

SAVE Revenue Purpose Statement

Background:

Iowa has a one-cent sales tax that goes toward school infrastructure, facilities, technology, and equipment. Commonly known as the penny sales tax, it is officially Secure an Advanced Vision of Education or its acronym SAVE.

Under state law, for school districts to be able to spend their SAVE funds, their respective publics must approve a Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS) that concisely describes how a school board intends to use the funds. An RPS is a ballot measure that describes how school districts can spend SAVE funds that the State of Iowa has dedicated to public schools.

When state law changed to extend the sunset of the SAVE funding for schools, it became necessary for schools to submit a new RPS for public voter approval. Belmond-Klemme's current RPS will expire in 2031. Our district must seek voter approval of a new RPS that would extend for the duration of SAVE, which is allowed by Iowa law, through the year 2050.

Recommended Action:

Although we have a long time before our RPS expires, I recommend the board develop an action timeline for a public vote on a new RPS.

I recommend we target the next school election, Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

If the new RPS is not approved, the district will need to spend SAVE funds in a manner previously allowed under the original RPS. A special ballot can be brought back to voters not less than six months after the previous election.