

## **Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Alstadt**

### **County School Facility Sales Tax**

This report is presented to initiate a formal discussion regarding the District's potential support for the County School Facility Sales Tax (CSFT). At this stage, the administration is seeking Board feedback to determine if SES 44 should join other regional districts in pursuing this funding mechanism.

#### **Current Status**

While several districts in LaSalle County have begun preliminary discussions, a unified consensus has not yet been reached. For the tax to appear on a future ballot, school boards representing more than 50% of the student enrollment within the county must pass a resolution. The Boards only put it on the ballot, but the voters make the final call.

#### **Financial Impact & Revenue Strategy**

The implementation of the CSFT would provide a new, stable revenue stream specifically restricted to facility improvements. Unlike property taxes, which rely solely on local homeowners and businesses, the CSFT captures revenue from anyone shopping within LaSalle County, including visitors and commuters.

#### **Strategic Objectives**

If the Board signals support, our focus will shift toward:

- This funding represents a significant opportunity to maintain and improve our facilities for the benefit of the entire Streator community. By investing in modern, safe, and efficient school buildings, we provide our students with the environment they deserve while protecting the community's long-term assets.
  - CSFT funds can be used for projects such as roof replacements, HVAC upgrades, or security enhancements without incurring the high interest costs of new debt.
  - Analyzing how CSFT revenue could offset future facility costs that would otherwise fall on property taxpayers.
  - Identifying critical facility repairs that currently lack a dedicated funding stream.
- Engaging with neighboring LaSalle County superintendents to monitor the status of the county wide initiative.

#### **Timeline & Next Steps**

Following our discussion, I will gather additional data based on your inquiries. I plan to provide a comprehensive update at the March Board meeting, which will include more granular financial projections and an update on the positions of other LaSalle County districts.