FY27 Budget Presentation
Physical Education & Athletics

Darien Board of Education
January 20, 2026

Education Based Athletics

Athletics at DHS are considered an integral part of the school's educational program. Whether on the intramural, interscholastic, or class level, participants have an opportunity to acquire qualities of fitness, self-discipline, and cooperation. Athletics prepare one to meet challenges, make decisions, and accept criticism. In a very real sense this is the basis of education. DHS is committed to providing opportunities for organized athletic participation at all levels of ability and interest.



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

Operating Standards

2025-2026 Areas of Focus



- Support the physical & mental health of students
  - QPR Training- All Head Coaches
  - Director of Mental Health- met with all coaches seasonally
    - Work individually with teams on mental aspects of sport
  - Captains Council
    - Meet seasonally with captains to talk about important role they play in establishing an inclusive and positive team environment
- Create a fiscally responsible budget for students at DHS while maintaining a quality athletic experience
  - 1,015 unique athletes participating in at least one sport at DHS during the 24-25 school year
  - Represents 73.4% of enrolled students
  - Total of 1,729 students participating in sports at DHS during 24-25 season, including students who played multiple sports



FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC11

- Account 101002- Interscholastic DHS - Coaching Stipends
  - 2% contractual increase
  - No new coaching requests



- Account 52008- Transportation
  - 2.97% increase
  - Continue to look for cost saving factors when transporting teams, including teams sharing buses & using after school buses to transport teams in town for after school practices



- Account 101910- Outside Facility Rentals
  - 2.11% increase
  - District covers 30% of cost
    Parents cover 70% of cost

FY27 Expenditure Highlights RC-11
Physical Education & Athletics

• Athletic Stipends	$14,397
• Interscholastic Transportation	$11,149
• Officials (Turkey Bowl)	$15,851
• Supplies (Turkey Bowl)	$17,807
• Trainers	$10,000
• Rentals	$4,382
• Fees	$1,580

Darien Public Schools

Rental Sports - Cost Share Table

Sport	BOE Contribution	Parent Contribution	Total
Diving	$18,396	$0	$18,396
Girls Hockey	$15,451	$36,051	$51,502
Boys Hockey	$31,370	$73,198	$104,568
Sailing	0	$375 per student	TBD
Skiing	$12,142	$28,332	$40,474
Squash	$11,244	$26,238	$37,482



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FY27 Expense Per Pupil
Fall Sports



Darien Public Schools

Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil	Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil
Cheer	7	$2,101	Boys Golf *	19	$1,269
Boys Cross Country	40	$558	Boys Soccer *+	89	$786
Girls Cross Country	90	$305	Girls Soccer *+	75	$864
Girls Dive	6	$2,900	Girls Swim	31	$949
Field Hockey *+	61	$689	Unified- Fall	48	$326
Football *+	116	$1,519	Girls Volleyball *+	39	$1,302

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*+= JV & Frosh

FY27 Expense Per Pupil
Winter Sports



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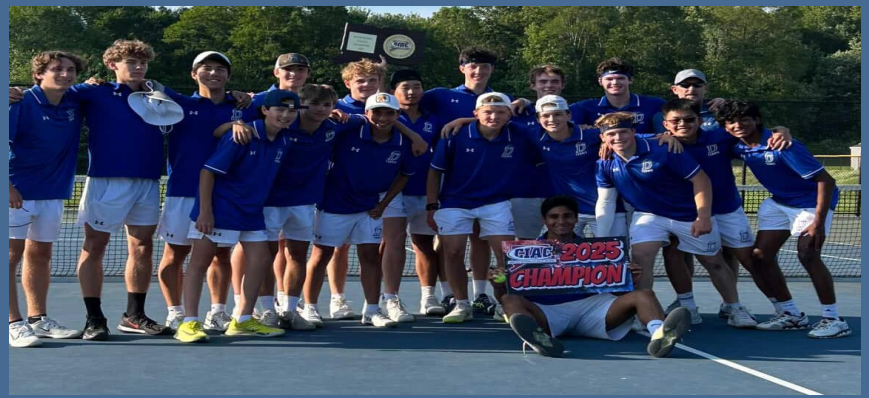
Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil	Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil
Boys Basketball *+	38	$1,825	Girls Indoor Track	61	$470
Girls Basketball *+	36	$1,834	Skiing	48	$1,186
Cheer	8	$2,107	Boys Squash *	18	$1,300
Boys Dive	1	$17,399	Girls Squash *	23	$1,017
Gymnastics	11	$2,392	Boys Swim	16	$1,839
Boys Ice Hockey *	50	$2,237	Unified-Winter	49	$319
Girls Ice Hockey	23	$2,524	Wrestling *	29	$1,381
Boys Indoor Track	50	$573			

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FY27 Expense Per Pupil
Spring Sports



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Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil	Sport	# of Participants	Cost Per Pupil
Baseball *+	51	$1,093	Sailing	17	$1,165
Girls Golf *	16	$1,507	Softball *	23	$1,796
Boys Lacrosse *	104	$904	Boys Tennis *	31	$861
Girls Lacrosse *+	89	$983	Girls Tennis *	37	$721
Girls Outdoor Track	100	$387	Unified-Spring	32	$488
Boys Outdoor Track	92	$420	Boys Volleyball *	17	$2,144
Boys Rugby	29	$685			

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2026-2027 Areas of Focus

- Support the physical & mental health of students
  - QPR Training- All New Head Coaches
  - Continued Collaboration with Director of Mental Health, Dr. Alycia Dadd
    - Sources of Strength training
    - Youth Mental Health First Aid training
    - Work individually with teams on mental aspects of sport



- Launch Seasonal Athletics Newsletter
- Update Athletics Handbook (for Students & Families)
  - Student Evaluation during tryouts
  - How cuts are communicated



Darien Public Schools

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

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FY27 Budget Comments

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QUESTIONS?

