



Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District

**2026-27
District Budget Development
Goals**

The Pillars of Our Work:

Our Mission: The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious, and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically, and are knowledgeable about the world around them.

Our Vision: Independent Thinkers Prepared to Change the World. Critical, interdependent elements of our vision include our *Strategic Points of Focus*.

Our Strategic Points of Focus: We will continuously work to create the best possible conditions for effective teaching and learning by focusing on the following areas:

- **Curriculum Development and Implementation**: By creating, adapting, and/or adopting rigorous Tier 1 curriculum that aligns with the International Baccalaureate standards; contains diverse perspectives and experiences; reflects the and develops/enhances students' on grade-level abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and mathematical understandings; and, as a result, students' thinking abilities as applied to a variety of complex problems, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Instruction**: By developing/enhancing our instructional staff's teaching abilities through an understanding of how students learn, research-informed instructional techniques and frameworks including the Response to Intervention (RtI)/Multi- Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model, and effective feedback models from peers and supervisors, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.

Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Assessments**: By developing and enhancing clear understandings of the design and purpose(s) of effective assessments and how they can be utilized to improve instruction, by carefully selecting those assessments that we will use to measure student learning, and by supporting the data literacy of faculty and administration, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Positive School Climate and Culture**: By developing a welcoming school environment that is reflective of the diversity present in the larger community where all students feel included in what they encounter at school; by providing explicit instruction and structured interventions in social-emotional learning and executive functions that have a sound basis in educational research; by aligning our work with the International Baccalaureate *Learner Profile*; and by developing/enhancing our staff's abilities to identify, understand, and improve positive student behavior, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.

Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Recruitment, Retention, and Development of Personnel:** By investing in promising culturally relevant practices for employee recruitment; by intentionally recruiting well-qualified staff that reflect our students' and ongoing, targeted professional learning opportunities, and proven methods of evaluation and feedback, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Family and Community Communications and Engagement:** By engaging in consistent and meaningful two-way communication with parents and families, and by inviting parents, families, and the community to participate in important initiatives, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Long-Range Planning for District Facilities, Finances, and Programming:** By developing long-range financial and facilities plans that allow us to continue to provide excellent programs and opportunities for students in safe, secure, and welcoming environments, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.

Budget Goal 1: The 2026-27 Budget Will Provide Support For:

Maintaining a rigorous K-12 academic program and associated professional learning that aligns with the NYS *Graduation Measures Initiative*, and includes *Bookworms* reading and writing, *Illustrative Mathematics*, and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programs.

(Administration and Program)

Budget Goal 2: The 2025-26 Budget Will Provide Support For:

Maintaining a wide-variety of co-curricular (clubs, theatre, music, service) and extracurricular (athletics) opportunities for students that encourage high levels of attendance and support their overall development.

(Program)

Budget Goal 3: The 2025-26 Budget Will Provide Support For:

Collective bargaining agreements (contracts) that are supportive of the ongoing improvements in faculty and staff working conditions that are aligned to and directly supportive of the District's Strategic Points of Focus and Goals
(Program, Administration, Capital)

Budget Goal 4: The 2025-26 Budget Will Provide Support For:

Improving our facilities to ensure that we maintain a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for effective teaching and learning.

(Program, Capital)

Budgeting Actions that Support the Design

- Balancing the need for effective programming, program support, and training for students and staff with the impact of the tax burden on taxpayers
- Maximizing state aid (*BOCES, Building, Transportation, etc.*) to make the best use of every taxpayer dollar
- Continuing to build and manage long-range strategic plans for consistency and stability in district programming and operations
 - Managing financial reserves to allow for consistency and predictability from one budget year to the next
- Communicating our budgeting plans to the community consistently and transparently