosure of credit quality.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Rating	Rating Agency
MILAF External Investment Pool - CMC	\$ 1,434	AAAm	Standard & Poor's
MILAF External Investment Pool - MAX	7,041,522	AAAm	Standard & Poor's
Michigan CLASS Investment Pool	269,898	AAAm	Standard & Poor's
	<u>\$ 7,312,854</u>		

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)**

Foreign Currency Risk

The District is not authorized to invest in investments which have this type of risk.

Fair Value Measurement

The District is required to disclose amounts within a framework established for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.
- Level 2: Prices determined using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs are inputs that other market participants may use in pricing a security. These may include prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk and others.
- Level 3: Prices determined using significant unobservable inputs. In situations where quoted prices or observable inputs are unavailable or deemed less relevant, unobservable inputs may be used. Unobservable inputs reflect the District's own assumptions about the factors market participants would use in pricing an investment and would be based on the best information available.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The District voluntarily invests certain excess funds in external pooled investment funds which included money market funds. One of the pooled investment funds utilized by the District is the Michigan Investment Liquid Asset Fund (MILAF). MILAF funds are considered external investment pools as defined by the GASB and as such are recorded at amortized cost which approximate fair value. The MILAF (MAX Class) fund requires notification of redemptions prior to 14 days to avoid penalties. These funds are not subject to the fair value disclosures.

	<u>Amortized Cost</u>
MILAF External Investment Pool - CMC	\$ 1,434
MILAF External Investment Pool - MAX	<u>7,041,522</u>
	<u>\$ 7,042,956</u>

Investments in Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share

The District holds shares or interests in the Michigan CLASS investment pool where the fair value of the investments is measured on a recurring basis using net asset value per share (or its equivalent) of the investment companies as a practical expedient.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)**

Investments in Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (continued)

The Michigan CLASS investment pool invest in U.S. Treasury obligations, federal agency obligations of the U.S. government, high-grade commercial paper (rated "A1" or better), collateralized bank deposits, repurchase agreements (collateralized at 102 percent by treasuries and agencies), and approved money market funds. The program is designed to meet the needs of Michigan public sector investors. It purchases securities that are legally permissible under state statutes and are available for investment by Michigan counties, cities, townships, school districts, authorities, and other public agencies.

At the year ended June 30, 2025, the fair value, unfunded commitments, and redemption rules of those investments are as follows:

Investment type	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency, if Eligible	Redemption Notice Period
Michigan CLASS Investment Pool	<u>\$ 269,898</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	No restrictions	None

The cash and cash equivalents and investments referred to above have been reported in either the cash and cash equivalents or investments captions on the financial statements, based upon criteria disclosed in Note 1.

The following summarizes the categorization of these amounts as of June 30, 2025:

	Primary Government	Private Purpose Trust Fund	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,455,266	\$ 32,732	\$ 3,487,998
Investments	<u>7,328,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,328,617</u>
	<u>\$ 10,783,883</u>	<u>\$ 32,732</u>	<u>\$ 10,816,615</u>

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 3 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES**

Intergovernmental receivables at June 30, 2025 consist of the following:

	Government- wide
State aid	\$ 3,260,239
Federal revenue	313,375
Intermediate school district	20,564
	<u>\$ 3,594,178</u>

Amounts reported as intergovernmental receivable includes amounts due from federal and state sources for various projects and programs.

Because of the District's favorable collection experience, no allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded.

**NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

A summary of changes in the District's capital assets follows:

	Balance July 1, 2024	Additions	Deletions	Balance June 30, 2025
Assets not being depreciated/amortized				
Land	\$ 1,209,864	-	-	\$ 1,209,864
Construction in process	-	19,100	-	19,100
Subtotal	<u>1,209,864</u>	<u>19,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,228,964</u>
Other capital assets				
Buildings and building improvements	73,303,271	14,700	-	73,317,971
Buses and other vehicles	2,643,146	38,963	(249,674)	2,432,435
Furniture and equipment	3,574,491	80,228	-	3,654,719
Right to use - subscription-based IT	289,550	-	-	289,550
Subtotal	<u>79,810,458</u>	<u>133,891</u>	<u>(249,674)</u>	<u>79,694,675</u>
Accumulated depreciation/amortization				
Buildings and building improvements	17,506,666	1,346,317	-	18,852,983
Buses and other vehicles	1,625,346	212,839	(249,674)	1,588,511
Furniture and equipment	2,402,400	117,455	-	2,519,855
Right to use - subscription-based IT	101,343	57,910	-	159,253
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>21,635,755</u>	<u>1,734,521</u>	<u>(249,674)</u>	<u>23,120,602</u>
Net capital assets being depreciated/amortization	<u>58,174,703</u>	<u>(1,600,630)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,574,073</u>
Net governmental capital assets	<u>\$ 59,384,567</u>	<u>\$ (1,581,530)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 57,803,037</u>

Depreciation/amortization for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 amounted to \$1,734,521. The District determined that it was impractical to allocate depreciation/amortization to the various governmental activities as the assets serve multiple functions.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 5 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

The District issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition, construction and improvement of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the District. Long-term obligations currently outstanding are as follows:

	General Obligation Bonds (Including Premium)	Compensated Absences*	Total
Balance July 1, 2024, as restated	\$ 40,478,833	\$ 903,079	\$ 41,381,912
Additions	-	34,660	34,660
Deletions	<u>(2,198,042)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,198,042)</u>
Balance end of the year	38,280,791	937,739	39,218,530
Due within one year	<u>(1,990,000)</u>	<u>(120,124)</u>	<u>(2,110,124)</u>
Due in more than one year	<u>\$ 36,290,791</u>	<u>\$ 817,615</u>	<u>\$ 37,108,406</u>

\*The change in the compensated absences liability is presented as a net change.

Long-term obligation debt at June 30, 2025 is comprised of the following:

General Obligation Bonds

2015 Refunding bonds due in annual installments of \$1,115,000 to \$1,360,000 through May 1, 2031 with interest of 4.00%.	\$ 7,395,000
2016 Bonds due in annual installments of \$875,000 to \$2,475,000 through May 1, 2041 with interest from 4.00% to 5.00%.	26,950,000
Add issuance premium	<u>3,935,791</u>
Total general obligation bonds	38,280,791
Compensated absences	<u>937,739</u>
Total general long-term obligations	<u>\$ 39,218,530</u>

Interest expense (all funds) for the year ended June 30, 2025 was \$1,711,350.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 5 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

The annual requirements to amortize long-term debt outstanding as of June 30, 2025 are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Compensated Absences	Total
	Principal	Interest		
2026	\$ 1,990,000	\$ 1,634,550	\$ -	\$ 3,624,550
2027	2,080,000	1,554,950	-	3,634,950
2028	2,155,000	1,462,500	-	3,617,500
2029	2,255,000	1,366,800	-	3,621,800
2030	2,355,000	1,266,600	-	3,621,600
2031 - 2035	9,885,000	4,836,900	-	14,721,900
2036 - 2040	11,150,000	2,338,750	-	13,488,750
2041	2,475,000	123,750	-	2,598,750
	34,345,000	14,584,800	-	48,929,800
Issuance premium	3,935,791	-	-	3,935,791
Compensated absences	-	-	937,739	937,739
	<u>\$ 38,280,791</u>	<u>\$ 14,584,800</u>	<u>\$ 937,739</u>	<u>\$ 53,803,330</u>

At June 30, 2025, fund balance of \$1,631,536 was available in the debt service funds to service the general obligation debt.

**NOTE 6 - INTERFUNDS**

Interfund payable and receivable balances at June 30, 2025 are as follows:

Receivable fund		Payable fund	
General fund	\$ 10,171	General fund	\$ 2,620
Nonmajor funds	2,620	Nonmajor funds	10,171
	<u>\$ 12,791</u>		<u>\$ 12,791</u>

The food service transferred \$39,000 to general fund for indirect cost allocation.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Plan Description

The Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) (System) is a cost-sharing, multiple employer, state-wide, defined benefit public employee retirement plan governed by the State of Michigan (State) originally created under Public Act 136 of 1945, recodified and currently operating under the provisions of Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended. Section 25 of this act establishes the Board's authority to promulgate or amend the provisions of the System. MPERS issues a publicly available Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that can be obtained at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

The System's pension plan was established by the State to provide retirement, survivor and disability benefits to public school employees. In addition, the System's health plan provides all retirees with option of receiving health, prescription drug, dental and vision coverage under the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement Act.

The System is administered by the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) within the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. The Department Director appoints the Office Director, with whom the general oversight of the System resides. The State of Michigan Investment Board serves as the investment fiduciary and custodian for the System.

Benefits Provided - Overall

Participants are enrolled in one of multiple plans based on date of hire and certain voluntary elections. A summary of the plans offered by MPERS is as follows:

Plan Name	Plan Type	Plan Status
Basic	Defined Benefit	Closed
Member Investment Plan (MIP)	Defined Benefit	Closed
Pension Plus	Hybrid	Closed
Pension Plus 2	Hybrid	Open
Defined Contribution	Defined Contribution	Open

Benefits Provided - Pension

Benefit provisions of the defined benefit pension plan are established by State statute, which may be amended. Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, establishes eligibility and benefit provisions for the defined benefit (DB) pension plan. Retirement benefits for DB plan members are determined by final average compensation and years of service. DB members are eligible to receive a monthly benefit when they meet certain age and service requirements. The System also provides disability and survivor benefits to DB plan members.

Prior to Pension reform of 2010 there were two plans commonly referred to as Basic and the Member Investment Plan (MIP). Basic Plan member's contributions range from 0% - 4%. On January 1, 1987, the Member Investment Plan (MIP) was enacted. MIP members enrolled prior to January 1, 1990, contribute at a permanently fixed rate of 3.9% of gross wages. Members first hired January 1, 1990, or later including Pension Plus Plan members, contribute at various graduated permanently fixed contribution rates from 3.0% - 7.0%.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Pension Reform 2010

On May 19, 2010, the Governor signed Public Act 75 of 2010 into law. As a result, any member of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) who became a member of MPERS after June 30, 2010 is a Pension Plus member. Pension Plus is a hybrid plan that contains a pension component with an employee contribution (graded, up to 6.4% of salary) and a flexible and transferable defined contribution (DC) tax-deferred investment account that earns an employer match of 50% (up to 1% of salary) on employee contributions. Retirement benefits for Pension Plus members are determined by final average compensation and years of service. Disability and survivor benefits are available to Pension Plus members.

Pension Reform 2012

On September 4, 2012, the Governor signed Public Act 300 of 2012 into law. The legislation grants all active members who first became a member before July 1, 2010 and who earned service credit in the 12 months ending September 3, 2012 or were on an approved professional services or military leave of absence on September 3, 2012, a voluntary election regarding their pension. Any changes to a member's pension are effective as of the member's *transition date*, which is defined as the first day of the pay period that begins on or after February 1, 2013.

Under the reform, members voluntarily chose to increase, maintain, or stop their contributions to the pension fund.

An amount determined by the member's election of Option 1, 2, 3, or 4 described below:

Option 1 - Members voluntarily elected to increase their contributions to the pension fund as noted below and retain the 1.5% pension factor in their pension formula. The increased contribution would begin as of their transition date and continue until they terminate public school employment.

- Basic Plan Members: 4% contribution
- Member Investment Plan (MIP)-Fixed, MIP-Graded, and MIP-Plus members: a flat 7% contribution

Option 2 - Members voluntarily elected to increase their contribution to the pension fund as stated in Option 1 and retain the 1.5% pension factor in their pension formula. The increased contribution would begin as of their transition date and continue until they reach 30 years of service. If and when they reach 30 years of service, their contribution rates will return to the previous level in place as of the day before their transition date (0% for Basic plan members, 3.9% for MIP-Fixed, up to 4.3% for MIP-Graded, or up to 6.4% for MIP-Plus). The pension formula for any service thereafter would include a 1.25% pension factor.

Option 3 - Members voluntarily elected not to increase their contribution to the pension fund and maintain their current level of contribution to the pension fund. The pension formula for their years of service as of the day before their transition date will include a 1.5% pension factor. The pension formula for any service thereafter will include a 1.25% pension factor.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Pension Reform 2012 (continued)

Option 4 - Members voluntarily elected to no longer contribute to the pension fund and therefore are switched to the Defined Contribution plan for future service as of their transition date. As a DC participant they receive a 4% employer contribution to the tax-deferred 401(k) account and can choose to contribute up to the maximum amounts permitted by the IRS to a 457 account. They vest in employer contributions and related earnings in their 401(k)-account based on the following schedule: 50% at 2 years, 75% at 3 years, and 100% at 4 years of service. They are 100% vested in any personal contributions and related earnings in their 457 account. Upon retirement, if they meet age and service requirements (including their total years of service), they would also receive a pension (calculated based on years of service and final average compensation as of the day before their transition date and a 1.5% pension factor).

Members who did not make an election before the deadline defaulted to Option 3 as described above. Deferred or nonvested public school employees on September 3, 2012, who return to public school employment on or after September 4, 2012, will be considered as if they had elected Option 3 above. Returning members who made the retirement plan election will retain whichever option they chose. Employees who first work on or after September 4, 2012 choose between two retirement plans: The Pension Plus Plan and a Defined Contribution that provides a 50% employer match up to 3% of salary on employee contributions.

Final Average Compensation (FAC) - Average of highest 60 consecutive months for Basic Plan members and Pension Plus members (36 months for MIP members). FAC is calculated as of the last day worked unless the member elected Option 4, in which case the FAC is calculated at the transition date.

Pension Reform of 2017

On July 13, 2017, the Governor signed Public Act 92 of 2017 into law. The legislation closed the Pension Plus Plan to newly hired employees as of February 1, 2018 and created a new, optional Pension Plus 2 Plan with similar plan benefit calculations but containing a 50/50 cost share between the employee and the employer, including the cost of future unfunded liabilities. The assumed rate of return on the Pension Plus 2 Plan is 6%. Further, under certain adverse actuarial conditions, the Pension Plus 2 Plan will close to new employees if the actuarial funded ratio falls below 85% for two consecutive years. The law included other provisions to the retirement eligibility age, plan assumptions, and unfunded liability payment methods.

New employees hired between February 1, 2018 and June 30, 2024, are automatically enrolled as members in the Pension Plus 2 plan as of their date of hire. They have 75 days from the last day of their first pay period, as reported to ORS, to elect to opt out of the Pension Plus 2 plan and become a qualified participant to the DC plan; if no election is made they will default to the DC plan. If they elect to opt out of the Pension Plus 2 plan, their participation in the DC plan will be retroactive to their date of hire.

Pension Reform of 2023

On November 29, 2023, the Governor signed Public Act 250 of 2023 into law. New employees hired after June 30, 2024, are automatically enrolled as members in the Pension Plus 2 plan as of their date of hire. They have 75 days from the last day of their first pay period, as reported to ORS, to elect to opt out of the Pension Plus 2 plan and become a qualified participant in the DC plan; if no election is made they will remain in the Pension Plus 2 plan. If they elect to opt out of the Pension Plus 2 plan, their participation in the DC plan will be retroactive to their date of hire.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Benefits Provided - Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB)

Benefit provisions of the postemployment healthcare plan are established by State statute, which may be amended. Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, establishes eligibility and benefit provisions. Retirees have the option of health coverage, which, through 2012, was funded on a cash disbursement basis. Beginning fiscal year 2013, it is funded on a prefunded basis. The System has contracted to provide the comprehensive group medical, prescription drug, dental and vision coverage for retirees and beneficiaries. A subsidized portion of the premium is paid by the System with the balance deducted from the monthly pension of each retiree health care recipient. For members who first worked before July 1, 2008, (Basic, MIP-Fixed, and MIP-Graded plan members), the subsidy is the maximum allowed by statute. To limit future liabilities of Other Postemployment Benefits, members who first worked on or after July 1, 2008, (MIP-Plus plan members), have a graded premium subsidy based on career length where they accrue credit towards their insurance premiums in retirement, not to exceed the maximum allowable by statute. Public Act 300 of 2012 sets the maximum subsidy at 80% beginning January 1, 2013; 90% for those Medicare eligible and enrolled in the insurances as of that date.

Retiree Healthcare Reform of 2012

Public Act 300 of 2012 granted all active members of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System, who earned service credit in the 12 months ending September 3, 2012 or were on an approved professional services or military leave of absence on September 3, 2012, a voluntary election regarding their retirement healthcare. Any changes to a member's healthcare benefit are effective as of the member's *transition date*, which is defined as the first day of the pay period that begins on or after February 1, 2013.

Under Public Act 300 of 2012, members were given the choice between continuing the 3% contribution to retiree healthcare and keeping the premium subsidy benefit described above or choosing not to pay the 3% contribution and instead opting out of the subsidy benefit and becoming a participant in the Personal Healthcare Fund (PHF), a portable, tax-deferred fund that can be used to pay healthcare expenses in retirement. Participants in the PHF are automatically enrolled in a 2% employee contribution into their 457 account as of their transition date, earning them a 2% employer match into a 401(k) account. Members who selected this option stop paying the 3% contribution to retiree healthcare as of the day before their transition date, and their prior contributions will be deposited into their 401(k) accounts.

Regular Retirement (no reduction factor for age)

Eligibility - A Basic plan member may retire at age 55 with 30 years credited service; or age 60 with 10 years credited service. For Member Investment Plan (MIP) members, age 46 with 30 years credited service; or age 60 with 10 years credited service; or age 60 with 5 years of credited service provided member worked through their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and has credited service in each of the last 5 years. For Pension Plus Plan (PPP) members, age 60 with 10 years of credited service.

Annual Amount - The annual pension is paid monthly for the lifetime of a retiree. The calculation of a member's pension is determined by their pension election under PA 300 of 2012.

Member Contributions

Depending on the plan selected, member contributions range from 0% - 7% for pension and 0% - 3% for other postemployment benefits. Plan members electing the Defined Contribution Plan are not required to make additional contributions.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Employer Contributions

Employers are required by Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, to contribute amounts necessary to finance the coverage of pension benefits and OPEB. Contribution provisions are specified by State statute and may be amended only by action of the State Legislature.

Employer contributions to the System are determined on an actuarial basis using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. Under this method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in the actuarial valuation is allocated on a level basis over the service of the individual between entry age and assumed exit age. The normal cost is the annual cost assigned under the actuarial funding method, to the current and subsequent plan years. The remainder is called the actuarial accrued liability. Normal cost is funded on a current basis.

Pension and OPEB contributions made in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 were determined as of the September 30, 2021 actuarial valuations. The pension and OPEB benefits, the unfunded (overfunded) actuarial accrued liabilities as of September 30, 2021 are amortized over an 15-year period beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2038.

School districts' contributions are determined based on employee elections. There are several different benefit options included in the plan available to employees based on date of hire. Contribution rates are adjusted annually by the ORS. The range of rates is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postemployment Benefit
October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025	20.96% - 30.11%	0.00% - 1.25%
October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024	13.90% - 23.03%	7.06% - 8.31%

The District's pension contributions for the year ended June 30, 2025 were equal to the required contribution total. Total pension contributions were approximately \$4,929,000. Of the total pension contributions approximately \$4,745,000 was contributed to fund the Defined Benefit Plan and approximately \$184,000 was contributed to fund the Defined Contribution Plan.

The District's OPEB contributions for the year ended June 30, 2025 were equal to the required contribution total. Total OPEB contributions were approximately \$165,000. Of the total OPEB contributions approximately \$61,000 was contributed to fund the Defined Benefit Plan and approximately \$104,000 was contributed to fund the Defined Contribution Plan.

These amounts, for both pension and OPEB benefit, include contributions funded from State Revenue Section 147c restricted to fund the MPSERS Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) Stabilization Rate (100% for pension and 0% for OPEB).

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation date of September 30, 2023 and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures.

The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of its long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating reporting units, actuarially determined.

<u>MPERS (Plan) Non-university Employers</u>	<u>September 30, 2024</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>
Total pension liability	\$ 95,765,499,515	\$ 94,947,828,557
Plan fiduciary net position	\$ 71,283,482,728	\$ 62,581,762,238
Net pension liability	\$ 24,482,016,787	\$ 32,366,066,319
Proportionate share	0.10874%	0.11480%
Net pension liability for the District	\$ 26,621,865	\$ 37,156,756

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized pension expense of \$1,211,578.

At June 30, 2025, the Reporting Unit reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Changes of assumptions	\$ 2,775,487	\$ (1,950,541)
Net difference between projected and actual plan investment earnings	-	(5,080,580)
Net difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	(2,043,735)
Differences between expected and actual experience	722,270	(289,250)
Reporting Unit's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>4,379,286</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 7,877,043</u>	<u>\$ (9,364,106)</u>

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)

\$4,379,286, reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent fiscal year.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and (deferred inflows) of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ (1,570,368)
2027	(423,754)
2028	(2,359,740)
2029	<u>(1,512,487)</u>
	<u>\$ (5,866,349)</u>

OPEB Liabilities (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation date of September 30, 2023 and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures.

The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on a projection of its long-term share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating reporting units, actuarially determined.

<u>MPERS (Plan) Non-university Employers</u>	<u>September 30, 2024</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>
Total other postemployment benefit liability	\$ 9,991,545,923	\$ 11,223,648,949
Plan fiduciary net position	\$ 14,295,943,589	\$ 11,789,347,341
Net other postemployment benefit liability (asset)	\$ (4,304,397,666)	\$ (565,698,392)
Proportionate share	0.10554%	0.11357%
Net other postemployment benefit liability (asset) for the District	\$ (4,542,993)	\$ (642,472)

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized OPEB benefit of \$1,850,111.



**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

OPEB Liabilities (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (continued)

At June 30, 2025, the Reporting Unit reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Changes of assumptions	\$ 992,255	\$ (114,052)
Net difference between projected and actual plan investment earnings	-	(860,041)
Net difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	32,776	(469,901)
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(4,814,186)
Reporting Unit's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	28,053	-
	<u>\$ 1,053,084</u>	<u>\$ (6,258,180)</u>

\$28,053, reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from District employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability (asset) in the subsequent fiscal year.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and (deferred inflows) of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Amount
2026	\$ (1,714,275)
2027	(1,040,075)
2028	(989,713)
2029	(894,771)
2030	(499,858)
2031	(94,457)
	<u>\$ (5,233,149)</u>

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Actuarial Assumptions

**Investment Rate of Return for Pension** - 6.00% a year, compounded annually net of investment and administrative expenses for the MIP, Basic, Pension Plus, and Pension Plus 2 Plan groups.

**Investment Rate of Return for OPEB** - 6.00% a year, compounded annually net of investment and administrative expenses.

**Salary Increases** - The rate of pay increase used for individual members is 2.75% - 11.55%, including wage inflation at 2.75%.

**Inflation** - 3.0%.

**Mortality Assumptions -**

*Retirees:* PubT-2010 Male and Female Retiree Mortality Tables scaled by 116% for males and 116% for females and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.

*Active:* PubT-2010 Male and Female Employee Mortality Tables scaled 100% and MP-202 adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale from 2010.

*Disabled Retirees:* PubNS-2010 Male and Female Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables scaled 100% and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.

**Experience Study** - Assumption changes as a result of an experience study for the periods 2017 through 2022 have been adopted by the System for use in the determination of the total pension and OPEB liability beginning with the September 30, 2023 valuation.

**The Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Pension and Other Postemployment Benefit Plan Investments** - The pension rate was 6.00% (MIP, Basic, Pension Plus Plan, and Pension Plus 2 Plan), and the other postemployment benefit rate was 6.00%, net of investment and administrative expenses determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension and OPEB plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

**Cost of Living Pension Adjustments** - 3.0% annual non-compounded for MIP members.

**Healthcare Cost Trend Rate for Other Postemployment Benefit** - Pre 65, 7.50% for year one and graded to 3.5% in year fifteen. Post 65, 6.25% for year one and graded to 3.5% in year fifteen.

**Additional Assumptions for Other Postemployment Benefit Only** - Applies to Individuals Hired Before September 4, 2012:

Opt Out Assumption - 21% of eligible participants hired before July 1, 2008 and 30% of those hired after June 30, 2008 are assumed to opt out of the retiree health plan.

Survivor Coverage - 80% of male retirees and 67% of female retirees electing two-person coverage are assumed to have coverage continuing after the retiree's death.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Actuarial Assumptions (continued)

Coverage Election at Retirement - 75% of male and 60% of female future retirees who elected coverage are assumed to elect coverage for 1 or more dependents.

The target asset allocation at September 30, 2024 and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Investment Category	Target Allocation	Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity Pools	25.0%	5.3%
International Equity Pools	15.0%	6.5%
Private Equity Pools	16.0%	9.0%
Real Estate and Infrastructure Pools	10.0%	7.1%
Fixed Income Pools	13.0%	2.2%
Absolute Return Pools	9.0%	5.2%
Real Return/Opportunistic Pools	10.0%	6.9%
Short Term Investment Pools	2.0%	1.4%
	<u>100.0%</u>	

\* Long-term rates of return are net of administrative expense and 2.3% inflation.

**Rate of Return** - For fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension and OPEB plan investments, net of pension and OPEB plan investment expense, was 15.47% and 15.45%, respectively. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

**Pension Discount Rate** - A single discount rate of 6.00% was used to measure the total pension liability. This discount rate was based on the expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 6.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions from school districts will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**OPEB Discount Rate** - A single discount rate of 6.00% was used to measure the total OPEB liability. This discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments of 6.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine this discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that school districts contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

Actuarial Assumptions (continued)

**Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** - The following presents the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using a single discount rate of 6.00%, as well as what the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Pension		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net position liability	<u>\$ 39,027,940</u>	<u>\$ 26,621,865</u>	<u>\$ 16,291,421</u>

**Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate** - The following presents the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using a single discount rate of 6.00%, as well as what the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Other Postemployment Benefits		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability (asset)	<u>\$ (3,510,863)</u>	<u>\$ (4,542,993)</u>	<u>\$ (5,435,379)</u>

**Sensitivity to the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates** - The following presents the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability (asset) calculated using the healthcare cost trend rate, as well as what the Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Other Postemployment Benefits		
	1% Decrease	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rates	1% Increase
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of the net other postemployment benefit liability (asset)	<u>\$ (5,435,389)</u>	<u>\$ (4,542,993)</u>	<u>\$ (3,585,904)</u>

Pension and OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension and OPEB's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Payable to the Pension and OPEB Plan** - At year end the School District is current on all required pension and other postemployment benefit plan payments. Amounts accrued at year end for accounting purposes are separately stated in the financial statements as a liability titled accrued retirement. These amounts represent current payments for June paid in July, accruals for summer pay primarily for teachers, and the contributions due from State Revenue Section 147c restricted to fund the MPSERS Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL).

**NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees' and natural disasters. The District participates in a distinct pool of educational institutions within the State of Michigan for self-insuring workers' disability compensation. The pool is considered a public entity risk pool. The District pays annual premiums to the pool for the respective insurance coverage. In the event the pool's total claims and expenses for a policy year exceed the total normal annual premiums for said years, all members of the specific pool's policy year may be subject to special assessment to make up the deficiency. The pool maintains reinsurance for claims in excess of \$500,000 for each occurrence with the overall maximum coverage being unlimited. The District has not been informed of any special assessments being required.

The District continues to carry commercial insurance for other risks of loss, including property and casualty errors and omissions, fleet and employee health and accident insurance.

**NOTE 9 - TAX ABATEMENTS**

The District receives reduced property tax revenues as a result of Industrial Facilities Tax exemptions, Brownfield Redevelopment Agreements, and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) granted by cities, villages and townships. Industrial facility exemptions are intended to promote construction of new industrial facilities, or to rehabilitate historical facilities; Brownfield Redevelopment Agreements are intended to reimburse taxpayers that remediate environmental contamination on their properties; PILOT programs apply to multiple unit housing for citizens of low income and the elderly. The property taxes abated for all funds by municipality under these programs are as follows:

Municipality	Taxes Abated			
	IFT/CFT	Brownfield	PILOTS	Totals
City of Dowagiac	\$ 4,665	\$ 14,790	\$ 175,639	\$ 195,094
Silver Creek	8,790	-	-	8,790
	<u>\$ 13,455</u>	<u>\$ 14,790</u>	<u>\$ 175,639</u>	<u>\$ 203,884</u>

The taxes abated for the general fund operating millage is considered by the State of Michigan when determining the District's section 22 funding of the State School Aid Act.

There are no abatements made by the District.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 10 - CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

Amounts received or receivable from grant agencies are subject to audit and adjustments by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures that may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the District expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

**NOTE 11 - UPCOMING ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In April 2024, the GASB issued Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*. This Statement establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements - or modifies existing requirements - related to the following:

- a. Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A);
  - i. Requires that the information presented in MD&A be limited to the related topics discussed in five specific sections:
    - 1) Overview of the Financial Statements,
    - 2) Financial Summary,
    - 3) Detailed Analyses,
    - 4) Significant Capital Asset and Long-Term Financing Activity,
    - 5) Currently Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions;
  - ii. Stresses detailed analyses should explain why balances and results of operations changed rather than simply presenting the amounts or percentages by which they changed;
  - iii. Removes the requirement for discussion of significant variations between original and final budget amounts and between final budget amounts and actual results;
- b. Unusual or infrequent items;
- c. Presentation of the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position;
  - i. Requires that the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position continue to distinguish between operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses and clarifies the definition of operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses;
  - ii. Requires that a subtotal for *operating income (loss) and noncapital subsidies* be presented before reporting other nonoperating revenues and expenses and defines subsidies;
- d. Information about major component units in basic financial statements should be presented separately in the statement of net position and statement of activities unless it reduces the readability of the statements in which case combining statements of should be presented after the fund financial statements;
- e. Budgetary comparison information should include variances between original and final budget amounts and variances between final budget and actual amounts with explanations of significant variances required to be presented in the notes to RSI.

The District is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the financial statements when adopted during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 11 - UPCOMING ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS (continued)**

In September 2024, the GASB issued Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*. This Statement requires certain types of capital assets to be disclosed separately in the capital assets note disclosures required by Statement No. 34. Lease assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 87, *Leases*, and intangible right-to-use assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, should be disclosed separately by major class of underlying asset in the capital assets note disclosures. Subscription assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 96, *Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangements*, also should be separately disclosed. In addition, this Statement requires intangible assets other than those three types to be disclosed separately by major class. This Statement also requires additional disclosures for capital assets held for sale. The District is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the financial statements when adopted during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**NOTE 12 - CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE**

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*.

**Summary:** This Statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. This Statement also establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements.

**NOTE 13 - ADJUSTMENTS TO BEGINNING NET POSITION**

During fiscal year 2025, changes to beginning net position, are as follows:

	<u>Net Position</u>
Balance as of July 1, 2024, as previously stated	\$ (8,700,461)
Adoption of GASB Statement 101	<u>(439,705)</u>
Balance as of July 1, 2024, as restated	<u><u>\$ (9,140,166)</u></u>

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES				
Local sources	\$ 7,372,330	\$ 7,927,267	\$ 7,936,318	\$ 9,051
State sources	17,436,008	16,839,301	16,836,845	(2,456)
Federal sources	1,491,814	1,833,343	1,709,949	(123,394)
Intermediate school districts	122,000	161,862	160,490	(1,372)
TOTAL REVENUES	26,422,152	26,761,773	26,643,602	(118,171)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction				
Basic programs	12,010,604	12,626,459	12,378,932	247,527
Added needs	3,006,894	3,035,572	2,930,341	105,231
Adult and continuing education	120,000	135,000	45,825	89,175
Total instruction	15,137,498	15,797,031	15,355,098	441,933
Supporting services				
Pupil	1,329,457	1,252,990	1,177,296	75,694
Instructional staff	1,446,935	1,340,915	1,288,296	52,619
General administration	494,212	457,290	431,431	25,859
School administration	1,676,003	1,571,715	1,563,534	8,181
Business	809,949	734,553	719,149	15,404
Operation/maintenance	2,773,272	2,803,758	2,704,870	98,888
Pupil transportation	1,405,236	1,151,580	1,108,723	42,857
Central	564,168	640,496	618,912	21,584
Athletics	756,309	732,643	703,555	29,088
Total supporting services	11,255,541	10,685,940	10,315,766	370,174
Community services	162,984	146,458	134,306	12,152
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26,556,023	26,629,429	25,805,170	824,259
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(133,871)	132,344	838,432	706,088
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	39,000	39,000	-
Transfers out	(350,100)	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(350,100)	39,000	39,000	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ (483,971)	\$ 171,344	877,432	\$ 706,088
FUND BALANCE				
Beginning of year			5,815,475	
End of year			<u>\$ 6,692,907</u>	

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**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE REPORTING UNIT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE  
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN  
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (DETERMINED AS OF PLAN YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30)**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Reporting Unit's proportion of net pension liability (%)	0.10874%	0.11480%	0.11676%	0.11755%	0.12122%	0.12472%	0.12611%	0.12629%	0.12651%	0.12742%
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 26,621,865	\$ 37,156,756	\$ 43,911,448	\$ 27,830,092	\$ 41,641,821	\$ 41,303,766	\$ 37,912,443	\$ 32,727,263	\$ 31,563,582	\$ 31,121,228
Reporting Unit's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,326,865	\$ 11,392,151	\$ 11,385,461	\$ 10,500,591	\$ 10,577,218	\$ 10,788,336	\$ 10,623,706	\$ 10,597,179	\$ 10,659,193	\$ 10,637,697
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee	235.03%	326.16%	385.68%	265.03%	393.69%	382.86%	356.87%	308.83%	296.12%	292.56%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability (non-university employers)	74.44%	65.91%	60.77%	72.60%	59.72%	60.31%	62.36%	64.21%	63.27%	63.17%

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE REPORTING UNIT'S PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN  
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (DETERMINED AS OF THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30)**

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Statutorily required contributions	\$ 4,744,973	\$ 4,530,492	\$ 5,262,016	\$ 3,845,238	\$ 3,472,593	\$ 3,318,976	\$ 3,271,411	\$ 3,296,357	\$ 2,958,026	\$ 2,804,636
Contributions in relation to statutorily required contributions	4,744,973	4,530,492	5,262,016	3,845,238	3,472,593	3,318,976	3,271,411	3,296,357	2,958,026	2,804,636
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reporting Unit's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,849,050	\$ 11,374,861	\$ 11,411,132	\$ 10,870,471	\$ 10,367,101	\$ 10,810,118	\$ 10,662,834	\$ 10,592,994	\$ 10,970,257	\$ 10,604,078
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	40.05%	39.83%	46.11%	35.37%	33.50%	30.70%	30.68%	31.12%	26.96%	26.45%

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE REPORTING UNIT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE  
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)  
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN  
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (DETERMINED AS OF THE PLAN YEAR SEPTEMBER 30)**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Reporting Unit's proportion of net OPEB liability/asset (%)	0.10554%	0.11357%	0.11720%	0.11704%	0.12023%	0.12420%	0.12622%	0.12645%
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (4,542,993)	\$ (642,472)	\$ 2,482,295	\$ 1,786,457	\$ 6,440,900	\$ 8,914,938	\$ 10,033,022	\$ 11,197,352
Reporting Unit's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,326,865	\$ 11,392,151	\$ 11,385,461	\$ 10,500,591	\$ 10,577,218	\$ 10,788,336	\$ 10,623,706	\$ 10,597,179
Reporting Unit's proportionate share of net OPEB liability/asset as a percentage of its covered-employee	40.11%	5.64%	21.80%	17.01%	60.89%	82.63%	94.44%	105.66%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total OPEB liability (non-university employers)	143.08%	105.04%	83.09%	87.33%	59.44%	48.46%	42.95%	36.39%

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten-year trend is compiled, the District presents information for those years for which information is available.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE REPORTING UNIT'S OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS  
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN  
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (DETERMINED AS OF THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30)**

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Statutorily required contributions	\$ 61,243	\$ 943,014	\$ 920,313	\$ 892,825	\$ 907,411	\$ 922,433	\$ 895,995	\$ 926,647
Contributions in relation to statutorily required contributions	61,243	943,014	920,313	892,825	907,411	922,433	895,995	926,647
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reporting Unit's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,849,050	\$ 11,374,861	\$ 11,411,132	\$ 10,870,471	\$ 10,367,101	\$ 10,810,118	\$ 10,662,834	\$ 10,592,994
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	0.52%	8.29%	8.07%	8.21%	8.75%	8.53%	8.40%	8.75%

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten-year trend is compiled, the District presents information for those years for which information is available.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

**NOTE 1 - PENSION INFORMATION**

Benefit Changes

There were no changes of benefit terms for each of the reported plan years ended September 30.

Changes in Assumptions

There were no significant changes of benefit assumptions for each of the reported plan years ended September 30 except for the following:

- 2023 - The valuation includes the impact of an updated experience study for periods from 2017 to 2022.
- 2022 - The discount rate and investment rate of return used in the September 30, 2021 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.80 percentage points.
- 2019 - The discount rate used in the September 30, 2018 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.25 percentage points.
- 2018 - The discount rate used in the September 30, 2017 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.45 percentage points. The valuation also includes the impact of an updated experience study for periods from 2012 to 2017.
- 2017 - The discount rate used in the September 30, 2016 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.50 percentage points.

**NOTE 2 - OPEB INFORMATION**

Benefit Changes

There were no changes of benefit terms for each of the reported plan years ended September 30.

Changes in Assumptions

There were no significant changes of benefit assumptions for each of the reported plan years ended September 30 except for the following:

- 2024 - The health care cost trend rate used in the September 30, 2023 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.25 percentage points for members under 65 and increased by 0.25 percentage point for members over 65.
- 2023 - The health care cost trend rate used in the September 30, 2022 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.25 percentage points for members under 65 and increased by 1.00 percentage point for members over 65. In addition, actual per person health benefit costs were lower than projected. The valuation includes the impact of an updated experience study for periods from 2017 to 2022.

**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS  
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

**NOTE 2 - OPEB INFORMATION (continued)**

Changes in Assumptions (continued)

- 2022 - The discount rate and investment rate of return used in the September 30, 2021 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.95 percentage points. This resulted in lower than projected per person health benefit costs to reduce the plan's total OPEB liability by an additional \$1.1 billion in 2022.
- 2021 - The health care cost trend rate used in the September 30, 2020 actuarial valuation increased by 0.75 percentage points for members under 65 and decreased by 1.75 percentage points for members over 65. In addition, actual per person health benefit costs were lower than projected. This reduced the plan's total OPEB liability by \$1.3 billion in 2021.
- 2020 - The health care cost trend rate used in the September 30, 2019 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.50 percentage points and actual per person health benefit costs were lower than projected. This reduced the plan's total OPEB liability by \$1.8 billion in 2020.
- 2019 - The discount rate used in the September 30, 2018 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.20 percentage points. The valuation also includes the impact of an updated experience study for periods from 2012 to 2017. This resulted in lower than projected per person health benefit costs to reduce the plan's total OPEB liability by an additional \$1.4 billion in 2019.
- 2018 - The discount rate used in the September 30, 2017 actuarial valuation decreased by 0.35 percentage points. The valuation also includes the impact of an updated experience study for periods from 2012 to 2017. This resulted in lower than projected per person health benefit costs to reduce the plan's total OPEB liability by \$1.4 billion in 2018.



**APPENDIX E**  
**FORM OF LEGAL OPINION**

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### DRAFT LEGAL OPINION

Dowagiac Union School District  
Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien  
State of Michigan

We have acted as bond counsel in connection with the issuance by Dowagiac Union School District, Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, State of Michigan (the "Issuer"), of its bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ designated 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the "Bonds"). The Bonds are in fully registered form and issued without coupons, are dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, are of \$5,000 denomination or any integral multiple thereof, are subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the Issuer in the manner and at the times as set forth in the Bonds, mature on May 1 of each year, and bear interest payable on November 1, 2026, and semiannually thereafter on May 1 and November 1 of each year in the amounts and at the rates as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate</u>
-------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	---------------	-------------

The Bonds maturing on May 1, 20\_\_, are term Bonds subject to mandatory redemption in part, by lot, on the redemption dates and at the redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof as provided in the Bonds.

We have examined the documents which we deem authentic and pertinent to the validity of the Bonds, including the certified record evidencing the authorization of the Bonds by the board of education of the Issuer, a copy of the approval of the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan to issue the Bonds, a signed copy of the certificate of the Treasurer of the State of Michigan qualifying the Bonds for purposes of Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution, and a specimen of the Bond certificates.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that under existing law:

- (1) the Bonds have been lawfully authorized and issued and are enforceable obligations of the Issuer in accordance with their terms;
- (2) the Bonds are the general obligation of the Issuer for which its full faith, credit and resources have been irrevocably pledged;



Dowagiac Union School District  
Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien  
State of Michigan

\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

Page 2

(3) the Issuer has the power, and is obligated, to levy taxes on all taxable property now situated within the corporate boundaries of the Issuer, without limitation as to rate or amount, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds;

(4) the Bonds have been fully qualified pursuant to Act 92, Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended, enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the Issuer will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds when due, then the Issuer shall borrow, and the State of Michigan shall lend to it, an amount sufficient to enable the Issuer to make the payment;

(5) the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof; and

(6) the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals; however, interest on the Bonds held by an “applicable corporation” as defined in Section 59(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), is included in annual “adjusted financial statement income” for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on an applicable corporation. The opinions set forth in the preceding sentence are subject to the condition that the Issuer comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Issuer has covenanted to comply with such requirements. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements may cause the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in gross income for federal income tax purposes to be retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds.

The rights of the owners of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors’ rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement of such rights may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

TLF/RJN

**APPENDIX F**  
**FORM OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

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**FORM OF  
CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

§ \_\_\_\_\_  
**DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND BERRIEN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
2026 REFUNDING BONDS  
(GENERAL OBLIGATION - UNLIMITED TAX)**

This Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the “Agreement”) is executed and delivered by Dowagiac Union School District, Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, State of Michigan (the “Issuer”), in connection with the issuance of its \$\_\_\_\_\_ 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the “Bonds”). The Bonds are being issued pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Board of Education of the Issuer on October 20, 2025 and \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 (together, the “Resolution”). The Issuer covenants and agrees as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose of the Disclosure Agreement. This Agreement is being executed and delivered by the Issuer for the benefit of the Bondholders and in order to assist the Participating Underwriter in complying with the Rule. The Issuer acknowledges that this Agreement does not address the scope of any application of Rule 10b-5 promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the 1934 Act to the Annual Reports or notices of the Listed Events provided or required to be provided by the Issuer pursuant to this Agreement.

SECTION 2. Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in the Resolution, which apply to any capitalized term used in this Agreement unless otherwise defined in this Section, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

“Annual Report” shall mean any Annual Report provided by the Issuer pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

“Bondholder” means the registered owner of a Bond or any person which (a) has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of, any Bonds (including any person holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries), or (b) is treated as the owner of any Bond for federal income tax purposes.

“Dissemination Agent” means any agent designated as such in writing by the Issuer and which has filed with the Issuer a written acceptance of such designation, and such agent’s successors and assigns.

“EMMA” shall mean the MSRB’s Electronic Municipal Market Access which provides continuing disclosure services for the receipt and public availability of continuing disclosure documents and related information required by Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the SEC.

“Financial Obligation” shall mean (a) a debt obligation, (b) a derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation, or (c) a guarantee of (a) or (b) provided; however, that a “Financial Obligation”

shall not include any municipal security for which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with the Rule.

“Listed Events” shall mean any of the events listed in Section 5(a) of this Agreement.

“MSRB” shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

“1934 Act” shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“Official Statement” shall mean the final Official Statement for the Bonds dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

“Participating Underwriter” shall mean any of the original underwriters of the Bonds required to comply with the Rule in connection with the offering of the Bonds.

“Resolution” shall mean the resolutions duly adopted by the Issuer authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds.

“Rule” shall mean Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the 1934 Act, as the same may be amended from time to time.

“SEC” shall mean the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“State” shall mean the State of Michigan.

### SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Reports.

(a) Each year, the Issuer shall provide, or shall cause the Dissemination Agent to provide, on or prior to the end of the sixth month after the end of the fiscal year of the Issuer commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to EMMA an Annual Report for the preceding fiscal year which is consistent with the requirements of Section 4 of this Agreement. Currently, the Issuer’s fiscal year ends on June 30. In each case, the Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package, and may include by specific reference other information as provided in Section 4 of this Agreement; provided, however, that if the audited financial statements of the Issuer are not available by the deadline for filing the Annual Report, they shall be provided when and if available, and unaudited financial statements in a format similar to the financial statements contained in the Official Statement shall be included in the Annual Report.

(b) The Annual Report shall be submitted to EMMA either through a web-based electronic submission interface or through electronic computer-to-computer data connections with EMMA in accordance with the submission process, document format and configuration requirements established by the MSRB. The Annual Report shall also include all related information required by MSRB to accurately identify: (i) the category of information being provided; (ii) the period covered by the Annual Report; (iii) the issues or specific securities to which the Annual Report is related (including CUSIP number, Issuer name, state, issue description/securities name, dated date, maturity date, and/or coupon rate); (iv) the name of any obligated person other than the Issuer; (v) the name and date of the document; and (vi) contact information for the Dissemination Agent or the Issuer’s submitter.



(c) If the Issuer is unable to provide to EMMA an Annual Report by the date required in subsection (a), the Issuer shall send a notice in a timely manner to the MSRB in substantially the form attached as Appendix A.

(d) If the Issuer's fiscal year changes, the Issuer shall send a notice of such change to the MSRB in substantially the form attached as Appendix B. If such change will result in the Issuer's fiscal year ending on a date later than the ending date prior to such change, the Issuer shall provide notice of such change to the MSRB on or prior to the deadline for filing the Annual Report in effect when the Issuer operated under its prior fiscal year. Such notice may be provided to the MSRB along with the Annual Report, provided that it is filed at or prior to the deadline described above.

SECTION 4. Content of Annual Reports. The Issuer's Annual Report shall contain or include by reference the following:

(a) audited financial statements of the Issuer prepared pursuant to State laws, administrative rules and guidelines and pursuant to accounting and reporting policies conforming in all material respects to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units as such principles are prescribed, in part, by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and modified by the Government Accounting Standards Board and in effect from time to time; and

(b) additional annual financial information and operating data as set forth in the Official Statement under "CONTINUING DISCLOSURE".

Any or all of the items listed above may be included by specific reference to other documents, including official statements of debt issues of the Issuer or related public entities, which previously have been provided to each of the Repositories or filed with the SEC. If the document included by specific reference is a final official statement, it must be available from the MSRB. The Issuer shall clearly identify each such other document so included by reference.

SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events.

(a) The Issuer covenants to provide, or cause to be provided, notice in a timely manner not in excess of ten business days of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds in accordance with the Rule:

- (1) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the security;
- (7) modifications to rights of security holders, if material;
- (8) bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) defeasances;

- (10) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material;
- (11) rating changes;
- (12) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer or other obligated person;
- (13) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or other obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer or other obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (14) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;
- (15) incurrence of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, any of which affect security holders, if material;
- (16) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(b) Whenever the Issuer obtains knowledge of the occurrence of a Listed Event, the Issuer shall as soon as possible determine if such event would constitute material information for the Bondholders, provided that any event other than those listed under Section 5(a)(2), (6), (7), (8), (10), (13), (14) or (15) above will always be deemed to be material. Events listed under Section 5(a)(6) and (8) above will always be deemed to be material except with respect to that portion of those events which must be determined to be material.

(c) The Issuer shall promptly cause a notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event, determined to be material in accordance with the Rule, to be electronically filed with EMMA, together with a significant event notice cover sheet substantially in the form attached as Appendix C. In connection with providing a notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event described in Section 5(a)(9) above, the Issuer shall include in the notice explicit disclosure as to whether the Bonds have been escrowed to maturity or escrowed to call, as well as appropriate disclosure of the timing of maturity or call.

(d) The Issuer acknowledges that the “rating changes” referred to above in Section 5(a)(11) of this Agreement may include, without limitation, any change in any rating on the Bonds or other indebtedness for which the Issuer is liable, or on any indebtedness for which the State is liable.

(e) The Issuer acknowledges that it is not required to provide a notice of a Listed Event with respect to credit enhancement when the credit enhancement is added after the primary offering of the Bonds, the Issuer does not apply for or participate in obtaining such credit enhancement, and such credit enhancement is not described in the Official Statement.

#### SECTION 6. Termination of Reporting Obligation.

(a) The Issuer's obligations under this Agreement shall terminate upon the legal defeasance of the Resolution or the prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds.

(b) This Agreement, or any provision hereof, shall be null and void in the event that the Issuer (i) receives an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, addressed to the Issuer, to the effect that those portions of the Rule, which require such provisions of this Agreement, do not or no longer apply to the Bonds, whether because such portions of the Rule are invalid, have been repealed, amended or modified, or are otherwise deemed to be inapplicable to the Bonds, as shall be specified in such opinion, and (ii) delivers notice to such effect to the MSRB.

SECTION 7. Dissemination Agent. The Issuer, from time to time, may appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under this Agreement, and may discharge any such Dissemination Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent.

SECTION 8. Amendment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended, and any provision of this Agreement may be waived to the effect that:

(a) such amendment or waiver is made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, a change in law or a change in the identity, nature or status of the Issuer, or the types of business in which the Issuer is engaged;

(b) this Agreement as so amended or taking into account such waiver, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances, in the opinion of independent legal counsel; and

(c) such amendment or waiver does not materially impair the interests of the Bondholders, in the opinion of independent legal counsel.

If the amendment or waiver results in a change to the annual financial information required to be included in the Annual Report pursuant to Section 4 of this Agreement, the first Annual Report that contains the amended operating data or financial information shall explain, in narrative form, the reasons for the amendment and the impact of such change in the type of operating data or financial information being provided. If the amendment or waiver involves a change in the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements, the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made shall present a comparison between the financial statements or information prepared based on the new accounting principles and those prepared based on the former accounting principles. The comparison should include a qualitative discussion of such differences and the impact of the changes on the presentation of the financial information. To the extent reasonably feasible, the comparison should also be quantitative. A notice of the change in the accounting principles should be sent by the Issuer to the MSRB. Further, if the annual financial information required to be provided in the Annual Report can no longer be generated because the operations to which it related have been materially changed or discontinued, a statement to that effect shall be included in the first Annual Report that does not include such information.

SECTION 9. Additional Information. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the Issuer from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Agreement or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Agreement. If the Issuer chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event in addition to that which is specifically required by this Agreement, the Issuer shall have no obligation under this Agreement to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

SECTION 10. Default. In the event of a failure of the Issuer to comply with any provision of this Agreement, any Bondholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the Issuer to comply with its obligations under this Agreement. A default under this Agreement shall not be deemed an Event of Default under the Resolution or the Bonds, and the sole remedy under this Agreement in the event of any failure of the Issuer to comply with the Agreement shall be an action to compel performance.

SECTION 11. Duties of Dissemination Agent. The Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Agreement.

SECTION 12. Beneficiaries. This Agreement shall inure solely to the benefit of the Issuer, the Dissemination Agent, the Participating Underwriter, and the Bondholders and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

SECTION 13. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State, and any suits and actions arising out of this Agreement shall be instituted in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent this Agreement addresses matters of federal securities laws, including the Rule, this Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with such federal securities laws and official interpretations thereof.

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND  
BERRIEN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

**APPENDIX A**

NOTICE TO THE MSRB OF FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT

Name of Issuer: Dowagiac Union School District, Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties,  
Michigan

Name of Bond Issue: 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax)

Date of Bonds: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above-named Bonds as required by Section 3 of its Continuing Disclosure Agreement with respect to the Bonds. The Issuer anticipates that the Annual Report will be filed by \_\_\_\_\_.

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND  
BERRIEN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX B**

NOTICE TO THE MSRB OF CHANGE IN ISSUER'S FISCAL YEAR

Name of Issuer: Dowagiac Union School District, Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties,  
Michigan

Name of Bond Issue: 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax)

Date of Bonds: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer's fiscal year has changed. Previously, the  
Issuer's fiscal year ended on \_\_\_\_\_. It now ends on \_\_\_\_\_.

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTIES OF CASS, VAN BUREN AND  
BERRIEN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX C

### SIGNIFICANT EVENT NOTICE COVER SHEET

This cover sheet and significant event notice should be provided in an electronic format to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(5)(i)(C) and (D).

Issuer's and/or other Obligated Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Issuer's Six-Digit CUSIP Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

or Nine-Digit CUSIP Number(s) to which this significant event notice relates: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages of attached significant event notice: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Significant Events Notice (Check One):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Principal and interest payment delinquencies
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Non-payment related defaults
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the security
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Modifications to rights of security holders
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Bond calls
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tender offers
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Defeasances
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Rating changes
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer or other obligated person
14. \_\_\_\_\_ The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or other obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer or other obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Incurrence of a financial obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation that affect security holders
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person that reflect financial difficulties
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Other significant event notice (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby represent that I am authorized by the issuer or its agent to distribute this information publicly:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The MSRB Gateway is [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org) or through the EMMA portal at [emma.msrb.org/submission/Submission\\_Portal.aspx](http://emma.msrb.org/submission/Submission_Portal.aspx). Contact the MSRB at (703) 797-6600 with questions regarding this form or the dissemination of this notice. The cover sheet and notice may also be faxed to the MAC at (313) 963-0943.



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