

REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT (RPS)

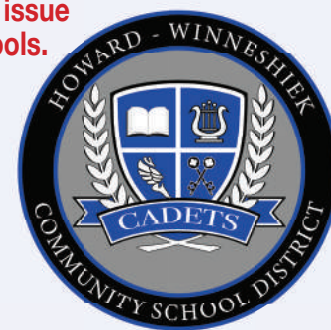
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



VOTE!

On September 10, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District will bring to our patrons a mandated ballot issue regarding the allowed uses of the 1-cent sales tax in the State of Iowa that is dedicated to all of our Iowa schools.

Provided below is information regarding Howard-Winneshiek's Revenue Purpose Statement and the process prescribed by state laws for our district to continue to use these funds until it is replaced or amended by the Howard-Winneshiek Community School Board. **If you have any other questions after reviewing this information, please do not hesitate to contact Kris Einck, Howard-Winneshiek Superintendent at keinck@howard-winn.k12.ia.us or Robyn Lane, Board Secretary/SBO at rlane@howard-winn.k12.ia.us.**



What is a Revenue Purpose Statement?

It is a ballot issue that describes the allowed uses for the 1-cent sales tax in the State of Iowa that is dedicated to all Iowa school districts. This \$.01 sales tax is known as SAVE (Secured an Advanced Vision for Education). Howard-Winneshiek's current Revenue Purpose Statement was passed on September 9, 2008. Our district did this to outline the allowed uses for our SAVE fund, as required by law.

Will this raise my taxes?

No. The Iowa Legislature approved the sales tax to go through 2051. This is NOT a property tax but a sales tax paid at the time of purchase, so you'll pay regardless of whether the Revenue Purpose Statement is re-approved. This is NOT a vote on the SAVE funding. This is NOT a vote to increase the SAVE \$.01 sales tax. The sales tax rate is set by the legislature. This is only a vote to extend our current Revenue Purpose Statement language until it is replaced or amended by the Howard-Winneshiek Community School Board. The sole purpose of the Revenue purpose Statement is to describe and outline the uses for which the \$.01 sales tax may be used at Howard-Winneshiek. Re-approval of the Revenue Purpose Statement simply dictates how the revenues may be spent, and allows districts to prioritize expenditures on facilities, transportation, and technology so that all students can have safe, high-quality schools.

How much does Howard-Winneshiek receive annually in SAVE dollars?

In 2021-2022, the Howard-Winneshiek District received \$1,355,344.82
In 2022-2023, the Howard-Winneshiek District received \$1,576,051.66
In 2023-2024, the Howard-Winneshiek District received \$1,377,600.34
In 2024-2025, it is estimated that the district will receive \$1,436,332.27

How much longer does the current state-wide one-cent sales tax (SAVE) run?

The district's current RPS is valid through December 30, 2031. The district will still receive SAVE funds through 2051. However, if the Revenue Purpose Statement is not updated, SAVE funds must be spent in the order listed below and the Howard-Winneshiek School District would not be able to borrow against future revenues. This drastically limits the district's ability to plan for long-term facilities, technology, and transportation projects.

- *Reduce any debt levy
- *Reduce any Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)
- *Reduce any Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL)
- *THEN the District can use the funds for school infrastructure and any lawful State Penny purpose

How does the Howard-Winneshiek School District decide how to spend SAVE dollars?

We are building for the future and our goal is to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students to prepare them for their future. The Howard-Winneshiek School District created a long-range facility plan. This plan included the ability to increase our VPPEL. The district went out for a vote last November and the measure passed. Now we need the community to approve our Revenue Purpose Statement so we can continue with our plan to address safety and security needs, expand and update current and additional classroom space, improve our fine arts and visual arts programs, and continue to maintain and improve our facilities to ensure our students are afforded the most opportunities possible.

Why is this important now?

Our district's current Revenue Purpose Statement sunsets, or ends after a fixed period of time, January 1, 2031. We would like to extend our current Revenue Purpose Statement until it is replaced or amended by the Howard-Winneshiek Community School Board, which is allowed by Iowa law. With the extension, we can work with our local banks to structure revenue bonds against our current SAVE revenue. This will allow us to make much-needed repairs, updates, and improvements to all of the facilities in our district. This includes but is not limited to safety and security updates, remodeling our elementary/middle school and high school entrances, as well as adding classroom space, updating current classrooms, and improving our fine arts and visual arts areas.

When will the Revenue Purpose Statement vote be held?

The vote is scheduled for September 10, 2024. I would encourage you to get out and vote on September 10, or contact the Howard County Auditor's office at 563-547-9203 to vote by absentee ballot. It is an important decision for our district, our facilities and our kids. Listed below are additional frequently asked questions that will provide additional information regarding our Revenue Purpose Statement and the September 10 vote. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Kris Einck, Howard-Winneshiek Superintendent at keinck@howard-winn.k12.ia.us or Robyn Lane, Board Secretary/SBO at rlane@howard-winn.k12.ia.us.

Why does it require a vote?

Bringing the Revenue Purpose Statement to voters for approval was a requirement imposed by the Iowa Legislature in 2008. The requirements for a Revenue Purpose Statement election are specifically stated in Iowa Code 423E. This section of the law requires the Board of Directors to adopt a Revenue Purpose Statement, subject to the approval of the electors, listing the proposed use of these funds.

Do we currently have a Revenue Purpose Statement in place and in general terms, what uses will be allowed under the Revenue Purpose Statement?

The Howard-Winneshiek Community School District currently has a Revenue Purpose Statement. The language outlined below identifies what is allowed under our current statement:

Money received from the local sales and services tax for school infrastructure may be spent for any one or more of the following purposes:

- To provide funds to acquire or install information technology infrastructure (including improving buildings or sites for the purpose of accessing broadband digital telecommunications) and school safety and security infrastructure.
- To provide funds to acquire software or other innovative technology, and the cost of subscription and monitoring fees associated with such software or other innovative technology, that meets all of the requirements in Iowa Code 423F.6.a(5)(a)
- To provide funds to build and furnish a new school building or buildings; to build and furnish addition(s) to school buildings in the District; to remodel, reconstruct, repair, expand, and improve the school buildings in the District; to purchase and improve grounds; for demolition work; to furnish and equip district facilities.
- To provide funds for the purchase, lease or lease-purchase of buildings, equipment (including transportation and recreation equipment), or technology and to repair transportation equipment for transporting students as authorized by law, to implement energy conservation measures, sharing or rental of facilities including a joint infrastructure project for the purposes of offering classes under a district-to-community college as authorized in Iowa Code Section 423F.3(3)(c), procuring or acquisition of libraries, or opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings.
- To provide funds to purchase land as part of start-up costs for new student construction program or if the sale of the previous student construction was insufficient to purchase land, and to purchase construction materials and supplies for a student-constructed building or shed intended to be retained by and used by the District.
- To provide funds to make payments to a municipality or other entity as required under Iowa Code Section 403.19(2).
- To provide funds for demolition, cleanup, and other cost if such costs are necessitated by, and incurred within two years of, a disaster.
- To provide funds for radon testing and mitigation.
- To provide funds to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds; provide for supervision and instruction for recreational activities; or for community education purposes.
- To provide funds for the payment of principal and interest or retirement of general obligation bonds issued for school infrastructure purposes, energy improvement loans, loan agreements authorized by Iowa Code Section 297.36, sales, service and use tax revenue bonds issued under Iowa Code Section 423E.5 or Iowa Code Section 423F.4;
- To provide funds for property tax relief; and
- To provide funds for other authorized expenditures and purposes as now or hereafter permitted by law and designated by the Howard Winneshiek Community School District.

Will passage of the Revenue Purpose Statement require a "supermajority"?

No! Only a simple majority (50% +1) is needed for passage.

What happens if the Revenue Purpose Statement is not approved?

Iowa law requires a minimum of six months to elapse before another Revenue Purpose Election can be held. If the original version is not approved, either the same or a revised Statement can be brought back to our voters.

Will voting by absentee ballot be possible?

Yes. Please contact the Howard County Auditor's office at 563-547-9203

Additional Questions?

If you would like more information, please contact Kris Einck, Howard-Winneshiek Superintendent at keinck@howard-winn.k12.ia.us or Robyn Lane, Board Secretary/SBO at rlane@howard-winn.k12.ia.us.