

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-Vocational Millage Restoration

1. Why is the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA) Board calling for a Headlee restoration for Vocational-Technical Education?

The Allegan County Area Technical Education Center has made significant improvements over the last five years and we want to continue our trend of excellence in providing our students the programs and training they need to be successful and be career- and college-ready. If the Headlee Restoration Millage were approved, it would give the AAESA the assurance to continue to provide our successful programs, college enrollment support and provide the flexibility to add and enhance programs as the industry needs change.

2. How much will need to be restored?

In order to fully restore vocational technical education funding to the level approved originally by Allegan County voters, restoration of 0.3037 mills would need to be approved. Voters originally approved 1.78 mills to support vocational programs. Due to the Headlee reduction, AAESA cannot levy that full amount. If the Headlee restoration were approved, it would allow AAESA to levy the full millage previously approved by voters and would put \$809,953 back into vocational programs that serve students across Allegan County.

3. What does the AAESA vocational education program provide to our students?

Within the AAESA, the Allegan Career and Technical Education Center (ACATEC) provides 18 different programs spanning several fields including machining, technology, new media, veterinary and healthcare. Our local districts' 11th and 12th grade students have the opportunity to enroll in these programs. Vocational Education is hands-on training for students focused on entering specific careers; our programs prepare students for high-wage, high-demand jobs and, in some cases, earn them college credits.

4. How many students are served by ACATEC?

At any given time, approximately 650 students from all local districts are enrolled at ACATEC. In addition, many adults take classes in the facility as well.

5. Why are additional dollars needed for vocational education?

Because of the continually changing landscape of employment in Michigan, ACATEC must remain flexible and have the ability to add new programs as demands for skilled employees from business and industry increase. Students must be prepared for careers that exist now and in the future. Changes in technology and equipment are expensive, yet vital. Adding new programs is very costly.

Students in many ACATEC programs are able to earn college credit while enrolled. Additional dollars will help ensure that ACATEC is able to continue to pay for the tuition, books and supplies for these students. Also, this revenue could help offset part of the transportation costs that local districts pay in

transporting students to ACATEC. It would also give us that flexibility to add new programs in a timely manner.

6. If the restoration is approved, what would this cost the average homeowner?

The owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$15.19 annually, or just \$1.27 per month.

See the success stories from our students and learn more about ACATEC online:

<http://alleganaesa.org/domain/36>

Check out the current programs offered at ACATEC: <http://alleganaesa.org/domain/30>

You can also check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Allegan-Tech-Center/192927179577>