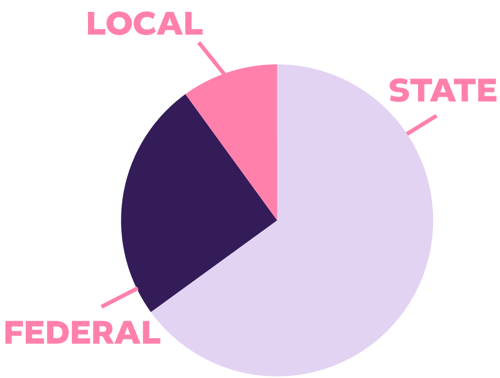
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH A STRONG YES!

From the ballot to the building: bonds and millages power our local schools

So, Who Pays for Our Public Schools?

Short answer: **we do**. And right now, it's not enough. Michigan schools face a $4.5 billion funding gap and need $23 billion in repairs over the next decade.



- **STATE (60–70%)** – Most funding comes from the School Aid Fund (sales tax, income tax, lottery), but it's spread *thin* and tied to enrollment.
- **LOCAL (20–30%)** – That's where **YOU** come in. Voter-approved property taxes – bonds, millages, sinking funds – pay for safe buildings, buses, tech, and more.
- **FEDERAL (5–10%)** – Supports targeted programs like Title I and special education but doesn't cover the basics.

Why Is It Up to Us?

In 1994, **Proposal A** shifted school funding mostly to the state and limited local revenue options. Now, communities **must vote to approve funding** for repairs, new buildings, tech upgrades, and safety improvements. Without bonds and millages, kids learn in crumbling buildings, and classroom dollars get diverted just to patch the roof.

Okay, Where Does Local Funding Come From?

Michigan schools can't rely on bake sales for repairs or resources, they depend on **US** to approve bonds and millages.

Bonds are like a mortgage for schools – used for big projects like new buildings, roofs, or security upgrades. The district borrows money and pays it back over time with a voter-approved property tax.

Millages fund everyday needs – teacher salaries, transportation, updating tech. These taxes usually apply only to non-homestead properties (rentals, businesses, second homes).

Sinking Funds are "pay-as-you-go" property taxes with no borrowing or interest, used only for repairs, upgrades, and tech – not salaries or supplies.

Saying YES to school bonds & millages isn't political — it's priorities. It means safer schools, stronger neighborhoods, and investing in the next generation.

Red Wine & Blue