

Barker Central School District
1628 Quaker Rd.
Barker, NY 14012



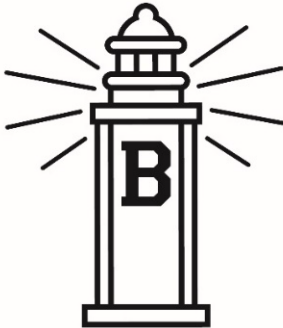
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BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1628 Quaker Road, Barker, NY 14012



May 11, 2026 - Public Hearing
6:30 p.m., Auditorium - Proposed 2026-2027 budget will be presented.



May 19, 2026 - Annual Meeting & Election
Noon – 8:00 p.m., Auditorium - Vote on the budget and Board of Education Members

-  If you are unable to attend and would like to vote, please contact the District Office for an absentee ballot application at 716-795-3110.
-  ***Please note:*** Early, Absentee & Military ballots must be received by the District on or before May 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

A Letter from the Board of Education President, Randall B. Atwater
Dear BCS District Residents:

Your school board and administration, along with input from the Budget Advisory Committee, are pleased to share this summary of our proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. As always, the intent is to provide a financially sound budget that maintains educational and extracurricular programs while keeping property taxes as low as possible.



The expenditure budget for next year is proposed to be \$22,916,892 as compared to the current year voter approved budget of \$22,475,712, an increase of 1.96%. All current programs will be funded for another year with this proposed budget.

On the revenue side, total state aid is projected to increase by 1.92% over the current school year for a total of \$14,523,372. You may recall that our district has been receiving supplemental revenue from The Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund for several years. This is money from NYS to help compensate communities that have lost coal fired power plants. This energy cessation revenue has been decreasing every year and will be gone completely after the 2027-2028 school year. Revenue from this source will decrease by approximately \$350,000 to around \$950,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. Some of this loss of revenue is expected to be replaced by additional funding related to the solar array being constructed by AES. The district continues to advocate for additional funding from the state. The data center expansion occurring at the site of the old power plant should provide new revenue in future years, but details are unknown at this time. For now, the local property tax levy is proposed to increase by 2.85% for a total of \$5,434,764. This percentage increase falls within the tax cap calculation requiring a simple majority of the voters. Due to the decreasing revenue from the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund, the budget for 2026-2027 includes using some reserve funds to balance the budget.

The school board and administration utilize both short- and long-term planning to maintain a stable budget and a reasonable local tax burden. This has been a particular challenge in our district given the unique evolution of the power plant property and the associated unknowns. Our focus has always been to maintain the independence of our district while providing strong academic programming and updating the campus as feasible.

Budget Goals
Balanced Budget
Long-term Sustainability of District
Best Learning Opportunity for Students

Property Tax Levy Increase of 2.85% to \$5,434,764

The district is proposing a tax levy of \$5,434,764. This represents a 2.85% increase above the 2025-2026 school year. This amount is the allowable tax levy limit that would only require a simple majority vote to pass. Assuming there are no changes in the values of the towns, tax rates for homeowners would increase by approximately 2.85%.

Year	Levy Amount	Percent Change
2020-2021	\$ 4,578,308	1.9%
2021-2022	\$ 4,767,964	4.0%
2022-2023	\$ 4,918,750	3.1%
2023-2024	\$ 5,017,125	2.0%
2024-2025	\$ 5,157,400	2.8%
2025-2026	\$ 5,283,993	2.45%
2026-2027	\$ 5,434,764	2.85%



Time Sensitive Information - Budget Preparation – How?



This year, the proposed budget was developed by the Board with input from Administration, as well as the Budget Advisory Committee which was established by the Board during the 2021-2022 school year. Membership this year included three Board members: Randall B. Atwater (President), John E. Sweeney, Jr. (Vice President) and Deanna Carnes. Community members were also part of the process: Ruth King, Christina Mason, and Chris Walsh.

The Committee was charged with providing the Board and Administration input for consideration related to the development of the ensuing year’s budget and also being a conduit for information to the general public. The Committee’s work was incorporated and reflected in the proposed budget outlined below.

Proposed 2026-2027 Barker School Budget

The 2026-2027 proposed budget reflects a continuation of programs and opportunities for students in the current 2025-2026 budget. The majority of the increased expenses relate to contractual obligations.

EXPENDITURES	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
General Support	2,695,672	2,585,905	109,768	4.24%
Instruction	12,111,147	12,278,607	(167,460)	-1.36%
Pupil Transportation	1,573,312	1,472,126	101,186	6.87%
Community Service	46,600	33,600	13,000	38.69%
Undistributed*	6,490,161	6,105,473	384,688	6.30%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$22,916,892	\$22,475,710	\$441,182	1.96%

*Includes the Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 consisting of renovations to the structural work to the interior and exterior of the buildings and campus consisting of door, security, safety, communication, masonry repairs, and entry enhancements at the Central School, 1911 Building, and Elementary Building.

Detailed Explanation of Budget

General Support consists of: Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, Staff, Certain BOCES expenses, and Special Items. This also includes Maintenance and Operation of Plant, (including all maintenance and grounds salaries, supplies and materials, and utilities), Central Printing/Mailing, and Central Data Processing.

Instruction consists of: Instructional Administration and Improvement (principal’s salary and supplies, curriculum development, research and planning, and professional development for all professional staff), Teaching Regular School (all regular school teaching salaries, supplies and materials, equipment, textbooks, and BOCES services for regular students, including Occupational Education), Community Education, School Library and Audiovisual, Technology Services, Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Psychological Services, Extra-classroom Activities, Athletics, and Special Education (special education teacher salaries, supplies and materials, textbooks, CSE and CPSE Committee expenses, contractual costs, private schools tuition, and BOCES special education costs).

Pupil Transportation consists of: All bussing and fuel costs.

Community Services consists of: Summer Programming.

Undistributed consists of: Employer contributions to the employees’ and the teachers’ retirement systems, social security, workers’ compensation premiums, unemployment insurance, health insurance, and terminal leave payments. It also includes payments of principal and interest on school bond payments and the capital outlay project.

Long-term Planning & Goals

As part of the strategic planning process, the District has consistently been using a long-term planning tool in an effort to bring about a balanced budget to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the District. See the District website homepage (barkerscd.net) for the link to goals or scan the QR code to the right.

