



Budget 2025 News from

# Jamesville-DeWitt

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2025-26 budget development aligned with new 2-year strategic plan

**PROPOSAL WOULD MAINTAIN STUDENT PROGRAMMING AND STAY WITHIN TAX CAP LIMIT**

Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District residents will vote Tuesday, May 20, on a proposed \$75.3 million spending plan for the 2025-26 school year. It calls for a \$3.9 million, or 5.56%, increase in spending over the current year's budget.

Like many districts across the state, Jamesville-DeWitt was faced with financial challenges while developing the proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year. Even though the district is projecting an increase in revenue of 3.07% compared to 2024-25, it's not enough to cover rising costs which are projected to increase by 5.56%.

"The district is recommending the use of fund balance and reserves to offset some of these rising costs, which is akin to using the district's savings account. These are rainy day funds that have been set aside for situations such as this. This is a temporary solution that can help us navigate the next few school years and explore other options

moving forward," explained School Business Administrator Brian Bartlett.

Administrators worked through these budgetary challenges with the district's new 2-year strategic plan in mind. The proposed budget would maintain programming and aims to support the plan's mission to provide a holistic educational experience that nurtures the academic, social, and emotional growth of every Jamesville-DeWitt student.

This would be achieved by supporting three focus areas with the budget:

**I. Academic excellence**

- » Supporting relevant, authentic, project based learning activities at the middle school.

### BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

**Proposed Budget:** \$75,327,667

**Budget Change:** 5.56%

**Tax Levy Change:** 1.96%

# VOTE

Please complete our EXIT SURVEY after voting!

**BUDGET HEARING**  
**Monday, May 12, 2025**  
7 p.m. J-D High School  
Large Group Room  
In-person and via Zoom  
(district website)

**BUDGET VOTE**  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
J-D High School  
Gymnasium  
6845 Edinger Drive

- » Offer professional learning opportunities to help teachers implement inclusive, supportive strategies that address diverse behavioral and academic needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 →

## inside

**2** THREE-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

**3** PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

**4** PROPOSITIONS

**4** JOIN A BUS RIDE ALONG!

**5** SIP, SMILE, SUPPORT

**6** INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING

**7** NEW FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE

**8** ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING BALLOTS



■ **Extra! Extra! Read all about it!** The J-D Middle School Times Newspaper is giving students the opportunity to strengthen their social, writing, and editing skills. This extracurricular opportunity, like many across the district, is made possible through passionate staff and the budget! Scan the QR code to see how the club gives students a voice.





## Three-part budget summary

All New York state public schools are required by law to report their spending in three categories: administrative, capital, and program. The state dictates which portions of the budget belong in each respective category.

### Administrative Component

**\$6,511,388**

**8.64%**

The administrative component of the budget represents district and building oversight along with support services for all areas of operations. It represents 8.64% of the proposed budget and includes the superintendent and district office staff, business operations, building principals, clerical employees along with general areas of expenditures such as legal representation, district communications, information technology systems, audit services and various insurance coverages. By controlling administrative costs, the district is able to dedicate more of its resources directly into the classroom.

### Capital Component

**\$11,993,526**

**15.92%**

The capital component of the budget represents the expenses required to operate, maintain and secure district facilities. Other items required to be reported here include debt service and funds transferred to the Capital Outlay Fund for work to be performed on district facilities. The capital component represents 15.92% of the total budget. The capital component also includes funding to enhance security throughout the district, along with preventative maintenance on operating systems including boilers, HVAC, fire alarms and communication systems.

### Program Component

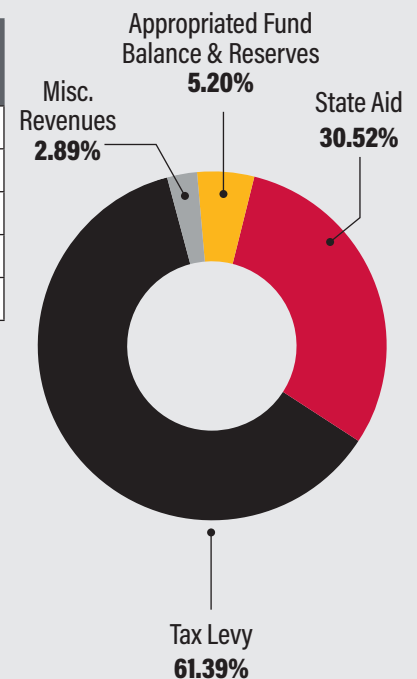
**\$56,822,753**

**75.43%**

The proposed program budget reflects the district's commitment to excellence. The program budget represents 75.43% of the total budget and includes instructional costs such as teachers and classroom support, pupil support services, co-curricular activities, athletics and the operational cost of transporting students. The budget also maintains all existing programs including art, music, extra-curricular activities like drama clubs, and athletics. Jamesville-DeWitt dedicates maximum resources to classroom instruction and aims to provide an exceptional educational program focused on meeting the needs of the district's diverse student population.

## Proposed Revenues

	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Tax Levy	\$45,358,697	\$46,246,716	\$888,019	1.96%
State Aid	\$21,763,861	\$22,992,293	\$1,228,432	5.64%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,164,422	\$2,173,629	\$9,207	0.43%
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$2,070,000	\$3,915,029	\$1,845,029	89.13%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$71,356,980</b>	<b>\$75,327,667</b>	<b>\$3,970,687</b>	<b>5.56%</b>



## Appropriated Fund Balance

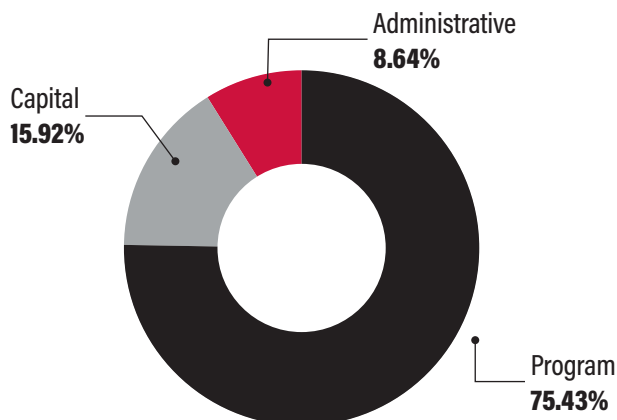
Like a savings account, districts use fund balance when they need to fill a gap in revenues or anticipate that expenses may exceed revenues in a given year. Over the past decade, the district has appropriated anywhere from \$800,000 to \$2,000,000 to help balance projected deficits. In the event expenditures come in under projections or revenues are higher than anticipated, this savings is returned to fund balance.

The district intends to appropriate \$1.9 million in fund balance and \$2 million from reserves in order to help balance the projected deficit. In order to rely on fund balance and to provide financial sustainability in the coming years, the district is focused on long-range financial planning that balances fiscal responsibility with maintaining the district's strong educational and extracurricular programs.

## Proposed Expenditures

	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget
<b>Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$6,202,900</b>	<b>\$6,511,388</b>
Board of Education & Annual Meeting	33,666	53,225
Central Administration	307,857	322,853
Business & Financial Operations	528,373	564,246
Central Services: Communications, Personnel & Legal Services	691,387	699,930
Central Services: BOCES Services, Data Processing & Insurance	1,400,931	1,494,463
Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision	1,796,196	1,831,999
Employee Benefits	1,444,490	1,544,672
<b>Capital Component</b>	<b>\$11,699,318</b>	<b>\$11,993,526</b>
Operations & Maintenance	3,831,884	3,892,755
Security	511,600	513,110
Refund of Real Property Taxes & Other Judgements/Claims	36,550	36,550
Capital Outlay & Debt Service	6,132,278	6,295,400
Employee Benefits	1,187,006	1,255,711
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>\$53,454,761</b>	<b>\$ 56,822,753</b>
Instruction: Regular & Special Education	26,604,828	28,030,171
Instructional Media: Library & Technology	2,349,613	2,367,654
Pupil Services	2,816,369	2,963,272
Extracurricular & Athletics	1,475,833	1,620,297
Transportation	3,315,012	3,435,092
Employee Benefits	16,893,106	18,406,267
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$71,356,980</b>	<b>\$75,327,667</b>

■ Jamesville-DeWitt's proposed 2025-26 spending is detailed in the chart above. If voters approve the budget proposal, the district would spend the largest portion of its budget, 75%, on the program component.



## Capital Outlay Projects

Capital Outlay funds can only be used for facility upgrades and cannot be used to fund items that fall under Administrative or Program Components. The state dictates which portions of the budget belong in each category.

### 2025-26 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT: \$100,000

- Replace exterior doors at J-D Middle School. Building aid will be received in full in the 2026-27 school year.

### TRANSFER-TO-CAPITAL FUND: \$536,500

- Replace the J-D High School main gym roof membrane which has been experiencing leaks. This watertight covering should protect the interior of the building from water damage for the next 30 years. Building aid will be received over the course of a normal building renovation project which is approximately 15 years.





# On the ballot

## Board of Education Election

### VOTERS TO SELECT THREE BOARD MEMBERS

On May 20, district residents will elect three members to the Jamesville-DeWitt Board of Education. The board is the official policy making body of the district. It establishes operational policies, sets educational goals and standards, evaluates program effectiveness, develops the annual school budget and balances educational needs with community resources.

The board is made up of nine school district residents whose terms are staggered. Board members are not financially compensated for their service.

Four candidates filed nominating petitions for the available seats:

■ Jing Lei ■ Sharon Archer ■ Laurin Haddad ■ Lorianne DeForest

**Scan the QR code or visit (<https://rb.gy/d685tb>) to view candidate profiles provided to the district.**



The candidates with the highest number of votes will fill the available seats. Each term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

## Bus purchases would keep maintenance costs down

### BALLOT PROPOSITION 2

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is proposing the purchase of 5 new school buses. This will keep the district's bus replacement plan on track, which aims to keep maintenance costs low and provide safe transportation for students.

All school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection that typically occurs twice annually. The district normally replaces its buses when it is no longer cost effective to make the repairs necessary to meet the state's safety standards.

The district plans to buy four 65-passenger buses for \$168,228 each and one Micro Bird bus for \$109,407 for a total of \$782,319.

If voters approve the proposed purchases, the state would reimburse the district over a five-year period for approximately 70% of the cost of the new vehicles. The trade-in values would offset a portion of the purchase, and local property taxes would cover the remainder of the cost after transportation aid.



■ **A student's first hello and last goodbye!** A considerable portion of the 2025-26 spending plan helps employ J-D's dedicated team. Non-Instructional staff like bus drivers and attendants make a significant difference in the daily lives of our students. Scan the QR code to meet a driver who has dedicated the last decade to safely transporting Red Rams of all ages!



## Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville funding

### BALLOT PROPOSITION 3

When district residents vote on the proposed 2025-26 school budget, they will also vote on a proposition to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,653,321 for the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville.

New York state education law allows libraries to place a funding proposition on school district

ballots and requires districts, at the libraries' requests, to levy and collect taxes for libraries. The school district does not endorse, control or recommend any aspect of how libraries spend money.

If voters approve the proposition, the school district would annually levy and collect taxes

in the new amount for the library beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year. The amount authorized for library services is listed as a separate line on residents' tax bills.

More information about the library is available on its website: [www.cldandj.org](http://www.cldandj.org).



■ **A sweet way to raise Autism awareness and funds for local organizations!** The Tecumseh Learning Pad, the district's special education classroom, collected more than \$10,400 through its 12th annual Lemonade Stand. The fundraiser was expanded across the entire district this year thanks to dedicated staff and J-DHS senior Olivia Clark. The proceeds will be distributed between the CNY Autism Society of America and ARISE Adaptive Design.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 →

## 2. Enhanced student and family experience

- » Host community discussions to provide accessible, practical information for parents and caregivers.
- » Assess support services available for students to make necessary improvements that enhance program effectiveness and relevance.

## 3. Safe and efficient operations

- » Recruit school resource officers for all buildings.
- » Provide training on threat assessment protocols to ensure a consistent, informed approach across all buildings, fostering safe and supportive school environments.

The district is using key data such as enrollment figures and student needs to determine where staffing reductions or additions may be required. The proposed budget would add one full-time equivalent (FTE) English as a New

Language teacher as well as a part-time Secondary Band position based on student needs and enrollment in these areas. The district plans to reduce approximately six positions consisting of three FTE teaching positions, one FTE teaching assistant, one FTE food service worker and one FTE clerical position through attrition rather than layoffs.

The 2025-26 proposed budget would be funded through four areas: state aid (\$23 million), the tax levy (\$46 million), fund balance (\$3.9 million), and other revenues (\$2.1 million) from such items as county sales tax and interest income.

The tax levy is the total amount of money collected from district property owners to support the budget. The state-imposed tax levy limit will allow the district to raise 1.96% or \$888,019 more than in 2024-25. Because the proposal is within the district's tax levy limit, a simple majority of voters would need to approve the budget for it to pass. One source of additional revenue for school districts is to surpass or

“override” the tax cap formula which requires a supermajority approval of 60% + 1 from the community. The district is not pursuing an override at this time.

“We understand the tax levy can be confusing. When property assessments go up, school districts are not collecting additional money beyond the amount outlined by the tax cap formula. We're very attune to the persistent inflation and its impact on our community. Before the district would consider a tax cap override, we would want to gauge the community's feelings about it first,” explained Bartlett. “We plan to use an exit survey at the budget vote that will ask voters about their support for a potential future override along with other topics that will assist in future budget development.”

The budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20 at the J-D High School gymnasium from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m. It will take place in J-D High School's Large Group Room.



# A rich curriculum is inspiring Jamesville-D

## District embraces inquiry-based learning while teaching social studies

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is making progress when it comes to the New York State Education Department's push to teach through inquiries. Inquiry-based education emphasizes relevant questions that inspire students to create unique ways of researching and sharing what they learn.

The district started the shift toward inquiry-based learning in 2023-24. Administrators and educators from different grade levels worked together to start the transition in Jamesville-DeWitt schools. They used resources provided by the state to create relevant teaching materials that aligned with Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education practices.

"One thing we really wanted to focus on was improving source materials to feature local history examples," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity Nate Franz. "By partnering with the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) we've been able to make the lessons more relevant to students."

For example, fourth-grade students are learning about the Industrial Revolution through questions and local history. Students are asked if industrialization made life better in New York. Supporting questions and real life examples from the OHA push students to research changes to local manufacturing in the 1800s.

"The OHA provided us with historic materials like images of the Franklin Automobile Factory, advertisements, news articles, comparison photos of



■ Tecumseh Elementary students in Mr. Dietz's fourth grade class took part in a hands-on lesson comparing the benefits and setbacks of assembly line work during the Industrial Revolution. A group of students were tasked with building pens as an assembly. Their output was compared to one student doing the same task. It prompted a thoughtful discussion about the differences in production.

local streets, political cartoons, and more," shared Franz. "Students were encouraged to identify manufacturing changes. They noted positive things like growth and job opportunities but also challenges like workplace injuries and housing struggles."

Tecumseh teacher Dana Dietz says he's always taken this approach in his classroom as it promotes a deeper understanding.

"I like framing the study of Social Studies as developing answers to inquiry questions rather than remembering a lot of facts, which might have been how many adults learned in the past. By pushing this approach even further with hands-on experiential learning, students can

hopefully make connections about how people were impacted during different stages of history," shared Dietz.

The shift will also help the district adapt to changing graduation requirements in New York state which are expected to embrace inquiry-based learning approaches by 2027.

"This directly supports the district's mission and strategic plan," shared Franz. "Helping students' ability to demonstrate deeper understanding through critical thinking, research, and problem-solving skills rather than just memorizing facts will help them succeed wherever life takes them after their time at Jamesville-DeWitt."

# eWitt students to grow and learn

## New J-DHS course will increase financial literacy, help students prepare for life after graduation

Jamesville-DeWitt has an uncompromising commitment to excellence in preparing students to succeed, to respect themselves and others, and to practice life-long learning. That mission is directly supported by J-D High School's new Financial Algebra course.

"Although we touch on certain financial applications throughout our existing courses, there has never been an emphasis on financial literacy as a whole. Much of what students will learn in this course will apply to situations they will encounter as adults. This includes things like budgeting, taxes and credit cards," shared Math Department Chair Sue Techman. "It will also include some more complicated topics like taking out different types of loans or planning for retirement."

The course will be offered to juniors and seniors for the 2025-26 school year. It can be taken on its own or in addition to another math class like Statistics or Precalculus. The only math prerequisite is Algebra I. There are no financial prerequisites.

"This course is designed for students who may have struggled with math and for students who have had success in math but may not yet know how to do their taxes or determine the type of car insurance that is most appropriate for them," explained Math Teacher Charles Clinton. "Upon leaving this class, students will have an idea of just how important it is to be mathematically literate."

The course will be organized by financial units. In a banking unit,

students would learn math related to different aspects of banking. They would see the immediate application of math concepts which can increase information retention. They will also complete projects involving the community.

"We want students to interact with people," explained Clinton. "In a unit on automobile ownership, students could go to a car dealership to research the different options available and the hidden expenses associated with the purchase and ownership of an automobile."

Members of the Math Department

including Clinton, Techman, and Erin Sullivan worked with J-D High School Principal Dr. Gregory Lawson to develop the course with changing graduation requirements in mind.

"Financial literacy is the one component families, teachers and students ask for. We are excited because this course will provide students with a rigorous experience with skills they will use throughout their lives," shared Lawson.

If students would like to learn more about the course, they are encouraged to reach out to the Counseling Center.



### ■ Maintaining a curriculum that makes a difference through creativity and critical thinking!

*J-D High School's year-long Senior Capstone course is pushing students to achieve academic excellence and help prepare them for the future.*

*The interdisciplinary elective enables seniors, like Brian Tollar, to become problem solvers and change creators! In addition to earning one credit toward graduation, students who complete the course also earn the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.*

*Inspired by a passion for engineering and skills honed in J-D classrooms, Brian creates and sells adaptive toys. He has even donated a number of his creations to school buildings across the district, including Tecumseh's Learning Pad. Scan the QR code to see how Brian is making a difference in J-D schools and across the globe!*





THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
IS PRINTED THROUGHOUT THE  
SCHOOL YEAR BY THE  
JAMESVILLE-DEWITT BOARD OF  
EDUCATION IN COOPERATION  
WITH CAPITAL REGION BOCES  
ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES.

**Dr. Peter Smith**  
District Superintendent

## 8 Newsletter Budget 2025

### Absentee/Early Voting Ballots

All qualified Jamesville-DeWitt voters are eligible to vote with a mail-in ballot. Applications are available for early voting and absentee ballots.

**Early voting ballots:** all qualified district residents are eligible to vote early with a mail-in ballot for any reason.

**Absentee ballots:** voters must complete an absentee application and state the reason they will not be able to appear in person on the day of the district election/vote. An absentee ballot can be used if a qualified district resident is a patient in a hospital or unable to appear because of illness or disability; is required or on vacation outside the country; or is detained in jail awaiting conviction for an offense other than a felony. Forms returned without this information will be processed as an early mail ballot. If you are registered as a permanently disabled absentee voter with the Onondaga County Board of Elections, an absentee ballot will automatically be provided to you.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days (May 13) before the election/vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election/vote (May 19) if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Completed ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote, May 20. A secured drop-off box is located outside the district office at J-D High School.

For more information, contact Tish Hauser at [thauser@jd.cnyric.org](mailto:thauser@jd.cnyric.org) or 315-445-8304. You can also visit the district office at 6845 Edinger Drive, DeWitt, NY.

### Sign up for J-D's ParentSquare Community Group

Scan the QR code  
to join today!



Follow the district on Facebook for good news and highlights!

## VOTE

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### Qualifications

- ☒ United States citizen.
- ☒ At least 18 years of age.
- ☒ A school district resident for at least 30 days prior to May 20, 2025.



■ **Learning through play!** Jamesville Elementary School participated in a Global Play Day in April. Students enjoyed a number of different activities and games while interacting with each other and staff.