



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Voters to see Stark DD levy request on the November 2025 ballot

Dear Stark County Community,

First, thank you. Your continued partnership and belief in our mission have allowed us to serve more than 5,000 individuals with developmental disabilities across Stark County with dignity and care. Together, we've built a system where people, regardless of ability, are valued, supported, and empowered.

This November, Stark County voters will see a **1.6-mill additional continuous levy** on the ballot as **Issue #1**. If approved, it is estimated to generate approximately **\$21.4 million annually**. For the average homeowner, the cost would be about **\$56 per \$100,000 of home value**.

#### Why a Continuous Levy?

When a person with a developmental disability begins receiving support through Medicaid home and community-based services waivers, Stark DD is responsible for funding the non-federal share of those services for the duration of need. Because these supports are often lifelong, a continuous levy ensures stable, ongoing funding to meet those obligations.

#### Financial Context

In the past two years, Medicaid provider rates increased by 38%. This change was implemented statewide to stabilize the direct support professional workforce. While this increase was necessary, it has had a substantial impact on our budget. At recent budget forums, we reviewed these financial realities in detail.

#### If the Levy Is Not Approved

Without this additional funding, the following reductions would be necessary:

- Preschool education would end after this year
- School-age services would no longer accept new admissions
- Service reductions and delays would become unavoidable
- Families and caregivers would face increased strain

#### If the Levy Is Approved

Funding would provide the resources needed to:

- Maintain current service levels
- Prevent waitlists and service reductions
- Strengthen programs that promote independence and inclusion
- Support Early Intervention for infants and toddlers
- Continue preschool and school-age education
- Provide vital support for families and caregivers

We recognize the responsibility that comes with public funding and remain committed to transparency, accountability, and careful planning. Even with new funding, every vacant position will continue to be thoughtfully reviewed before being filled, and cost-saving measures will remain a priority. As discussed in board meetings and budget forums, our educational services footprint is expected to decrease, ensuring we remain fiscally responsible while meeting the most critical needs of the people we serve. Our focus continues to be on providing essential services that help individuals and families in Stark County live safe and healthy lives.

Sincerely,

**William Green**