

2026-2027

Budget **VOTE** Tuesday, May 19

POLLS OPEN 1-9 P.M. AT DCS TRANSPORTATION BUILDING

PROPOSAL MAINTAINS ALL PROGRAMMING AND STAFF; STAYS UNDER TAX LEVY LIMIT

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, May 19, to consider a proposed \$22,998,000 spending plan for the 2026-27 school year that maintains all staff, programs, extracurriculars, athletics and field trips. Polls will be open from 1 to 9 p.m. at the DCS Transportation Building.

The proposal calls for a 2.90% (\$268,758) tax levy increase, which is just below the district's tax levy limit, or "cap." The district will use \$1,396,365 from fund balance and \$150,000 from reserves to balance the budget.

The proposed budget reflects an 11.18% (\$2,312,000) increase in overall spending; however, it is important to understand the factors driving this change. The majority of the increase is attributable to rising mandated costs needed to sustain current programs and services, including health insurance, property and liability insurance, special education, contractual salary obligations, and higher utility and fuel expenses.

Another contributing factor is the renewal of a bond supporting ongoing work within the Centennial capital projects. While this renewal increases annual expenditures, it is largely offset by a significant increase in state building aid the district will receive next year from earlier phases of the Centennial project. This aid is specifically designated to help cover annual bond payments, reducing the financial impact on local taxpayers.

State aid remains the largest source of revenue for the district (49.5%). Most state aid comes in the form of Foundation Aid, which is projected to increase by just 1% (\$54,485) — a smaller-than anticipated increase.

The spending plan includes funding for three new positions: a teacher's aide to supervise in-school suspension and assist with hall monitoring at the Jr.-Sr. High School; a special education teacher to manage a new 8:1:2 classroom at DES, reducing costly out-of-district placements; and an additional transportation staff member to serve as a full-time mechanic's helper and bus driver.

"We knew this would be a challenging year to develop a balanced budget, given rising costs of non-discretionary expenses. Because our district is in a strong financial position due to strategic long-range planning, we were able to utilize a larger portion of reserves and fund balance to offset insufficient Foundation Aid that has not kept pace with rising costs. That said, this is not a sustainable long-term strategy," said Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Ross.

"Even in these challenging times, we continue to prioritize opportunities for our students and staff. By listening closely to our students and families, the district is able to make fiscally responsible, strategic decisions that direct resources where they matter most for student learning and well-being."

PROPOSED BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

2026-2027
PROPOSED BUDGET
\$22,998,000

SPENDING INCREASE
FROM 2025-2026
\$2,312,000 / 11.18%

TAX LEVY CHANGE
FROM 2025-2026
\$268,758 / 2.9%

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the DCS Hall of Fame are due by the end of the school year. The HOF Committee will review nominations and select up to three nominations for induction. Inductees will be recognized at the first Board of Education meeting of the new school year. Nominate a DCS alumni, a current or former staff member, or community member here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NominateForDCSHOF>

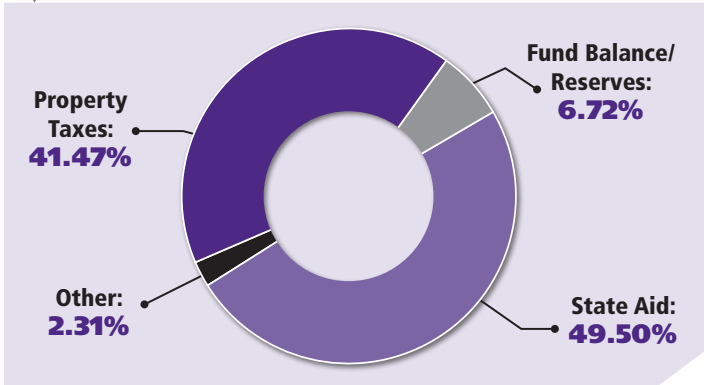
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT DCS

Paige Kropp has been named valedictorian, and **Declan O'Connor** has been named salutatorian, for Duaneburg's graduating Class of 2026. Kropp, daughter of Stacy and Thomas Kropp, plans to attend the University of Rochester, where she will study biomedical engineering and continue her athletic career as a member of the women's swim team. O'Connor, the son of Nicole and Joshua O'Connor, will attend the University at Buffalo, where he will major in mechanical engineering. Read more about these distinguished scholars on the DCS website: https://bit.ly/DCS_2026ValSal



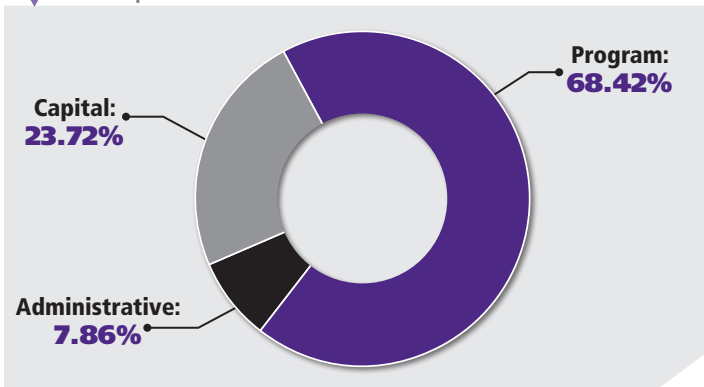


Anticipated **REVENUES: Where the money comes from**



CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGETED	2026-2027 PROJECTED
Property taxes	\$9,267,474	\$9,536,232
State aid	\$9,681,116	\$11,383,153
Fund balance/reserves	\$1,221,410	\$1,546,365
Other	\$516,000	\$532,250
TOTAL	\$20,686,000	\$22,998,000

Proposed **EXPENSES: Where the money goes**



COMPONENT	2025-2026 BUDGETED	2026-2027 PROJECTED
Administrative	\$1,722,605	\$1,806,510
Program	\$15,051,940	\$15,735,278
Capital	\$3,911,455	\$5,456,212
TOTAL	\$20,686,000	\$22,998,000

DCS STUDENT-ATHLETES ACHIEVE POSTSEASON SUCCESS

In addition to strong team performances this past school year, several DCS student-athletes excelled in individual competition.



This fall, the girls cross country team earned a third-place finish overall in Section 2. Three student-athletes advanced to the NYSPHSAA State Meet: senior **Estella Hyde**, eighth grader **Lakelyn Laudato**, and senior **Nathaniel Lindh**, each qualifying based on their sectional performances.



Sophomore **Bridgett O'Donnell** had an outstanding season as a member of the combined swim team with Mohonasen and Schalmont. At sectionals, she captured first place in the 200 Freestyle and 500 Freestyle, earning the title of Sectional Champion in each event.



Sophomore **Wyatt Rock** and seventh grader **Hunter Rock** both qualified for the NYSPHSAA State Wrestling Tournament at MVP Arena, representing Section 2, Division 2. Wyatt entered the tournament as the No. 6 seed and went on to finish fifth in the 138-pound weight class.

DCS expands opportunities with lacrosse and football partnerships

This spring marks a milestone for DCS, as it welcomes its first-ever lacrosse athletes, with two students competing as part of a four-school merger with Schalmont, Mohonasen and Schenectady.

In the fall, DCS students will be able to play football at the modified, JV and varsity levels through a new partnership with Schalmont and Berne-Knox-Westerlo.

"It is important that we explore every opportunity to expand and enrich the experiences available to our students at DCS," Superintendent Ross said.

"We are committed to ensuring they have meaningful opportunities to pursue their interests, develop their talents, and compete alongside their peers at a high level," she added.

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$20,686,000	\$22,998,000	\$22,872,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$2,312,000	\$2,186,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		11.18%	10.57%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,267,474	\$9,536,232	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	–	–	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if applicable **	–	–	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	–	–	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$9,267,474	\$9,536,232	\$9,267,474
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$448,447	\$503,729	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,035,874	\$9,539,603	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,819,027	\$9,032,503	
I. Difference (G - H) (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate propositions) **	\$216,847	\$507,099	
Administrative Component	\$1,722,605	\$1,806,510	\$1,806,510
Program Component	\$15,051,940	\$15,735,278	\$15,705,278
Capital Component	\$3,911,455	\$5,456,212	\$5,360,212

* Contingent budget will focus on reducing increases in new programs, new services, and additional equipment.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount (Tax Levy Associates with educational or transportation propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Proposition to purchase two school buses	\$325,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

PLEASE NOTE: The Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings was not available at the time the school budget newsletter was sent to print. When the NYS Taxation and Finance Department makes the data available, we will post it on the Budget & Taxes web page.

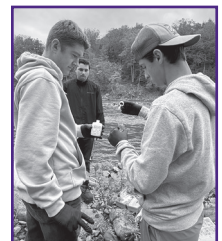
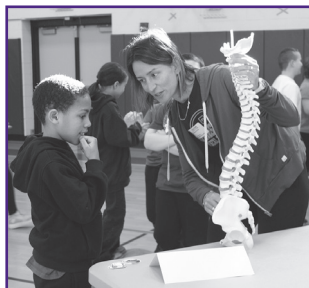
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Duaneburg Central School District, Schenectady County, New York, will be held at the Transportation Building in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Exploring Pathways: From Classroom to Career

DCS prioritizes career exploration at every grade level — from the district’s youngest learners in pre-K, to seniors preparing to graduate and take their next steps.

At DES, community volunteers brought their professions to life for students in grades PK-5 during the annual career fair. Students engaged in conversations with professionals such as veterinarians, software engineers, hairstylists, and police officers, sparking big dreams through hands-on experiences.



At the high school level, teachers continue to create opportunities for students to connect classroom learning with real-world applications through guest speakers, field trips, and labs outside of the school setting.

Sports Management students stepped into the world of professional athletics at the Tri-City ValleyCats stadium, exploring careers from marketing to player relations. And last fall, students in UHS Environmental and AP Biology classes participated in “A Day in the Life of the Mohawk River Watershed” event as part of a state-wide initiative to better understand how their piece of the river fits into the larger Hudson estuary ecosystem.



Duanesburg
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**Elementary School
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CURRENT RESIDENT

Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES
 Engagement & Development Services.

2026-2027 Budget VOTE

Tuesday, May 19

POLLS OPEN 1-9 P.M. AT DCS TRANSPORTATION BUILDING

ON THE BALLOT



Photo credit: iSmile Studios.

**DCPTA: Valued Community
 Partners**

Thank you to the Duaneburg
 Community Parent Teacher
 Association (DCPTA) for hosting a
 Color Run in April, raising \$1,500 to
 support the district's technology and
 robotics programs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Thursday, June 11 &
 Friday, June 12**

DES Play
 "The Emperor's New Clothes"
 Joe Bena Hall
 (6:30 p.m. performances)

→ PROPOSITION 1: 2026-2027 BUDGET

Vote on a \$22,998,000 budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

→ PROPOSITION 2: SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES

Vote on a proposition to purchase two school buses at a cost not to exceed \$325,000. One vehicle will be a 65-passenger bus and the other will be a 30-passenger bus. Both will be fueled by gasoline or propane.

→ BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Elect two candidates to serve on the board of education for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2026. Learn more about candidates at the DCPTA's Meet the Candidates Night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12 in Joe Bena Hall.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS & EARLY VOTING

Qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot or participate in early voting if they are unable to vote in person on May 19. Voters must first fill out an application with the district clerk. There are separate applications for early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both. Applications are available on the district website or by contacting the district clerk, Serena Killenberger, at (518) 895-2279 ext. 241. Completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 19. Go to the DCS website for more information and specific deadlines: <https://www.duanesburg.org/board-of-education/voting-info/>