



Budget 2026 News from

# Jamesville-DeWitt

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## District uses strategic plan and guiding goals to develop 2026-27 budget

PROPOSAL WOULD MAINTAIN STUDENT PROGRAMMING AND STAY WITHIN TAX CAP LIMIT

Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District residents will vote Tuesday, May 19, on a proposed \$74.9 million spending plan for the 2026-27 school year. It calls for a \$365,208, or 0.48%, reduction in spending over the current year's budget.

"The decrease is the culmination of the work we've been doing and presenting since August when we began meeting with the Board of Education Finance Committee," said School Business Administrator Brian Bartlett. "The reductions that we've made this year are leading to a year-over-year decrease in total spending, which is helping get our expenses back in line with revenues."

Administrators looked closely at all areas of the budget while navigating a rise in essential operating costs. The plan addresses a budget gap of approximately \$5 million, driven largely by factors beyond the district's direct control – including an 18% rise in utilities, a 10% increase in health

insurance premiums, and an estimated 13% uptick in commercial insurance.

The district faced these increases while anticipating an estimated 1-2% increase in Foundation Aid from the state for the 2026-27 school year.

Administrators anticipated some of these obstacles and started providing staff with updates in October.

"Building trust as a team and as a community means being transparent throughout the entire process and giving people the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback," said Superintendent Darcy Woodcock.

In the past, the district has used fund balance, essentially the district's savings account, to help fill gaps, but it's not a sustainable or longterm fiscally responsible option.

"We're trying to shift away from relying on district savings to balance

### BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget: \$74,962,459

Budget Change: -\$365,208

Tax Levy Change: 2.63%



Please complete our EXIT SURVEY after voting!

**BUDGET HEARING**  
Monday, May 11, 2026  
7 p.m. J-D High School  
Large Group Room  
In-person and via YouTube  
(district website)

**BUDGET VOTE**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
J-D High School  
Gymnasium  
6845 Edinger Drive

the budget," explained Bartlett. "We've taken a close look at the budget to find other ways to reduce spending. We're planning to use about \$2.5 million in fund balance and reserves to help fill the budget gap, which is \$1.5 million less than last year."

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Jamesville-DeWitt will continue providing supplies for all elementary students, eliminating the need for supply lists and ensuring an equitable learning experience.

# 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**

**\$6,882,505**      **9.18%**

The administrative component represents district and building oversight along with support services for all areas of operations. It represents 9.18%, or \$6,882,505, of the proposed budget. It includes the superintendent, building principals, district office staff, and clerical employees. It also covers business operations, 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.

Factors impacting this component include an estimated 13% increase in commercial insurance, a 10% increase in health insurance, and additional expenses related to OCM BOCES' capital project.



**Capital Component**

**\$12,264,207**      **16.36%**

The capital component represents the expenses required to operate, maintain and secure district facilities. This includes debt service on prior capital projects and funds transferred to the Capital Fund for work to be performed on district facilities. The capital component represents 16.36%, or \$12,264,207, 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.

Factors impacting this component include an 18% increase in utilities and 10% increase in health insurance.



**Program Component**

**\$55,815,747**      **74.46%**

The proposed program component reflects the district's commitment to excellence. It represents 74.46%, or \$55,815,747, of the total budget and includes instructional costs such as teachers, classroom support, pupil support services, co-curricular activities, athletics and the operational cost of transporting students.

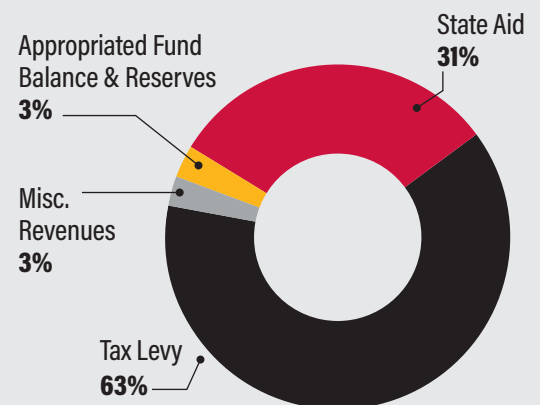
The budget also maintains all existing programs including art, music, extracurricular activities like drama clubs and athletics.

The district dedicates maximum resources to provide an exceptional educational program focused on meeting the needs of the district's diverse student population.

The 10% increase in health insurance coverage is also impacting this component of the budget.

## Proposed Revenues

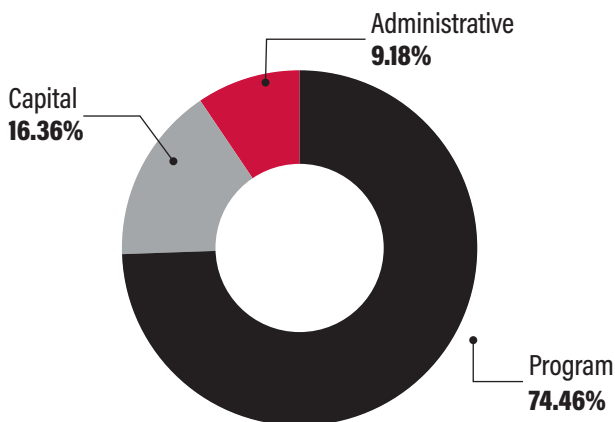
	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
Tax Levy	\$46,246,716	\$47,462,996
State Aid	\$22,992,293	\$22,944,970
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,173,629	\$2,068,444
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$3,915,029	\$ 2,486,049
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$75,327,667</b>	<b>\$74,962,459</b>



## Proposed Expenditures

	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
<b>Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$6,837,488</b>	<b>\$6,882,505</b>
Board of Education & Annual Meeting	53,225	56,260
Central Administration	322,853	332,074
Business & Financial Operations	860,646	976,829
Central Services: Communications, Personnel & Legal Services	1,216,680	1,141,954
Central Services: BOCES Admin, Capital & Data Processing	699,313	768,413
Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision	2,140,099	1,996,912
Employee Benefits	1,544,672	1,610,063
<b>Capital Component</b>	<b>\$11,975,526</b>	<b>\$12,264,207</b>
Operations & Maintenance	3,892,755	4,024,255
Security	513,110	530,070
Refund of Real Property Taxes & Other Judgements/Claims	18,550	18,550
Capital Outlay & Debt Service	6,295,400	6,191,610
Employee Benefits	1,255,711	1,499,722
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>\$56,514,653</b>	<b>\$55,815,747</b>
Instruction: Regular & Special Education	27,722,071	26,885,213
Instructional Media: Library & Technology	2,367,654	2,343,169
Pupil Services	2,963,272	2,826,486
Extracurricular & Athletics	1,620,297	1,667,436
Transportation	3,435,092	3,495,332
Employee Benefits	18,406,267	18,598,111
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$75,327,667</b>	<b>\$74,962,459</b>

■ Jamesville-DeWitt's proposed 2026-27 spending is detailed in the chart above. If voters approve the budget proposal, the district would spend the largest portion of its budget, 74.46%, on the program component.



## Capital Outlay Projects

Capital Outlay funds can only be used for facility upgrades, a maximum expenditure of \$100,000, and cannot be used to fund items that fall under Administrative or Program components.

### 2026-27 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT: \$100,000

- Replace three to four exterior doors at J-D Middle School to meet district safety and strategic plan priority goals.



■ This rear exterior door at J-D Middle School will be replaced this school year thanks to a capital outlay project funded by the 2025-26 school budget. The ADA compliant door will increase safety and security while providing students and staff with daily access to outside areas used for recess and athletic activities.

## Have budget questions?

Scan the QR code to read through frequently asked questions and answers.



# On the ballot

## Bus purchases would keep replacement plan on track

### BALLOT PROPOSITION 2

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is proposing the purchase of four new 65-passenger gasoline buses and one Micro Bird wheelchair (WC) bus for a total cost of \$837,993. The vehicles would replace four buses that are 11-13 years old and have between 113,000-140,000 miles each and one Micro Bird WC bus with 80,000 miles and significant mechanical and body issues.

This would 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 continues to monitor the state mandated transition to zero-emission buses and intends to apply for a two-year extension to better analyze the impact on district finances and operations.



## Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville funding

### BALLOT PROPOSITION 3

When district residents vote on the proposed 2026-27 school budget, they will also vote on a proposition to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,688,580 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 2026-27 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).

## Board of Education Election

### VOTERS TO SELECT THREE BOARD MEMBERS

On May 19, 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.

Three candidates filed nominating petitions for three available seats. Their names will appear in this order on the ballot:

- Andrew Nolan
- David Babikian
- Dominic D'Imperio

**Scan the QR code or visit the district website 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, 2026 to June 30, 2029.



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Administrators, along with input from the board's Finance Committee, followed three guiding goals while making budgetary decisions.

### Goal 1: Maintain student programming

The district's mission focuses on supporting students and prioritizing their learning experiences. Administrators considered ways to offer the same programming and services in more efficient and cost effective ways while still following the district's strategic plan.

The district plans to replace ThoughtExchange, an online survey tool, with Google Forms, saving the district approximately \$18,840. The district would also reduce some OCM BOCES services, such as changing the way the district shares report cards with families, saving about \$16,000.

"We've looked at every line in this budget and asked a simple question: Does this actually help us reach our goals for our students? Just because we've done something a certain way for years doesn't mean it's the best or most affordable way to do it," explained Woodcock. "If something does not serve our students or community as intended, we will move in another direction."

Other areas like safety, curriculum, extracurriculars, and professional learning would see little to no changes.

A wide range of pathways will be available at J-D High School for the 2026-27 school year, which support shifting graduation requirements in New York state. The budget would also support extracurricular activities at J-D Middle School, performing arts at all grade levels, and athletic opportunities.

The district plans to continue its partnership with the Town of DeWitt Police Department, utilizing a School Patrol Officer at each school

building, which supports the district's strategic plan goal of increasing safety in buildings and building stronger communities in our schools.

### Goal 2: Reduce staff through attrition

District leaders used enrollment data to make staffing adjustments through retirements, resignations, and rethinking staffing models in all buildings to minimize the impact on students and programming.

The proposal includes a reduction of approximately 35 positions across the district. This includes 32 full-time equivalent instructional positions, two full-time equivalent administrative positions, and one full-time equivalent non-instructional position. 24 positions were reduced through retirements and resignations while 11 positions were reduced through layoffs. The positions include eight districtwide, seven at the high school, eight at the middle school, and 12 across the three elementary schools.

"These are not easy decisions, and we approached them with both fiscal discipline and a high level of respect for our employees," shared Woodcock. "As enrollment continues to shift, our

staffing levels need to as well. We've been very deliberate in spreading these reductions district-wide, ensuring that our decisions remain rooted in our strategic plan and our commitment to our students."

### Goal 3: Adhere to tax cap limit

The proposal stays within Jamesville-DeWitt's calculated tax levy limit of 2.63%, requiring a simple majority of voters to approve the budget for it to pass. The decision reflects voter feedback and awareness of the financial pressures impacting the community.

The 2026-27 proposed budget would be funded through four areas: state aid (\$22.9 million), the tax levy (\$47.5 million), fund balance and reserves (\$2.5 million), and other revenues (\$2 million) from such items as county sales tax and interest income.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

The district will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at J-D High School in the Large Group Room.

The budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at the J-D High School gymnasium from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



■ School Patrol Officers (SPOs) are building positive connections with students, staff, and the community. Scan the QR code to see the impact they are having in our schools.



# Our Schools, Our Stories: Together, we are J-D



■ A sweet tradition continues to raise autism awareness and funds for local organizations. The Tecumseh Learning Pad, the district's elementary special education classroom, collected more than \$13,300 through its 13th annual Lemonade Stand.



■ The numbers add up to a big win! Congrats to the J-D Middle School Math League for tying for first place in the Onondaga County Jr. High Math League.



■ Ensuring all students feel excited, welcome, and seen. On Fridays, Moses DeWitt Elementary School's Greeting Committee welcomes students coming into the building with music, dancing, and positive energy.



■ Showcasing student learning and creativity at Jamesville Elementary. Families were able to enjoy the school's Open House and Art Show in March.



■ Learning and trying new things together! All J-D staff participated in a Superintendent's Conference Day in March that included professional development and wellness sessions including things like yoga, pickleball, using AI, board certification, and CPR training. Superintendent Woodcock organized Permission to Pause sessions inviting staff to enjoy quiet activities in the library.



■ Making history on the field! J-D High School launched its new varsity girls flag football program this spring. 20 players are led by Head Coach Dominic Biddlecome. Kara Barnello scored the team's first-ever touchdown, marking a significant milestone.



## Upcoming capital project work will enhance student, family, and community experiences

Over the next few months, the Jamesville-DeWitt community will see 2024 Capital Project work ramping up across the district. These improvements are part of phase one, which aims to ensure every student has access to a safe, healthy, and modern learning environment.

In line with the district’s strategic plan, these upgrades prioritize student wellness and operational efficiency, ensuring that facilities support the high standards of learning taking place in and outside of Jamesville-DeWitt classrooms.

### Elevating Wellness and Athletics

Work is currently underway at Lyndon Field, where a new varsity baseball complex is starting to take shape. It’s part of a long term goal to centrally locate all ball fields. This not only unifies school teams, but also increases efficiency for facility maintenance and operations.

The baseball complex will feature an artificial turf infield, a natural grass outfield, dugouts, and perimeter fencing. An artificial turf infield will also be added to the varsity softball field. This will improve overall drainage and reduce canceled games due to unpredictable spring weather.

At J-D High School, stadium lighting has been upgraded to energy-efficient LED systems and the tennis courts will be resurfaced and fenced. These changes will help provide improved environments for physical education, team sports, and the community.

### Parking Lot Safety and Efficiency

A primary focus of upcoming work is the redesign of the Tecumseh Elementary School parking lot. By establishing a dedicated parent drop-off loop and a separate bus parking area, the new configuration will resolve traffic congestion, increase safety during arrival and dismissal, and improve accessibility. Additional work includes upgraded pedestrian sidewalks and enhanced lighting.

Inside the building, aging heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment will be replaced. The transition to high-efficiency systems is a key step in the district’s long-term plan to improve air quality and climate control across all district buildings.

### Learning Through Play

This summer, all three elementary schools will receive new playground equipment specifically tailored to the developmental needs of Universal Pre-Kindergarten students. In accordance with strategic plan goals, the spaces were designed to ensure they are safe, inclusive, and accessible.

### Timeline

Weather permitting, the majority of the phase one work detailed above is expected to be completed prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year. You can see renderings and learn more about work taking place in all of the buildings and on school grounds by visiting the district website.

## Capital Project vs. School Budget

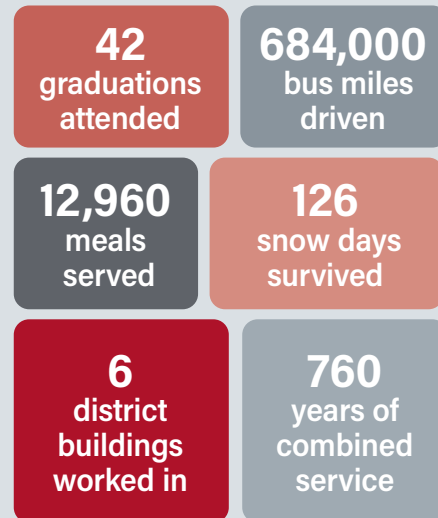
### HOW CAN THE DISTRICT DO CAPITAL PROJECT WORK WHILE DEALING WITH BUDGETARY CHALLENGES?

Although facility care and maintenance is addressed on a daily basis, capital projects help districts maintain and improve school property on a larger scale. Infrastructure needs are identified every five years through a state-mandated Building Condition Survey.

State building aid is intended to help districts keep facilities and infrastructure up-to-date. Because building aid is only eligible on qualifying expenses, districts are unable to allocate these funds to the program or administrative portions of the budget as building aid would no longer apply. The district aims to maintain steady capital funding without falling behind on required infrastructure needs, even as escalating costs present challenges.

## Appreciation by the Numbers

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District would like to recognize the 29 staff members who retired during the 2025-26 school year. Thank you for your service and dedication to J-D students and the school community.



THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER IS  
PRINTED THROUGHOUT THE  
SCHOOL YEAR IN COOPERATION  
WITH CAPITAL REGION BOCES  
ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES.

**Dr. Darcy Woodcock**  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Absentee/Early Voting Ballots

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

**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.

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 early and absentee applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days (May 12) before the election/vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election/vote (May 18) 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 19. A secured drop-off box is located outside the district office at J-D High School.

For more information or to get an application, contact District Clerk 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

Please complete our EXIT SURVEY after voting!

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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 19, 2026.



■ **Everybody cut footloose!** The J-D High School cast, crew, pit orchestra, and staff worked together to bring the musical "Footloose" to life in February.