

DUDLEY-CHARLTON FY2026 BUDGET

March 5, 2025
Shepherd Hill RHS
Budget Hearing 6:30 PM

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent

Joseph J. DeSantis

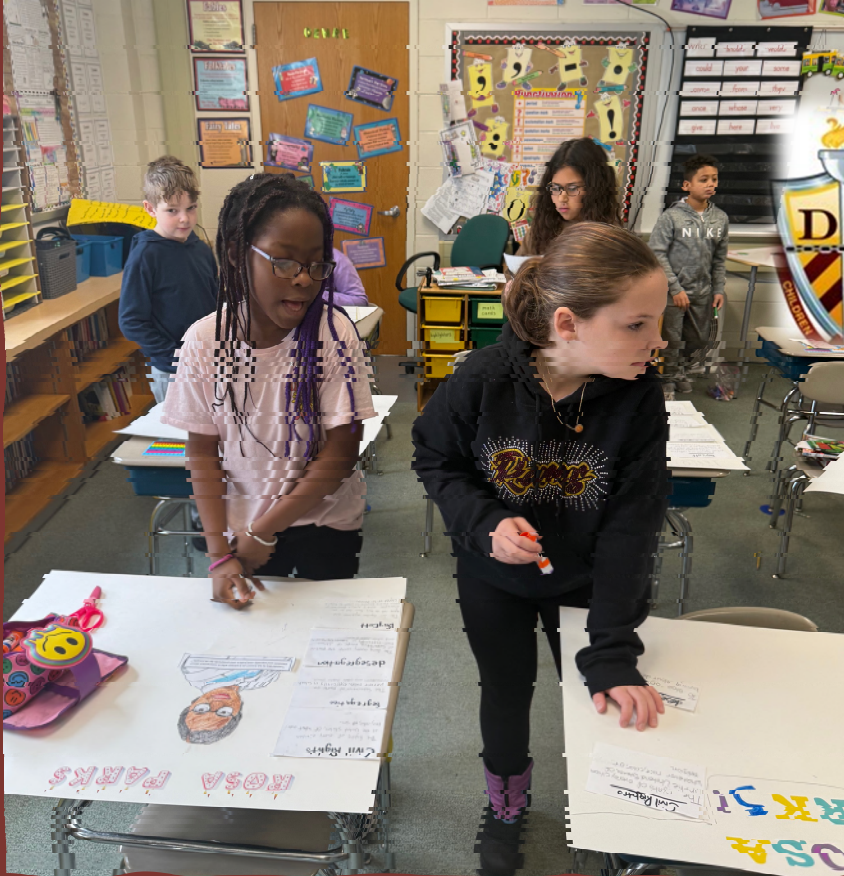
Director of Finance and Operations



AGENDA

- Relevant Information
- Assumptions/Risks
- Fiscal Year 2026
- Questions





INTRODUCTION

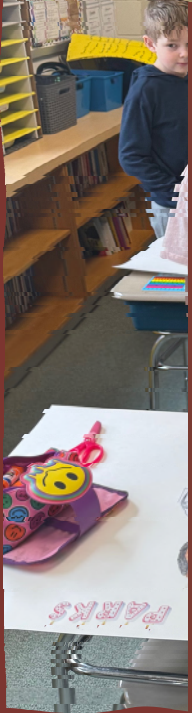
The school budget, and 360 process, serves as a blueprint for how valuable tax dollars are invested in a DCRSD education. It transforms financial projections into real opportunities for student success, ensuring every dollar advances the district's commitment to excellence.

This process drives critical conversations, guiding tough choices as programs compete for limited resources.





As we engage in our 360 fiscal planning process, we do so with a commitment to ***responsible stewardship***, scrubbing expenditures to ensure efficiency, maintaining a ***conservative financial approach***, and exercising flexibility only within the limits of our financial relationships with ***Charlton*** and ***Dudley***.



Our focus remains on ***continuous improvement***, ensuring that every dollar invested contributes meaningfully to the ***well-being of our students and staff***. We recognize that fiscal responsibility is not just about maintaining solvency but about making thoughtful, strategic decisions that ***prioritize an academic experience*** that is both ***meaningful*** and ***preparatory*** for the next steps in life.



By balancing fiscal prudence with our core efforts, we ensure that resources are allocated ***where they matter most***, fostering an environment where students are supported, staff are valued, and the district remains well-positioned to meet both current and future challenges.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS



2024-2025



School Committee Goals



Fiscal Responsibility

The DCRSD School Committee will approve a revised **10-year Capital Plan** based on the **2024 architectural review** of all seven schools and will integrate **reports and evaluations** (e.g., Education Resource Strategies, Facilities Conditions Report) into **long-range planning**. This process will **shape Fiscal Year budget planning**, ensuring the **preservation of existing programs** while prioritizing expenditures that support a **comprehensive educational experience** for all students.



School Committee Goals

Enhance Educational Excellence

The DCRSD School Committee is committed to fostering a **unified district** by hiring, developing, and supporting staff who cultivate a **positive school culture**. Through **aligned professional development**, the Committee ensures **exceptional teaching and learning** for all students. Additionally, the Committee prioritizes **access to innovative platforms and technologies** while maintaining **oversight of curriculum evaluation, development, and adoption** to provide **high-quality instructional materials** that meet the evolving needs of all learners.



School Committee Goals

Enhance Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement



The **DCRSD School Committee** will strengthen partnerships with **local boards and organizations** by serving as **active community liaisons**. Through **collaboration, transparent communication, and shared initiatives**, the Committee will align district priorities with community needs, advocate for resources, and ensure that **stakeholder voices** shape decision-making to benefit students, families, and staff.



DISTRICT PLAN

Strengthen the continuum of learning by ensuring access and opportunity for all students. Enhance instructional practices and support systems to improve student achievement and outcomes. Foster family and community engagement through meaningful partnerships and effective communication.



ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

- Minimum Chapter 70 for FY2026 ☒
- Excess & Deficiency stable for FY2026 ☒
- School Choice/Charter Assessments stable FY2026 ☒
- Level funded supplies/technology (FY21-FY26) ☒ [exception HQIM]
- Reimbursements remain stable for FY2026 ☐

Transportation, Circuit Breaker, Medicaid



AREAS OF SPECIFIC FOCUS

- Class Size
- Contractual Obligations
- Employee Benefits and Insurance



Areas with modest increases from past year's experiences

- Utilities
- Transportation
- Out of District Tuitions



PROJECTED CLASS SIZE



Average Class Size Projections FY26: With Staffing Changes

		<u>S #</u>	<u>Proj Section</u>	<u>Ave Class</u>	<u>Noted Changes</u>		<u>S #</u>	<u>Proj Section</u>	<u>Ave Class</u>	<u>Noted Changes</u>
MRS	Pre-K	64	2	32.00		CES	64	2	32.00	
	K	107	5	21.40			114	6	19.00	Reduction of one section from Grade 1
	1	109	6	18.17			117	6	19.50	
		280	13				295	14		
DES	2	118	5	23.60	Redistribute two sections from Grade 3: one to Grade 2 and one to Grade 4	HES	157	7	22.43	Redistribute one section from Grade 3 to Grade 2
	3	74	4	18.50			130	6	21.67	
	4	124	6	20.67			145	7	20.71	
		316	15				432	20		
DMS	5	117	6	19.50	Redistribute one section from Grade 7 to Grade 8	CMS	152	7	21.71	
	6	119	6	19.83			152	7	21.71	
	7	136	6	22.67			163	7	23.29	
	8	146	7	20.86			160	7	22.86	
		518	25	21.72			627	28	22.49	



THE AREAS OF SPECIFIC FOCUS

Contractual Obligations		\$ 1,300,000
Employee Benefits and Insurance		<u>\$ 1,653,987</u>
Total		\$ 2,953,987
Initial	(811,269)	\$ 2,142,718





Variance work 4.73% to 3.57%

GOVERNOR'S REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT
MINIMUM AIDE – \$75 PER STUDENT
SCRUB ALL LINES – FRESH SET OF EYES
LOWER UTILITY COSTS (SOLAR)
1.0 FTE TEACHER
1.0 FTE DISTRICT OFFICE CLERK

= (\$811,269)



BIG NUMBERS (OPERATING)

FY25	\$ 59,885,638	2.68%	
FY26*	\$ 62,028,356	3.57%	\$ 2,142,718
<i>*Target</i>	<i>\$ 61,528,356</i>	<i>2.74%</i>	<i>\$ 1,642,718</i>

These numbers do not include Capital commitments (691,078)

AMAZON FUNDING

Next Steps and Recommendations



6. Resource Allocation:

- Our greatest resource is time for professional development and collaboration which is being addressed in the school calendar for 25-26
- To continue with HQIM at the Elementary and Middle School levels, the upkeep for Math and ELA is currently approximately **\$275,000**. Our HQIM grants have ended with the exception of Open Sci Ed, which provides one more year of support under the grant. OSE will be moved into operating for 25-26 at the cost of approximately \$20,000 per building. **Potential use of Amazon monies FY26*
- Explore options for HQIM in Science at the Elementary levels to improve programming and the necessary prerequisites for Middle School. **Potential use of Amazon monies FY27*
- We are awaiting to hear if we have been selected to participate in the PRISM Grant from DESE to support ELA instruction at the Elementary level.
- We need to prepare for a new Math adoption at the Elementary level in 26-27. The anticipated cost is between \$200-250K. **Potential use of Amazon monies FY27*
- Explore funding for summer curriculum work in all subjects at the Elementary and Middle levels.

7. Writing Focus:

- Explore the introduction of the Writing Studio, a CKLA writing supplement, at the Elementary level to help boost student writing skills going into Middle School.



RECOMMENDED FY26 REDUCTIONS

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FY26 Budget - Initial 1/27/25



Assessments					
	FY25	FY26	\$ Change	% Change	
DCRSD	\$ 59,885,638	\$ 62,719,434	\$ 2,833,796	4.73%	
Charlton (53.79%)					
Minimum	13,953,628	15,494,647	1,541,019	11.04%	
Transportation	1,116,704	1,158,776	42,072	3.77%	
Additional	3,148,490	3,558,011	409,521	13.01%	
Subtotal Operating	18,218,822	20,211,434	1,992,612	10.94%	
Capital					
Sewer Charges	25,776	25,776	-		
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	68,904	58,639	(10,265)		
Sept. 2022 Capital (Voluntary)	-	-	-		
July 2024 Capital-Bond	272,467	230,050	(42,417)		
Subtotal Capital	367,147	314,465	(52,682)	-14.35%	
Total Assessment - Charlton FY25	18,585,969	20,525,899	1,939,930	10.44%	
Dudley (46.21%)					
Minimum	8,077,755	8,359,605	281,850	3.49%	
Transportation	978,819	995,484	16,665	1.70%	
Additional	2,759,729	3,056,621	296,892	10.76%	
Subtotal Operating	11,816,303	12,411,710	595,407	5.04%	
Capital					
Sewer Charges	9,224	9,224	-		
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	64,039	64,039	-		
July 2024 Capital-Bond	351,313	303,350	(47,963)		
Subtotal Capital	424,576	376,613	(47,963)	-11.30%	
Total Assessment - Dudley - FY25	12,240,879	12,788,323	547,444	4.47%	
Total Assessment	30,826,848	33,314,222	2,487,374	8.07%	

FY26 Budget - Version Two: 2/4/25



Assessments					
	FY25	FY26	\$ Change	% Change	
DCRSD	\$ 59,885,638	\$ 62,219,434	\$ 2,333,796	3.90%	
Charlton (53.79%)					
Minimum	13,953,628	15,494,647	1,541,019	11.04%	
Transportation	1,116,704	1,158,776	42,072	3.77%	
Additional	3,148,490	3,289,061	140,571	4.46%	
Subtotal Operating	18,218,822	19,942,484	1,723,662	9.46%	
Capital					
Sewer Charges	25,776	25,776	-		
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	68,904	58,639	(10,265)		
Sept. 2022 Capital (Voluntary)	-	-	-		
July 2024 Capital-Bond	272,467	230,050	(42,417)		
Subtotal Capital	367,147	314,465	(52,682)	-14.35%	
Total Assessment	18,585,969	20,256,949	1,670,980	8.99%	
Dudley (46.21%)					
Minimum	8,077,755	8,359,605	281,850	3.49%	
Transportation	978,819	995,484	16,665	1.70%	
Additional	2,759,729	2,825,571	65,842	2.39%	
Subtotal Operating	11,816,303	12,180,660	364,357	3.08%	
Capital					
Sewer Charges	9,224	9,224	-		
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	64,039	64,039	-		
July 2024 Capital-Bond	351,313	303,350	(47,963)		
Subtotal Capital	424,576	376,613	(47,963)	-11.30%	
Total Assessment	12,240,879	12,557,273	316,394	2.58%	
Total Assessment	30,826,848	32,814,222	1,987,374	6.45%	

NEXT STEPS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

SC Budget – All Boards - SHRHS

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

SC Budget Hearing - SHRHS

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

SC Meeting - CMS

May 19, 2025 – Town Meetings

Charlton and Dudley



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Shepherd Hill RHS



QUESTIONS