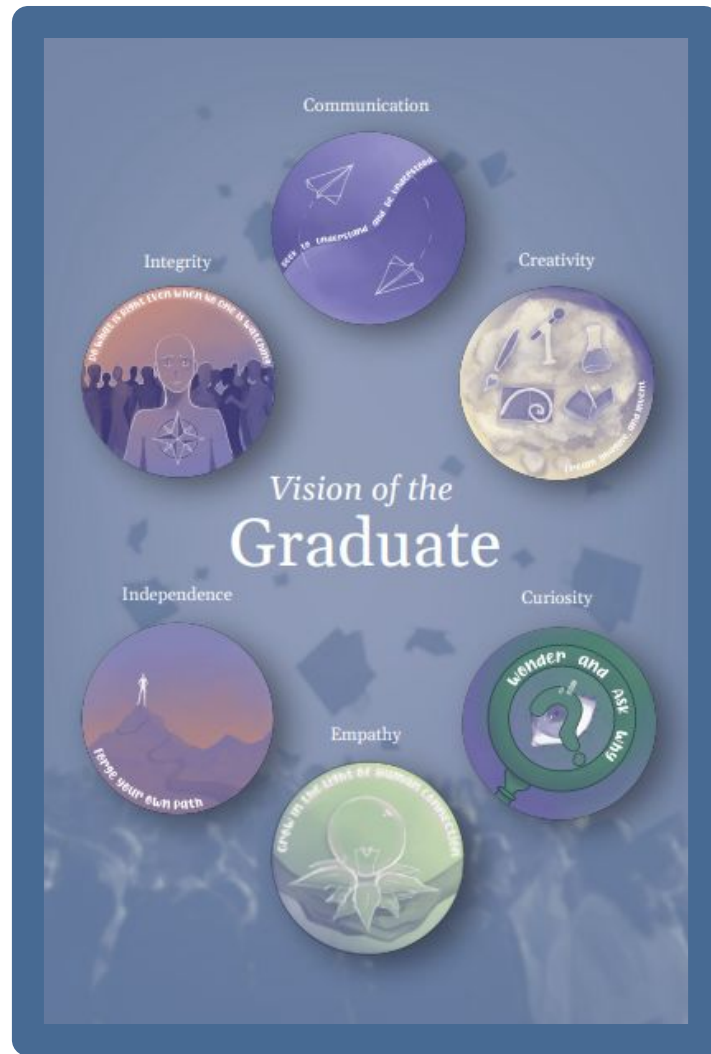




FY27 Budget Presentation

Curriculum and Instruction & Schools

Darien Board of Education
January 13, 2026



Provide excellence
in teaching and
learning



Implement
research-based
professional
development that is
aligned with the
Strategic Plan



Ensure continual
instructional
program
improvement



Ensure breadth and
depth of academic
and extracurricular
programming



Maintain BOE class
size guidelines



Provide safe,
healthy, energy
efficient learning
environments and
explore the
innovative use of
space

Ensure efficient
deployment of
resources and
personnel

Provide the
programmatic and
financial support
necessary to
achieve District
goals



Ensure a fiscally
responsible budget
that provides long
term financial
stability

Provide timely,
relevant
communication

2025-2026 Areas of Focus

Together, these focus areas build coherence across curriculum, instruction, leadership, and support systems districtwide.

- Strengthen K–3 literacy instruction through Year 1 implementation of the HMH Into Reading resource
- Improve writing outcomes in Grades K–8 with targeted emphasis on writing, grammar, and vocabulary development
- Build system-wide understanding of the Understanding by Design (UbD) curriculum framework
- Complete scope and sequence development for all courses to meet statutory requirements; Publish in Eduplanet21 to provide access to families
- Develop instructional leadership capacity through professional learning on high-quality, calibrated feedback
- Design and establish a coherent MTSS framework to support academic and whole-child needs

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC- 1

Darien High School

- Wellness Coordinator \$22,535
- Teen Talk \$5,053
- Textbook Consumables -\$4,653
- Yondr Bags -\$32,806
- Graduation \$1,000
- Equipment -\$1,115
- 1.2 FTE Teacher Reduction
(.6 Math, .2 English and .4 World Language)

FY27 Expenditure Highlights- RC 3

Middlesex Middle School

- Teen Talk \$53,940
- Flex Advisor & WL Team Leader \$7,070
- Guidance Materials \$750
- 1.0 FTE Teacher Reduction *-\$124,650*
(World Language)

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC- 5 Hindley Elementary School

- 1.0 FTE Teacher Increase (Fifth Grade)

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC- 7 Holmes Elementary School

- 1.0 FTE Teacher Increase (First Grade)

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC- 13

Visual and Performing Arts

● Software	-\$49
● Textbook Consumables	\$207
● Classroom Reference	\$810
● Resource Materials	\$100
● General Teaching Supplies	-\$9,699
● Dues and Memberships	\$100
● Repairs and Service Contracts	\$4,400
● Tuning of Pianos	\$100
● Equipment	\$2,486

2026-2027 Curriculum & Instruction Areas of Focus

Literacy

Ensures a coherent, evidence-based literacy system that strengthens early foundations and accelerates student growth across grade levels.

- Align literacy curriculum and instructional expectations across grade bands
- Adopt a CSDE-approved universal literacy screener
- Develop a comprehensive assessment system to align MTSS Tiers 1, 2, and 3
- Ensure K–3 curriculum and resource alignment
- Analyze and define high-quality Tier 1 literacy practices for Grades 3–6
- Identify instructional gaps and transitions across grade bands
- Review and recommend curriculum resources, routines, and assessments
- Pilot instructional practices and resources prior to districtwide adoption
- Monitor implementation and adjust course as needed
- Utilize research, legislation, and district data to inform long-term priorities
- Communicate progress and priorities regularly to stakeholders

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Creates a unified, data-driven MTSS framework that addresses academic, behavioral, and social- personal learning needs for all students.

- Adopt and implement standardized universal screeners for literacy, numeracy, behavioral, and social-personal learning
- Utilize a district data dashboard to monitor student progress and inform instructional responses
- Strengthen Tier 1 core instruction and intervention practices within an aligned MTSS framework
- Support whole-child development through a Wellness Center Coordinator (DHS) and Teen Talk Counselor (DHS & MMS)
- Provide a Flex/Advisory stipend at MMS to support whole-child programming

PK-12 Curriculum Development

Guarantees relevant, accessible, and aligned learning experiences that prepare all students for postsecondary success.

- Ensure relevant, meaningful PK–12 curriculum aligned to standards and the Vision of the Graduate
- Promote assured curricular experiences through consistent teacher and leader implementation
- Increase transparency with stakeholders through expanded use of Eduplanet21
- Apply Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to ensure access for all learners
- Strengthen collaboration with special education partners
- Develop authentic, standards-aligned performance tasks in 6–12 science (NGSS)
- Update Advanced Placement (AP) Social Studies courses
- Design and offer new courses driven by student interest
- Incorporate executive functioning skill development into Grades 6–8 Flex/Advisory

6-12 Student Success Plans

Ensures every secondary student has personalized guidance, consistent adult support, and a clear pathway beyond graduation.

- Provide related professional learning for staff
- Leverage student portfolios to document learning, growth, and achievement
- Strengthen systems that support student goal-setting, reflection, and postsecondary readiness through the use of Student Success Plans aligned to Vision of the Graduate
- Strengthen partnership with families in student goal setting and planning
- Develop a systems approach through Naviance to ensure a 6-12 through line in student experience

*CSDE Mandate per Connecticut General Statute § 10-221a(j).

Research-Based Professional Learning

Builds educator expertise and coherence across the system, ensuring instructional investments translate into classroom impact.

- Leverage instructional coaches to strengthen elementary teaching and learning
- Grow educator and leader capacity in data literacy to support individualization of instruction
- Establish consistent PLC practices that support MTSS implementation
- Strengthen district-wide research-based literacy practices
- Expand the District Orton-Gillingham Academy
- Continue development of the District Literacy Program with targeted focus on writing, vocabulary, and grammar
- Maintain commitment to Advanced Placement (AP) professional learning
- Develop a robust, credit-bearing professional learning program aligned to district priorities

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC- 19

Curriculum and Instruction

Elementary Instructional Coaches (5.0 FTE)	\$682,899
Curriculum Development	\$3,941
Consultant Services	\$45,750
Dues and Memberships	\$490
ELL Resources	-\$950
Textbooks	-\$268,103
Professional Development	\$71,190
Resource Materials	-\$42,823
Standardized Testing	\$61,532
Field Trips	-\$450

FY27 Budget: Next Steps

January 13, 2026 	Regular Board of Education January Meeting: Presentation/Discussion of Schools and Curriculum & Instruction Public Comment
January 20, 2026 (Special Meeting)	Special Board of Education Meeting: Presentation/Discussion of Special Education and Athletics Public Comment
January 27, 2026	Regular Board of Education Meeting: Presentation/Discussion of Operations Public Comment Discussion on Questions/Comments/Feedback from Boards
February 3, 2026 (Special Meeting)	Special Board of Education Meeting: BOE Public Hearing on Superintendent's Budget Recommendation
February 5, 2026 (Special Meeting)	Special Board of Education Meeting: BOE Vote on Proposed Budget

FY27 Budget Comments

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QUESTIONS?

