

# DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee

03.05.2025



## Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Process

As we move forward with the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the School Committee for their unwavering support and dedication to our schools. Your commitment to ensuring that our students and educators have the resources they need to succeed has been instrumental in shaping this year's budget that reflects our shared priorities. With your deep understanding of the challenges before us, we have developed a balanced budget that maintains fiscal responsibility with our efforts to provide high-quality education for all students.

This year's budget represents not just an investment in our schools, but in the future of our community. The partnership between our district, local officials, and the School Committee has been invaluable. Together, we are making strategic decisions that will support student achievement, enhance educational programs, and maintain the financial stability of our district. Thank you for your continued dedication to our schools and the families we serve.

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This past Friday, I had a very productive lunch with Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski to discuss opportunities for collaboration that will benefit both of our constituencies. While I do not have specifics to share tonight, our next steps will focus on leveraging resources effectively, expanding access to higher education experiences, and enhancing high school programming to better prepare our students for future academic and career success. I look forward to continuing these conversations and working together to create meaningful opportunities that will have an impact on our students and local community.

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On Thursday, February 13, 2025, the Worcester County Superintendents' Association held a legislative breakfast with local education leaders and state legislators or representatives from legislative offices. This event provided an opportunity to discuss the current state of affairs in Worcester County and to share the WCSA's priorities with our local legislators. As an organization, we presented our collective priorities and engaged in meaningful discussions to advocate for the needs of our schools and communities of Worcester County.

These priorities have been established.

**Priority 1:** Inadequacy of school funding formula - Chapter 70 – min. aid (232/319)[73%]

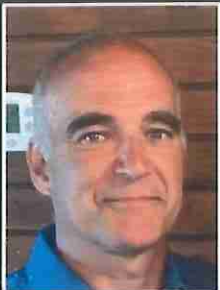




**Priority 2:** Educator pipeline and retention efforts

**Priority 3:** Special education costs/Circuit Breaker

**Priority 4:** Transportation costs/out-of-district and regional






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As previously shared, the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation is holding its 3rd Annual "Heroes Among Us" Award & Recognition Dinner on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the Wellsworth Hotel. This event has become a must-attend celebration, recognizing individuals who have made a significant impact on the educational experience within the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. We are excited to honor this year's recipients from the DCRSD community. The evening will feature an awards ceremony, dinner, dancing, and both silent and live auctions. See you there!

				
RAY AYOTTE	CINDY BOYD	FRANK DANIELIO	DAYNA DUMAS	CLAUDETTE EAGLETON

## DCEF "HEROES AMONG US" 2025 HONOREES

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD:  
KARL STORZ

				
TONI FREDETTE	CONNIE GALLI	AMY KIROUAC	CHRISTINE SAVOIE	CARL STRAZZULLO

As we move forward with our Dudley-Charlton RSD strategic planning efforts, we have established a structured timeline and key deliverables for the development of a comprehensive Curriculum Plan, Technology Plan, and Capital Plan for the April School Committee meeting, as well as the updated District Improvement Plan (DIP) for the first meeting in May. These planning initiatives are critical to ensuring that our updated DIP remains responsive to the evolving needs of our students, staff, and community. We will outline clear objectives, assess current resources, and identify opportunities for growth and innovation. This timeline will serve as our roadmap, guiding the development, review, and ultimate endorsement by the School Committee.



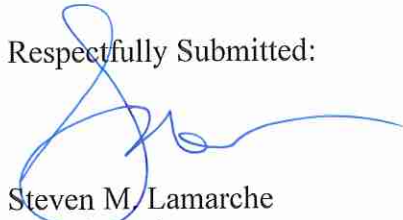
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Attached, you will find the upcoming Charlton and Dudley PTO events and programming for our students in the coming weeks. We are so grateful for all that our parent organizations do to support our students and enhance their experiences in our schools.

1. Charlton PTO – kidsbookfort.com – Cards for a Cause
2. Dudley PTO – Casino Night – adults only - 80s & 90s themed – Saturday March 15 at PACC in Webster, MA 7:00-10 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted:



Steven M. Lamarche  
Superintendent

***Here a few important dates in 2025.***

**March**

Thursday, March 20, 2025 – Early Release Day for all students – Parent/Teacher Conferences

**April**

Friday, April 18, 2025 – Early Release Day for all students – Good Friday

Monday, April 21 – Friday, April 25, 2025 – Spring Vacation Week

**May**

Friday, May 23, 2025 – Early Release Day for all students – Professional Development

Monday, May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day – No School

**June**

Sunday, June 1, 2025 – Class of 2025 Commencement

Monday, June 16, 2025 – Current 180th day of school – Early Release Day for all students

Dear (name of legislator)

As your committees begin the challenging process of determining funding priorities for the certified FY24 \$1.4 billion Fair Share Act surplus and the FY26 state budget, we respectfully urge you to prioritize addressing the severe financial difficulties faced by all school districts, including 232 districts classified under "hold harmless" status.

The Chapter 70 education funding formula relies heavily on antiquated model student enrollment assumptions to ensure school districts receive adequate operational funding. Districts with enrollment below these assumptions are guaranteed to receive at least the same aid as the previous year, but the formula lacks additional protections to guarantee sufficient core funding for all essential components of a school district. Since the last update to the Chapter 70 formula in FY07, statewide student enrollment has steadily declined, leaving 232 school districts dependent on "hold harmless" status. As a result, these districts receive only minimal per-pupil aid increases in Chapter 70 funding. This situation shifts the full responsibility of covering budget increases onto municipalities, a burden that has proven unsustainable.

We respectfully present the attached allocation requests for the one-time FY24 Fair Share Act surplus funding and the proposed FY26 state budget line-item increases. By providing school districts with additional FY25 funds, superintendents may realize relief in FY 25 that somewhat eases the strain on financial resources for FY26. Thus helping to offset the significant budget increases that municipalities can no longer sustain.

We are grateful for your tireless efforts and commitment to supporting our students and school districts.

Respectfully,

## K-12 State Funding - FY25 & FY26 Proposals - Final 02.14.25

### Funding Proposals that Could be Included in Fair Share (Millionaire Tax) Supplemental Spending Bill (Q1 of 2025)

*\*Please Note: These proposals are not organized in priority order.*

**TOTAL PROJECTED COST - \$323.2M**

Funding Proposal Description	Projected Cost
<b>Increase to Circuit Breaker</b> reimbursements (line item 7061-0012)  a) Cover 90% of eligible tuition costs  b) Cover 75% of eligible transportation costs  <b>FY25 CB projection: \$543,263,794</b> <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$493,177,484</b> <b>Increase needed for 90% tuition/75% transportation: \$144,000,000</b>	<p><b>a) \$85 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE initial FY25 figures.</a></p> <p><b>b) \$59 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE initial FY25 figures.</a></p>
<b>Increase to Regional School Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0006) to cover 100% of eligible transportation costs  <b>FY25 RT projection: \$117,756,809</b> <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$99,456,813</b> <b>Increase needed for 100%: \$18,299,996</b>	<p><b>\$18.3 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE FY24 figures</a></p>
<b>Increase to McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0008) to cover 100% of <b>eligible transportation</b> costs	<p><b>\$12.1 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE FY24 figures</a></p>

<b>FY25 projection: \$40,738,817</b> <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$28,671,815</b> <b>Amount needed for 100%: \$12,121,002</b>	
<b>Increase to Out-of-District Vocational Student Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0007) to cover 100% of <b>eligible transportation</b> costs  <b>FY25 projection: \$5,772,699</b> <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$1,000,000</b> <b>Amount needed for 100%: \$4,772,699</b>	<b>\$4.8 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE FY24 figures</a>
<b>Increase to Rural School Aid</b> (line item 7061-9813) to \$60 million between supplemental and regular budget resources  <b>Final FY25 RA line item funded at: \$16,000,000</b> <b>Amount needed for 60%: \$44,000,000</b>	<b>\$44 million</b>
<b>Supplemental Funding to MSBA Capital Supports</b> (line item 1596-2431) to cover new and pre-existing municipal school building costs	<b>\$100 million</b>
<p align="center"> <b>Funding Proposals that Could be Included in FY 2026 Budget</b>  <i>*Please Note: These proposals are not organized in priority order.</i> </p> <p align="center"><b>TOTAL PROJECTED COST - \$436.6M</b></p>	
<b>Funding Proposal Description</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>
<b>Reconvene K-12 Funding Review Commission in FY 2026</b>  <b>FY26 H.1 budget: not funded</b> <b>FY26 increase needed: \$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b> based on Chairman Lewis' bill (SD. 1912)

<p><b>Inflate Chapter 70 Formula to Better Match Recent Cost Growth</b> - Integrate One-Fourth of the Missed FY 2023 and FY 2024 Inflation Above Statutory 4.5% Cap into FY 2026 Chapter 70 aid</p> <p><b>FY26 H.1 budget: 7,097,168,436 (line item 7061-0008), \$225M (SOA implementation support, surtax)</b>  <b>FY26 increase needed: \$116,000,000</b></p>	<p><b>\$116 million</b>  using <a href="#">MassBudget research report</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maintain Minimum Per Pupil Aid</b> at current FY 2025 levels of \$104 per student</p> <p><b>FY26 H.1 budget: 7,097,168,436 (line item 7061-0008), \$225M (SOA implementation support, surtax)</b>  <b>FY26 increase needed: \$15,000,000</b></p>	<p><b>\$15 million above FY26 Governor's budget</b>  using <a href="#">Preliminary FY 2026 Chapter 70 spreadsheet</a>.</p>
<p><b>Increase the Rural Aid Line</b> to \$60 million in the FY 2026 budget</p> <p><b>FY26 H.1 budget: \$16,000,000</b>  <b>FY25 final: \$16,000,000</b>  <b>FY26 increase needed: \$44,000,000</b></p>	<p><b>\$44 million above FY26 Governor's budget.</b></p>
<p><b>Increase Circuit Breaker</b> reimbursements (line item 7061-0012)</p> <p>a) Cover 90% of eligible tuition costs</p> <p>b) Cover 75% of eligible transportation costs</p> <p><b>FY26 H.1 budget: \$531,991,844</b>  <b>FY25 final: \$493,177,484</b>  <b>FY26 increase from FY25 needed: \$205,000,000</b></p>	<p>a) <b>\$99 million</b>  using <a href="#">DESE initial FY25 figures</a>.</p> <p>b) <b>\$106 million</b>  using <a href="#">DESE initial FY25 figures</a>.</p>

<p><b>Increase Regional School Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0006) to cover 100% of eligible transportation costs</p> <p><b>FY26 projected amount: \$122,000,000</b>  <b>FY26 H.1 budget: \$72,119,862 (line item 7035-0006), \$43M (surtax)</b>  <b>FY25 final: \$99,456,813</b>  <b>Increase from FY25 needed for 100%: \$22,543,187</b></p>	<p><b>\$22.5 million</b></p>
<p><b>Increase McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0008) to cover 100% of <b>eligible transportation</b> costs</p> <p><b>FY26 projected amount: \$57,343,630</b>  <b>FY26 H.1 budget: \$28,671,815</b>  <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$28,671,815</b>  <b>Increase needed from FY25 for 100%: \$28,617,815</b></p>	<p><b>\$28.6 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE FY24 figures</a></p>
<p><b>Increase Out-of-District Vocational Student Transportation</b> reimbursements (line item 7035-0007) to cover 100% of <b>eligible transportation</b> costs</p> <p><b>FY26 projection: \$6,200,000</b>  <b>FY26 H.1 budget: \$6,200,000</b>  <b>Final FY25 line item funded at: \$1,000,000</b>  <b>Increase needed from FY25 for 100%: \$5,200,000</b></p>	<p><b>\$5.2 million</b> using <a href="#">DESE FY24 figures</a></p>



Coming  
soon!

43% profit for  
our group!

\$30/box ~  
\$1/card!

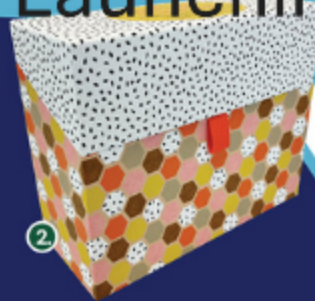
## Cards for a Cause FUNDRAISER



Launching March 3rd!



1



2



3

Offer boxed sets of 30  
beautifully embellished  
cards with matching  
envelopes to help your  
organization reach their  
fundraising goals.



4



5

1. All Occasion  
#1 Box #645985
2. All Occasion  
#2 Box #645992
3. Thanks & Blanks  
Box #646005
4. Kid's Birthday  
Box #646012
5. Holiday Box  
#644353  
(50 cards\*)



\*Holiday Card Collection Box includes 50 cards and envelopes.  
Product images are provided for your general information and may change without notice due to availability.



kidsbookfort.com



Event Info:  
Saturday, March 15  
7:00 - 10:00 pm  
PACC Webster  
37 Harris St.

80's & 90s Themed!

The Dudley PTO invites you to our **Casino Night Fundraiser**. You don't want to miss this fun, **adults-only**, night out, all while supporting our schools!

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$30 per person through Venmo (@Dudley-PTO) or by sending cash or check payable to Dudley PTO, along with the detachable form below into your child's school. If paying with Venmo please scan the QR code to the right to complete the sign up form. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$40 each.



Cash Bar will be available during the event

## How it Works

With each ticket, you will receive a \$250 "Funny Money" bill which is cashed in for gaming chips and used to play your favorite casino games like Blackjack, Roulette, and Craps! Professional dealers will teach you how to play these popular games without risking your own money! If you happen to have a streak of bad luck, the night doesn't have to be over! You can make an additional donation to the PTO for more Funny Money to continue playing!

At the end of the night, you will receive one raffle ticket for every \$200 in chips you have.

Adult Names:  
(please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_