



The Blue D Newsletter

BUDGET EDITION

DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2026



Budget At a Glance

VOTE:

Tuesday,
May 19, 2026
2-8 p.m.



James A. Green Jr./Sr. High
School Cafeteria, 38 Slawson
Street, Dolgeville NY 13329

2026-27 BUDGET (PROPOSED)

\$25,284,972

SPENDING INCREASE

\$893,207 (3.66%) *

TAX LEVY (PROPOSED)

1.7%

Maximum Allowable
Tax Levy Increase = 1.7%

*See information on key factors
that impact the budget on page
3 under questions and answers.

Also on the ballot:

- Transportation Proposition:
Purchase two buses using the
transportation reserve
- Library Tax Increase
- Board of Education Election:
Three seats

See page 6 for more information.

DCS RESIDENTS TO VOTE FOR THE 2026-2027 BUDGET ON MAY 19TH

On Tuesday, May 19, 2026 Dolgeville Central School District residents will vote on a \$25,284,972 proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. This budget, which represents a spending increase of 3.66 percent over the previous year, or a total increase of \$893,207, will result in a 1.7 percent tax levy increase, which equals the district's legal limit as defined by New York's tax levy cap legislation. Since the 1.7 percent is tax levy compliant, a simple majority (50 percent of votes plus one) is needed to approve the budget.

Voters will vote to authorize the purchase of two new school buses using current transportation reserve funds, and will vote to approve a 2 percent increase for the Dolgeville-Manheim library. Voters will also elect three new representative for the Board of Education.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we prepare and present our annual operating school budget for the 2026-2027 school year, our Board of Education continues to demonstrate their strong support and accountability to our school community by remaining Tax Cap Compliant. With the goal and objective to provide our students with the best educational experience possible, and "Sending All Students into the World Well Prepared", the District continues to offer a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities for students to enjoy, which help balance our students' overall school experience.

(continued on page 3)

2026-2027 Dolgeville Budget Overview

Revenues: WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGETED	2026-2027 PROJECTED	% CHANGE	\$ CHANGE	% OF BUDGET
State Aid	\$17,852,127	\$18,735,356	4.95%	\$883,229	74.10%
Property Taxes*	\$5,608,660	\$5,785,289	3.15%	\$176,629	22.88%
Other	\$329,500	\$179,500	-45.52%	\$(150,000)	.71%
Fund Balance	\$601,478	\$584,827	-2.77%	\$(16,561)	2.31%
TOTAL	\$24,391,765	\$25,284,972	3.66%	\$893,207	100%

*Property Taxes include 1.7% tax levy increase, changes to the NYS STAR program, and Payments in Lieu of Tax (PILOTs)

Expenditures: WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

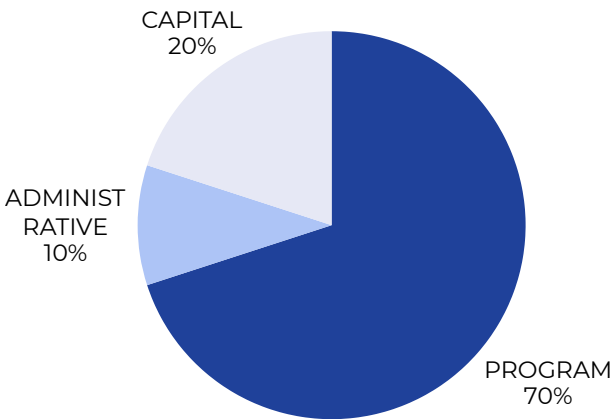
CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGETED	2026-2027 PROJECTED	% CHANGE	\$ CHANGE	% OF BUDGET
Salaries*	\$ 9,211,704	\$ 9,382,866	1.86%	\$171,162	37.11%
Equipment	\$ 113,071	\$ 116,583	3.11%	\$3,512	0.46%
Contractual	\$ 1,537,615	\$ 1,655,779	7.68%	\$118,164	6.55%
Supplies	\$ 531,982	\$ 534,895	0.55%	\$2,913	2.12%
Tuition	\$ 445,000	\$ 435,500	-2.13%	\$(9,500)	1.72%
Textbooks	\$ 85,777	\$ 93,172	8.62%	\$7,395	0.37%
BOCES Services	\$ 4,096,985	\$ 4,091,362	-0.14%	\$(5,623)	16.18%
Bonds	\$ 2,807,216	\$ 2,903,927	3.45%	\$96,711	11.48%
Employee Benefits**	\$ 5,447,415	\$ 5,760,888	5.75%	\$313,473	22.78%
Interfund Transfers	\$ 115,000	\$310,000	169.57%	\$195,000	1.23%
TOTAL	\$24,391,765	\$25,284,972	3.66%	\$893,207	100%

*Salaries and Employee Benefits added together equal the total expense for staffing.

**Employee Benefits include Health, Dental, ERS, TRS, Unemployment and Social Security for current and retired staff (if applicable).

Three-Part Budget

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories - program, administrative and capital. The year to year comparison is shown on page 5. Dolgeville's three-part budget breakdown is as follows:



Budget Story *(continued from page 1)*

At Dolgeville, students continue to prepare and pursue any post-secondary plans they aspire to, as proven by our past and future graduates. Our commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency remains intact, while the District continues to grow and strengthen current programs with a focus on improving student literacy across the curriculums and throughout all grade levels. Dolgeville CSD remains fiscally sound and accountable. Our improved facilities, staffing and programs allow our students to explore, pursue and achieve at the highest levels. In Dolgeville, the School District remains the "hub" of the community, with our doors open nearly seven days per week year round where facilities are used by a large and growing number of community organizations - all made possible with the incredible support from our community. Thank you for your continued support of our students, programs and school community. Please, contact us if you have any questions regarding our presented annual operating budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

Sincerely,
Joseph Gilfus
Superintendent

Dolgeville CSD \$8,748,627 Capital Project Update

In May 2024, voters approved a \$8,748,627 capital project to address our school campus and grounds with needed facility updates. Such school district updates include: Improving our Slawson Street Traffic Flow so that our one-way student drop-off no longer funnels dangerously into the main parking lot; needed improvements to our Playground Area and Recreational Cage Area; Completion of our HVAC upgrades [100%], increase our Generator connectivity to fully enable us to serve as a shelter location, replace Water Pumps and add Power Receptacles to the elementary school, create a Centralized Nursing Station and redesign space for Early Childhood Classrooms and our SEL Staff, renovate Elementary Restrooms, provide minor renovations to Locker Rooms [Athletic and Physical Education], renovate our existing Pump House, address a failing Sewer Line, install a new Sound System in gym two, add 3 new Windows and 2 new Doors, and replace the Band Room Flooring, add Storage and Acoustics. We are excited to report that this project is under way and will positively address so many areas of our District and only made possible by our communities' overwhelming support. We appreciate your patience as well with respect to this project, which is scheduled for completion by October 2026.

Questions & Answers

Q. What exactly am I voting on?

A. On May 19, Voters will decide on the district's \$25,284,972 proposed budget for the 2026-27 school year. Voters will also elect three representatives to serve on the board of education, will vote on the use of the transportation reserve to buy two new buses and vote to approve a two percent tax increase for the Dolgeville-Manheim Library.

Q. Why is the budget increasing?

A. Overall increases are contractual services such as utilities, textbook and software to support upgrades to curriculum, technology planning, payments towards the BOCES Capital Project and employee health benefits.

Q. Are there any cuts in the proposed budget?

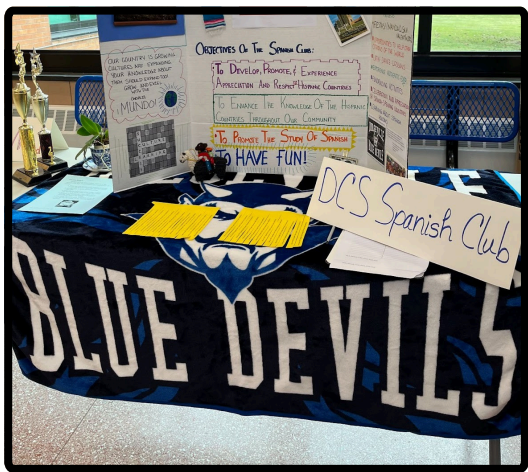
A. No. During the budget development process, the board of education focuses on sustaining and growing programs while staying tax cap compliant.

Q. What happens if the budget is voted down?

A. If the proposed budget is defeated on May 19, the board of education can put the same or a revised budget up for a re-vote in June, or it can immediately adopt a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful budget votes, DCS would have to adopt a contingent budget.



District Highlights



Dolgeville students stay busy all year long, balancing their education with exciting extracurricular activities. Here is a visual look back at just a few of the amazing memories they've created!



Required NYS 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	\$ 24,391,765	\$ 25,284,972	\$25,108,343
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$893,207	\$176,629
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.66%	2.94%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		.32%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$5,595,612	\$5,690,762	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$5,595,612	\$5,690,762	\$5,595,612
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$278,601	\$275,410	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,317,011	\$5,415,352	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$5,317,011	\$5,415,352	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,840,350	\$2,710,440	\$2,710,440
Program Component	\$17,050,300	\$17,537,014	\$17,537,014
Capital Component	\$4,501,115	\$5,037,518	\$4,860,889
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. If the budget were defeated and a contingency budget were adopted, the Board of Education would need to use more fund balance to support expenses and remove \$95,150 of tax revenue. The Board would also have to charge for building use, out of district tuition and cut expenses.			
Description		Amount	
Use of Transportation Reserve to purchase two new buses		\$ 345,000	
Manheim Library Tax Increase - 2%		\$ 612	
		\$	
		\$	
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$338

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Dolgeville school district, located in Herkimer County, New York, will be held at Dolgeville school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 starting at 2:00 pm prevailing time OR between the hours of 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Dolgeville school(s) High School Cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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



DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

38 Slawson Street
Dolgeville, New York 13329

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Utica, New York
Permit No. 566

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Scott Hongo, II - President
James "Bob" Schmid - Vice President
Jonathan Fredericks
Tiffany Rutkowski
Carolyn Williams
Jennifer Winkler

Local Postal Customer

6 | DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE:

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
2-8 p.m.

James A. Green Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria
38 Slawson Street
Dolgeville, N.Y. 13329

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote date of May 19, 2026, be at least 18 years of age, and be a U.S. Citizen.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is not required. DCS conducts its voting using a Poll List.

ABSENTEE / EARLY VOTING BALLOT INFORMATION

Applications will be available for qualified voters from the District Clerk at 38 Slawson Street, Dolgeville, N.Y. between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day (other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday), or by calling the District Clerk at 315-429-3155 Ext. 3501. Completed applications must be received by the clerk before a ballot can be issued.

BUDGET HEARING INFORMATION

Attend the Annual Public Budget Hearing at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the school's auditorium, 38 Slawson Street, Dolgeville NY 13329

Ballot Propositions

In addition to the \$25,284,972 budget, community members will be asked to consider these propositions:



- **Transportation Proposition:** To authorize the purchase of two school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$345,000. Funding for the purchases would come from the district's transportation reserve fund and would not increase taxes.
- **Dolgeville-Manheim library tax increase:** Authorize the district to appropriate an increase of two percent.
- **Board of Education Election:** Elect three candidate to the Board of Education. One (1) - four (4) year, six (6) week term of office and two (2) - five (5) year terms of office. The candidates on the ballot are:
 - Carolyn Williams ● Scott Hongo II
 - Jeremy Boyer ● Jon C. Nellis