

# Dickinson and Iron Counties: Special Education Millage Election

- **What does the Dickinson-Iron ISD do?**

- Both Dickinson and Iron Counties are served by the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District (DIISD).
- DIISD provides special education services for identified students in both Dickinson and Iron Counties.
- Currently about 14% of students in our counties receive special education support. The percentage of students with special education needs has been rising and is expected to continue to rise.

- **Why is this funding being asked for?**

- Funding for special education programs has not kept pace with the rising number of students or with the costs of servicing the many diverse needs of special education students.

- **How would passage affect my taxes?**

- DIISD is requesting a millage increase of .5 mills for Special Education in Dickinson and Iron Counties.
- The average household in our counties has an assessed home value of \$82,000. If passed this would mean an increase in taxes of \$21.50 per year for average sized households.

- **How is the cost of Special Education affecting my local school district?**

- Currently our local school districts spend over 4 million dollars of their general fund to support special education.
- DIISD ranks 51<sup>st</sup> of 56 ISDs in Michigan for taxpayer funding of Special Education. DIISD receives .98 of a mill whereas some ISDs receive over 6 mills for special education.

- **What would passage mean for my local school district?**

- Dollars generated by the millage would result in funds that could go directly into all classrooms.
- The amount of funding received per district would be calculated based on the size of the special education student population.

**Election Date—March 8, 2016**  
**Polls Open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.**