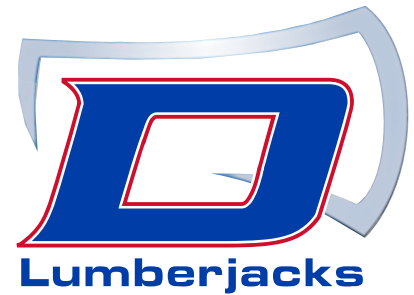


DCS LUMBERJACK LEDGER

May 2025 Budget Edition



DCS Families and Community Members,

Another year is flying by at DCS. Like every year, we've had a lot of success and a lot of opportunity for growth. As I look back over the photos and moments from this year, I'm so impressed by the accomplishments of our students in all areas of their life. These moments and triumphs would not be possible without the dedication of their families, the community at large, and our wonderful staff.

You'll find important information about the upcoming school budget vote in this newsletter. Your vote is important. Although it's getting harder and harder for our district to keep pace with rising costs, we developed a budget that is fair to our taxpayers and stays within the NY State tax cap.

I hope to see you at some of the fun events we have planned for the end of the year. If you'd like more information about the budget, you can visit our website:

<https://www.depositcsd.org/BudgetInformation.aspx>

Sincerely, Denise Cook, Superintendent



Above: Students Darby deGraw, Leah Wist, and Noah Riter pose with teachers, Danielle Gross and Keith Kilmer, at BOCES during their Seal of Biliteracy defense.



DCS Elementary Team takes 1st Place in Sculpture at the New York Olympics of the Visual Arts
Pictured: Eva Armstrong, Layla Smith, Mateo Olivo, Andriana Mastropietro

DCS STUDENTS EARN SEAL OF BILITERACY

In April, 2025, students Darby DeGraw, Leah Wist, and Noah Riter became the first DCS students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy designation from the Office of Bilingual Education of New York State. This endorsement signifies that these students are proficient in at least two languages and demonstrate cultural and linguistic competency. Darby, Leah, and Noah worked throughout the year to accomplish this prestigious designation with the help of their teachers, Danielle Gross and Keith Kilmer. Congratulations to all!

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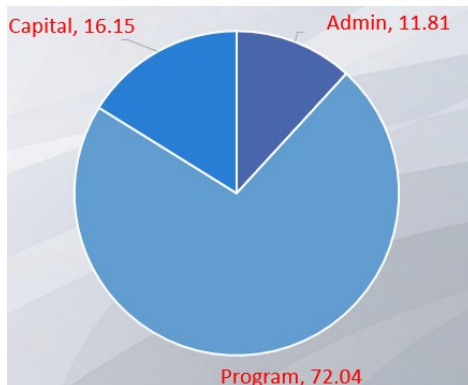
2025-2026 Budget Information

Like every year, we work hard to plan a budget that provides the high quality educational programs to our students that they deserve, while taking into consideration the needs of the community. The budget planning process is lengthy and begins in October and culminates in May on the night of the budget vote. **This year, the budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20th, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the HS band room.**

The information included in this flyer is an overview of the budget proposal. For more in-depth information, visit our website @ <https://www.depositcsd.org/BudgetInformation.aspx>

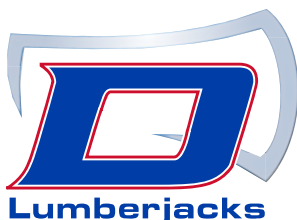
The district is committed to remaining within the allowable tax cap as calculated by New York State. The allowable tax levy for the 2025-2026 school year is 1.8%. This additional 1.8% of revenue equates to \$162,169.00. For more information on the calculation of the tax levy, see the chart on the bottom of this page. Like previous years, the proposed budget includes a \$100,000 capital improvement project which will be spent on projects that increase the health and safety of our buildings including updates to the drinking fountains and sinks in the elementary classrooms.

When you come to the polls to vote on 5/20, you'll be voting on 2 propositions: 1) The budget of \$19,549,351 and 2) The purchase of 2 school buses and 1 passenger van, not to exceed the cost of \$341,500.00. You'll also be asked to select your choice of candidate for the open seat on the Board of Education. You'll be asked to select 1 candidate for 1 seat. Dean Price has submitted a petition to be an official candidate for the open board seat.



The graph above demonstrates the percentage of budget spent on the administration of the district, buildings and grounds (capital) and programming.

Step 1		2024/25 Tax Levy	9,012,741
Step 2	x	Tax Base Growth Factor	1.0001
			\$ 9,013,642
Step 3	+	2024/25 PILOTS	\$ 60,095
Step 4	-	2024/25 Capital Levy	\$ 434,479
			\$ 8,639,258
Step 5	x	Allowable Growth Factor	2.00%
			\$ 8,812,043
Step 6	+	Allowable Carryover	0
	-	2025/26 PILOTS	\$ 61,298
		Tax Levy Limit	\$ 8,750,745
Step 7	+	2025/26 Allowable ERS Exemption	0
Step 8	+	2025/26 Capital Levy	\$ 424,165
		Maximum Allowable Levy Limit	\$ 9,174,910



Pictured above is the step-by-step calculation of the allowable tax levy for the 2025-2026 school year. The average homeowner can expect an increase of \$20.22/year on a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 or an increase of \$15.17/year on a home with an assessed value of \$75,000 (based on 2023 assessments). The District does not assess the value of properties. This would be the responsibility of the Tax Assessor for the jurisdiction in which you live.

DCS LUMBERJACK LEDGER

May 2025 Budget Edition

BUDGET INFORMATION CONTINUED 2025-2026 Budget Summary

Expenses	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instructional Salaries	4,976,092	4,771,324	(204,768)	(4.12%)
Non-Instructional Salaries	1,969,378	1,940,601	(28,777)	(1.46%)
Equipment	62,590	58,768	(3,822)	(6.11%)
Contractual Expenses	1,068,845	1,173,637	104,792	9.80%
Materials & Supplies	481,239	481,643	404	0.08%
BOCES Expenses	3,070,160	3,179,934	109,774	3.58%
Debt Service	1,622,955	1,585,463	(37,492)	(2.31%)
Benefits	5,868,222	6,137,881	269,659	4.6%
Transfers	120,100	220,100	100,000	83.26%
Total Expenditures	19,239,581	19,549,351	309,770	1.61%

For the 2025-2026 school year, the District proposes a budget which includes a spending increase of 1.61% from the current school year. In the area of revenue, the District was allotted an anticipated increase in state aid of \$88,504.00 for the 2025-2026 school year. In order to present a balanced budget, the District has planned the use of reserve funds as part of the revenue source, and will put forth a referendum which includes the allowable 1.8% increase to the tax levy. This represents an additional \$162,169.00 of revenue which will be shared by taxpayers.

	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Tax Levy	9,012,741	9,174,910	162,169	1.80%
Other Revenue	947,222	1,019,843	72,621	7.67%
State Aid	8,382,643	8,471,147	88,504	1.06%
Appropriated Fund Balance	750,000	750,000	0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserves	146,975	133,451	(13,524)	(9.20%)
Total	19,239,581	19,549,351	309,770	1.61%



The budget vote will be held on May 20th from 1 - 8 p.m. in the high school band room. The public hearing for the budget will be held on May 12th in the elementary library at 5 p.m.

Left: The Deposit chapter of the National Junior Honor Society welcomed four new members on 4/3/25. Congratulations to Natalie Williams, Jordan Diemer, Lauren Stevens, and Kaylee Blair!

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May 2025 Budget Edition

DCS Spotlight



DCS couldn't be more proud to announce this year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian! Congratulations to Valedictorian, Kendra Terrell, and Salutatorian, Erica Wilson. Both students will be attending SUNY Broome in the fall. Kendra will study the sciences as she prepares for a career as a pharmacist, and Erica plans to study to become a radiologic technologist. Congratulations to both Kendra, Erica, and their families on this incredible accomplishment!



Kendra Terrell
Class of 2025
Valedictorian



Erica Wilson
Class of 2025
Salutatorian

