

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**  
**Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST )**  
**OF HANOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL )**  
**CORPORATION, LAKE COUNTY, FOR AN )     A23-026**  
**INCREASE TO ITS OPERATIONS FUND )**  
**MAXIMUM LEVY UNDER IC 20-46-8-3 )**

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The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed Hanover Community School Corporation’s (“Corporation”) appeal for an excess levy in the amount of \$50,000 due to projected increased transportation expenses.

Indiana Code § 20-46-8-3 provides that “[a] school corporation may appeal to the [Department]...to increase the maximum levy permitted for the school corporation’s [transportation] fund. To be granted an increase by the [Department], the school corporation must establish that the increase is necessary because of either or both of the following:

- (1) A transportation operating cost increase of at least ten percent (10%) over the preceding year as a result of at least one (1) of the following:
  - (A) A fuel expense increase.
  - (B) A significant increase in the number of students enrolled in the school corporation who need transportation or a significant increase in the mileage traveled by the school corporation’s buses compared with the previous year.
  - (C) A significant increase in the number of students enrolled in special education who need transportation or a significant increase in the mileage traveled by the school corporation’s buses due to students enrolled in special education as compared with the previous year.
  - (D) Increased transportation operating costs due to compliance with a court ordered desegregation plan.
  - (E) The closure of a school building within the school corporation that results in a significant increase in the distances that students must be transported to attend another school building.
- (2) A cost increase associated with the school corporation’s bus replacement plan adopted or amended under IC 20-40-18-9.

In addition, the Corporation must establish that it will be unable to provide transportation services without an increase. The Corporation must also ground its appeal upon reasonably detailed statements of fact.

Upon review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code § 20-46-8-3, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

**APPROVED:**

The Corporation’s request for an increase in its maximum levy is approved in the amount of **\$50,000**.

The Corporation requests an excess levy based on an amendment to its bus replacement plan under Ind. Code § 20-46-8-3(2). The Corporation states that there has been a significant increase in enrollment students, which has put a strain on the Corporation’s transportation department and required the acquisition of additional buses. Specifically, the Corporation states that the student count has grown by 287 since the 2020-2021 school year, which is an increase of 76 students from the Corporation’s 2022 excess levy appeal. A lack of sidewalks and the numerous railroad track crossings make it unsafe for a large percentage of students to walk to school. The Corporation’s total bus fleet has grown by four (4) buses going from 32 buses to 36 buses, and the Corporation is also working to extend the life of the 12-year-old buses; however, these buses have required an extensive number of repairs to pass state inspection.

The Corporation’s 2023-2027 bus replacement plan (“2023 Plan”) represents the following annual costs:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
\$130,000	\$540,000	\$225,000	\$145,000	\$470,000	\$1,510,000

The Corporation’s 2024-2028 bus replacement plan (“2024 Plan”) adds one (1) 2022 Thomas bus and three (3) 2010 Thomas buses. The 2024 Plan represents the following annual costs:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
\$600,000	\$300,000	\$165,000	\$570,000	\$175,000	\$1,810,000

Taking the difference of the total cost between the 2024 Plan (\$1,810,000) and the 2023 Plan (\$1,510,000), the result is \$300,000. Annualizing this result yields \$60,000.

Finally, the Corporation stated on its Budget Form 3 that it seeks an excess levy appeal of \$50,000 for its Operations Fund.

Therefore, the Department approves an increase to the operations fund maximum levy in the amount of \$50,000. While the result of the calculation for the amended bus replacement plan yields an annualized amount of \$60,000, the approved amount does not exceed the amount advertised and requested by the Corporation. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

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**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL** of this Department on this 29 day of November, 2023.



**Daniel T. Shackle, Commissioner**