



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100  
Fax (810) 626-2101

July 10, 2024

## **Livingston County Special Education Millage Update:**

The following is an article published recently about the potential County-wide Special Education Millage to be on the ballot in November.

**Article:** Livingston County residents may be asked to vote on a special education bond renewal and restoration this November that, if approved, will provide pass-through funding for programming and services for students aged 5-18 at county schools and academies.

The bond, proposed by the Livingston Education Service Agency, would be in place for 10 years. The renewal would not raise residential property taxes and would provide an estimated 12.8 million in 2026 dollars to area schools, distributed by the LESA based on factors like enrollment and the number of special education students who qualify. “The districts don’t have the taxing authority (for a special education bond), which is where we come in,” said LESA Superintendent Mike Hubert. “For us, it’s just a pass-through to the districts and academies.



Without the millage, schools would need to use more of their general fund to pay for special education services. The needs of such students are determined individually and documented in an Individualized Education Plan. Districts are responsible for the costs to implement the plan and are required to follow rules established by the Michigan Department of Education.

Hubert said around 3,000 elementary, middle and high school students in Livingston County qualify for special education services and assistance, between 10% and 15% of the population of any one school district.

“Many people are surprised that such a high percentage of students fall into this category,” Hubert said. “This is why (the bond vote) is so significant.”

Hartland Consolidated Schools Superintendent Chuck Hughes said all districts in Livingston County would benefit from the bond. “We want to do the right thing and be a district and a community that is supporting students with special needs,” Hughes said. “(Passing) the bond would be a big step.” Hughes confirmed the bond would help districts like Hartland save general funds for other expenses.

The LESA still needs to finalize the wording of the bond and receive approval from Livingston County to be added to the ballot. Hubert expects to hear back sometime in July.

— *M. Alan Scott is a freelance writer for The Livingston Daily. Contact the newsroom at [newsroom@livingstondaily.com](mailto:newsroom@livingstondaily.com).*

## hARTland Art Walk Information

Entries for the 2024 hARTland Art Walk are now being accepted! There are two categories for entry:

★ Amateur and professional artists from Michigan—NO AGE LIMITS!

– Prizes include a grand prize as selected by a panel of judges and two smaller prizes as selected by public vote.

★ Hartland Consolidated Schools students in Grades K-12.

– \$250 scholarships to be awarded as selected by a panel of judges for the following grade categories: K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12

Entry forms are available on the website: <https://www.hartlandartwalk.com/>



Email submissions are due no later than Monday, July 15th. **Please include the student's name, school, and grade.** We look forward to seeing the creative design submissions from our talented Hartland students!

## Free Parent Coaching Available

This is a reminder that parents in need of help with parenting have access to Free Parent Coaching at <https://parentguidance.org/school-coaching/>. This opportunity is provided through a cooperative effort by the county school districts. This is anonymous, meaning that the district does not know who engages with coaches.

 **PARENT COACHING**

 ★ ★ ★

FREE Parent Coaching includes:

- Confidential support
- Weekly calls
- Messaging with your coach
- Guided, step-by-step resources
- Tools and tips to help you parent

Scan to Register for Coaching



<https://cookcenter.info/coaching>

**NEED CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT WITH PARENTING?**

 **ASESORÍA PARA PADRES**

 ★ ★ ★

Asesoría GRATIS para Padres Incluye:

- Apoyo confidencial
- Llamadas semanales
- Mensajes con su asesor
- Recursos guiados paso a paso
- Herramientas y consejos de crianza

Escanee aquí para registrarse



<https://cookcenter.info/coaching>

**¿NECESITA APOYO CONFIDENTIAL EN LA CRIANZA?**

## Transportation News

The priority of transporting students to and from school every day has been extremely challenging over the past few years. The district has called on maintenance staff, mechanics, dispatchers and the Transportation Supervisor to run daily routes due to a shortage of bus drivers. This has created a situation where we were unable to fulfill field trip and after school extracurricular transportation on a regular basis and paused routes periodically.

Since February, we have looked closely at ways to create a more efficient bussing service. Unfortunately, this means that the service provided in the past may change for some students. The changes may come in the form of less pick-up and drop off bus stops in subdivisions and cul-de-sac bus stops being places at the main road (buses not going down the cul-de-sacs). When implemented, you may see buses going by the house and assume that they could be stopping closer to the assigned stop. Please keep in mind that **TIME** is the issue. In order to reduce the number of drivers and busses needed, we cannot continue to go down every street and stop as often. Again, the goal is to be more efficient which means driving less roads and less stops. We understand that this is a change in what you may be used to. Together we will figure this out!

**Help:** I am asking parents to let Transportation know if your student(s) will **not** be using bus service AM and/or PM. If this is the case, please send an email to [Transportation@hartlandschools.us](mailto:Transportation@hartlandschools.us) or call 810-626-2175 any time.

I have attached a document that we have used since 2008 and updated in 2017 and 2019 to provide guidance on transportation and bus stops. You can also find information in the Student Parent Handbook that is similar.

## Cromaine Concert Series

Cromaine Library's Summer Concert Series is back for the 16th year! Family-friendly musical performances will be held on the Library's South Lawn on Wednesday nights, July 10, 17, 24, and 31. Guests are invited to find their favorite spot on Cromaine's South Lawn at 6:30 pm; concerts begin at 7:00 pm and continue until 8:30 pm. Kids entertainment can be enjoyed each week. Dinner is also available for purchase. Each evening will feature a different local food truck and Kona Ice will be on hand for an after-dinner treat.

Respectfully,



Chuck Hughes

*"Our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are,  
but we are responsible for who we become"*

Barbara Geraci

## Hartland Transportation Bus Stop Guidelines

There are many factors taken into consideration when Hartland Transportation Administration establishes the placement of universal bus stop all students (grades K- 12). The basic legal factors are outlined in MCL 257.1855, but the primary concern is visibility of the bus to other traffic and the consideration of stopping distances necessary for other motor vehicles in order to accomplish safe loading and unloading of the children.

### Route Time

Students will not have a ride time over 90 minutes. If a student has a ride time close to the maximum limit then their other ride time for the day will be the shortest possible ride. (Example: Morning ride is 75 minutes, afternoon ride is 25 minutes). We strive to schedule no ride time over 75 minutes.

### Red Light Bus Stops

All approaching traffic from the front and the rear must have clear and continuous visibility of the bus extending from the roofline to and including the headlamps.

- 400 feet of clear and continuous visibility on the highway or roadway where the speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour
- 200 feet of clear and continuous visibility on the highway or roadway where the speed limit is less than 35 miles per hour.

### Hazard Light Bus Stops

Where students are not required to cross the roadway and the speed limit is less than 45 miles per hour. These stops will be established where the road has adequate width for the bus to be pulled off the roadway to allow normal traffic to flow.

### Bus Stop Criteria

Under normal conditions, all students can be expected to walk up to one-half (1/2) mile to a bus stop. In cases where it is impossible to implement a bus stop that meets the requirements of our district policy, **students may have a greater walking distance.**

Bus stops will be established on roads within the district that are wide enough to allow the bus and any commercial vehicle to pass without compromising the safety of the students or the liability of the district. Other conditions that will be considered are distance, speed, visibility, maintenance, adverse weather conditions, number of students, association by-laws, and an acceptable turnaround location.

Turn around locations will be approved when all other busing options have been exhausted. Buses are to turnaround in a forward motion with enough clearance to accommodate the turning radius, tail swing, and prevent the possibility of the bus having to back up. Cul-de-sac locations create blind spots and hazards for the bus driver because: parked vehicles, improper snow removal, obstacles which cause unnecessary route delays, and property damage that increases the liability of the district.

- Bus stops must be a minimum of 200 feet apart
- Bus stops must be a minimum of 50 feet from an intersection if the intersection is controlled by a traffic control signal
- Bus stops must have proper waiting areas on both sides of the roadway whenever possible to accommodate students residing on both sides of the roadway. Certain

roadways where the speed limit and or the traffic volume where students will not be required to cross the roadway additional routes and bus stop accommodations may be implemented.

- Bus stops will be grouped into stops called “Universal Bus Stops”. A universal bus stop is a stop that services all grades no matter which building they attend. The stop will be centrally located to service a geographical section of a road way. A universal bus stop will follow all other characteristics as listed in this document. These stops meet all legal and district guidelines at the time of activation, however may become inactive when students are not currently residing in a given area. – Created 1998
- Bus stops should be fair and consistent for all families and the community throughout the district.
- Parents have the right to request an evaluation of their bus stop concerns, which will be completed within 2 weeks under normal circumstances.

Established: 2008, revised 2017, 2019