

# STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES



## WHAT THIS PROPOSAL DOES

- ***A New Elementary School*** to replace aging buildings with high maintenance and operating costs and be good stewards of taxpayer resources
- ***Infrastructure Improvements at ALL Buildings*** to ensure they are safe, efficient, and modern learning environments for our current and future students
- ***A New Bus Garage and Bus Purchases for the next decade*** to safely and efficiently transport our kids to school in one of the largest school districts in Michigan
- ***Early Childhood Classrooms*** added at Lake Ann and in the new building to address major concerns of lack of early childhood options in our county and region.
- ***Upgraded Technology and Security*** to assure a safe and high quality learning environment where our students can thrive

## WHAT THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT

- **NOT a major tax increase.** Currently, residents pay 2.5 mills for capital upgrades in our district. This raises that effective rate by ***less than ½ of a mill***. To the average homeowner in Benzie County, this represents an increase of less than \$3.50 per month. (based on county median home market value of \$162,200)
- **NOT a project with lots of “extras”.** The bulk of this project consists of needed infrastructure improvements and construction. Many people from a wide cross section of the community were involved to assure that this was done responsibly.
- **NOT only for school age kids and their families.** Strong schools are a key to having strong communities. Benzie Central’s success translates to our community’s success through keeping property values up, producing a stronger workforce, and attracting new talent and entrepreneurship to our region.