



# NET ZERO MILLAGE INCREASE EXPECTED FROM THE 2024 DEBT LEVY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### BOND PROPOSAL - MAY 6, 2025

#### **Population Growth and Elementary School Infrastructure: If Beach Elementary is an older school building than Edgewood, shouldn't the District build a new Beach Elementary School first?**

A table depicting the year that each building was originally built, years in which renovations were completed at each building, and the square footage of each building are provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Building Infrastructure Information

Name of School	Year Built	Year(s) Remodeled	Total Square Feet
Beach	1935	1952, 1998, 2014	47,095
Edgewood	1950	1955, 1956, 2014	74,229
Shettler	1961	1969, 1998, 2010, 2014	36,452
Middle School	1969	2010, 2014, 2024	156,400
Auxiliary Gym	1969	2024	
High School	2020	2020	226,450
Wrestling Room and Choir Room	1955	2020	
Volleyball Gym	1963	2020	
Main Gym, Band Room, and Science Wing	1997	2020	

While both Edgewood and Beach are approaching the end of their useful life, the Master Facilities Plan calls for the construction of a new Edgewood Elementary School in this (May 2025) expected net zero mill increase from the 2024 debt levy bond proposal, and the construction of a new Beach Elementary School in the District's next bond proposal, as outlined on the District's [Master Facilities Plan](#) website. Edgewood Elementary is the District's most inefficient building to operate due to its length and layout, and it impacts the most elementary students in the District.

In addition to the aging infrastructure at Edgewood Elementary, the District must account for the growth that continues within the District. As you will see in Figure 2, Fruitport Township ranks third in the State of Michigan in population growth amongst municipalities with a population greater than 10,000. Additionally, Fruitport Township ranks in the top ten (10) municipalities in the State of Michigan for population growth for municipalities with a population greater than 1,000 since 2020. It is expected that

the growth within the District, specifically within the Edgewood catchment zone, will continue to increase.

Figure 2. State of Michigan Top 5 / Bottom 5 Population Change Municipalities (Population is Greater than 10,000)

Most Gain	Population (2023)	Percent Gain	Most Loss	Population (2023)	Percent Loss
Coldwater	14,439	8.7%	Ionia	12,249	(5.3%)
Grandville	16,682	5.2%	Ypsilanti	19,393	(1.8%)
Fruitport Twp.	15,307	3.3%	Riverview	11,976	(1.4%)
East Lansing	48,528	2.7%	Grosse Pointe Park	11,124	(1.3%)
Jamestown Twp.	10,199	2.5%	Blackman Twp.	25,439	(1.1%)

Source: United States Census Bureau; MLive Media Group (May 2024)

Within five (5) years, developers expect the former site of the Fruitport Golf Club to include a Costco Wholesale store, a gas station, parcels for office and retail use, more than 160 homes, nearly 220 apartments, and a church. [Deer Creek Meadows Townhomes](#) will feature eighty (80) single family homesites, plus eighty (80) townhomes off of Quarterline Road between Mt. Garfield Road and Pontaluna Road. Developers have also recently purchased the Fruitport Golf Center (driving range) next to Genesis Church on Harvey Street. Ninety-two (92) townhome units are expected to be built on this property.

In addition to these developments, [Odeno](#) is a custom homes subdivision in our District that has completed Phase I and II, and has started construction on Phase III and IV of that development. Phase III and IV is expected to add an additional one hundred and thirteen (113) custom built homes to the District. Also, the property at the corner of Sternberg and Sheridan, where hotels were originally planned to be built, are being converted into an additional eighty (80) plus apartment units.

All of these developments are occurring within the Edgewood Elementary School catchment zone, and will be completed in the next few years. The District needs to be prepared for continued population growth in Fruitport Township, especially within the boundaries of the Edgewood catchment zone. Building a new elementary school, and renovating a portion of the current Edgewood Elementary into a standalone early childhood center would free up space in schools across the District to help with expected future growth, while expanding access to early childhood programs.