



2022 Sinking Fund FAQ

Q: What is a Sinking Fund?

A: A Sinking Fund is the term used for a dedicated fund for specific purposes. The name is derived from 18th Century England, when such funds were used to pay down, or “sink,” the national debt.

In VBPS, the Sinking Fund is used primarily for work such as repair and replacement of boilers, roofs and parking lots; emergency building repairs; and other essential facility needs in our schools. It cannot, by law, be used for salaries or district operations.

Q: How long has VBPS had a Sinking Fund in place?

A: Voters in the school district have authorized a Sinking Fund for the past **24 years**, starting in 1998.

Q: How has the Sinking Fund levy amount changed over those years?

A: The amount of Sinking Fund mills levied has steadily decreased since 1998.

Year	Millage Rate	Years Issued
1998	1.30	10
2008	1.13	7
2015	0.50	7
2022 (proposed)	1.75 (proposed)	6 (proposed)

Remember to Vote November 8!



Q: Why is the District requesting an increase in the number of mills levied for the Sinking Fund?

A: This request is a 1.25 mill increase over the existing levy. The entire request is treated as an increase due to a change in state law that now allows Sinking Funds to be used for **instructional technology and security needs**. With the added allowable uses, the district would have the ability to implement its long-term plans for instructional technology, facilities, and continue its safety/security enhancements throughout the district.

Q: What are some examples of Sinking Fund projects that VBPS could undertake?

Technology	Security	Building & Site Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrading student devices• Upgrading instructional technology devices• Upgrading network infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security equipment (cameras, etc.)• Secure entry access (card readers, etc.)• Security IT infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting and electrical upgrades• Mechanical and plumbing upgrades• Parking lot upgrades

Q: How does Van Buren Public Schools' current millage compare with neighboring districts?



A: A Sinking Fund is used on a “pay as you go basis” and all monies collected are utilized to directly benefit the district. A bond is a form of borrowing, which means taxpayers must pay back the borrowed funds over a period of years with interest. A Sinking Fund millage is levied, not borrowed, which means the revenues are generated from a tax and do not include the district taking on additional debt or interest expense.

Q: Doesn't the bond that was approved in 2019 cover the same projects as the Sinking Fund?

A: No, facility projects that are planned to be paid for through the Sinking Fund are outside of the scope of the 2019 bond issue. The bond amount that was approved covered the most critical facility needs in the district. The bond projects list was pared down extensively by the Board of Education before it went to voters for approval. **The Sinking Fund will enhance the district's ability to keep our schools safe and in good condition, while protecting our existing investments in our schools and facilities.**

Q: What are some of the anticipated benefits of a Sinking Fund?

1. Provides additional funding for safety/security improvements

The safety of our students is always top of mind, and the Sinking Fund will provide our District with funds to make upgrades to our current safety/security infrastructure and technology as needed

2. Keeps more general fund dollars in the classroom, instead of the boiler room

The VBPS Sinking Fund provides the District with dedicated funding towards our facilities, allowing us to preserve general fund dollars for teacher salaries and student programs.

3. Provides additional funding for building and site improvements

While VBPS has made significant progress on upgrading our facilities, we still have a long list of needs that the Sinking Fund would help tackle, including mechanical/plumbing upgrades, electrical upgrades, lighting upgrades, improvements to parking lots, improvements to sites, and more

4. Helps mitigate the effect of inflation on the District

Like all VBPS families, our District is experiencing the effects of rising inflation and construction cost escalation. The Sinking Fund will help the District head off any inflation-related setbacks.

Q: Why does VBPS need funding for technology?

A: Providing our schools with up-to-date technology is a continuous process. While we have made replacements to our technology in the past, much of our equipment is at the end of its

Remember to Vote November 8!



useful life. The Sinking Fund would provide VBPS with a dedicated fund to upgrade and replace technology equipment over the next several years as needed.

Q: When do absentee ballots become available?

A: Absentee ballots become available on Saturday, September 24, for the November 8 2022 election.

Q: When and where do I register to vote?

To vote in the November 8, 2022 school election, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age by election day
- A resident of Michigan and Van Buren Public School District
- Registered to vote

You may register to vote online or by mail up until Monday, October 24, 2022. From October 25 –November 7, registration will be open in-person ONLY at the local clerk's office. Voter registration forms and absentee ballots are available online at www.michigan.gov/sos.

Q: Where can I go to vote?

To find where your voting precinct is located, visit https://vanburenmi.org/departments/clerks_office/election_information_2/polling_locations_.php

Q: Where can I find more information if I have questions?

Visit www.vanburenschools.net OR
Contact Superintendent of schools, Peter Kudlak

Email: superintendent@vanburenschools.net | Phone: (734) 697-9123 x1010

Remember to Vote November 8!