

SAVE Funds are Critical to the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District
Questions and Answers about the Revenue Purpose Statement Special Election

The Martensdale-St. Marys School Board has called for a special election on March 2, 2021. The purpose of the special election is to ask the community to approve a Revenue Purpose Statement. Voting to approve the Revenue Purpose Statement does NOT increase your taxes. Below are answers to some of the more frequently asked questions about this special election:

What is a Revenue Purpose Statement?

The Revenue Purpose Statement is a voter-approved description of how the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District can spend funds generated by the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) one-cent sales tax that the State of Iowa has dedicated to public schools.

Will this raise my taxes?

The answer to this is a definite **NO**. This will absolutely not raise your taxes. This is the \$0.01 Sales tax that is already in place and this vote is ONLY a vote allowing the District the authority to continue to spend these funds as seen necessary by the district and board.

Why are SAVE funds important to our school district?

SAVE is the single-most important source of funding to address facility and equipment needs in our school district. Over the past 10+years we have used these monies to pay for many additional items we would not have been able to afford without it. We have used this revenue to pay for 1:1 computers for our students and technology infrastructure for our buildings. The revenue has been used to update building security and entrance doors. Bus purchases and transportation needs have been addressed through this revenue stream. It has also been used to renovate locker rooms, restrooms, and other needs within the building. Although this is a very condensed list, you can see how important it is to the district to be allowed to utilize these funds as the district and the board sees necessary.

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. 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 Martensdale-St. Marys.

When will the Revenue Purpose Statement vote be held?

The vote is scheduled for March 2, 2021. I would encourage everyone to get out and vote on March 2nd, or contact the Warren or Madison County Auditor's office to vote by absentee ballot. It is an important decision for our district, our facilities and our students.

Do we currently have a Revenue Purpose Statement in place?

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District currently has a Revenue Purpose Statement. We are asking the community to extend our current Statement allowing us the continued use of these funds as they have been since the inception of the additional state sales tax. The full Revenue Purpose Statement can be found on the district website, www.mstm.us.

How can I learn more?

If you would like more information, please contact Superintendent Tom Wood, tom_wood@mstm.us or 641-764-2486. Additional information will also soon be available on the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District website at www.mstm.us.

**Revenue Purpose Statement
Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District**

Money received by the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund 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 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 district-to-community college programs 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 costs if such costs are necessitated by, and incurred within two years of, a disaster.

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 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 Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District.