

# **2026-2027 Darien Public Schools Budget Process FAQ & Timeline**

**\*Provided by the CDSP/PTOs\***

## **When does the budget process for the 2026-2027 school year begin?**

The process for the 2026-2027 budget cycle is already underway. On October 28, 2025, Superintendent Dr. Byrne presented an overview of this year's budget process timeline and a financial forecast for the upcoming budget season. Further information can be found on pages 43-71 in the materials from the BOE's October 28, 2026, Special Meeting, [HERE](#).

On January 8, 2026 the Superintendent's proposed budget will be released on the BOE website [HERE](#). Additionally, the Superintendent will present his budget at a Special BOE Meeting on January 8, 2026.

## **What framework/standards does the Superintendent use when building a new budget?**

Dr. Byrne builds the budget around the Vision of the Graduate and the District's Operational Standards. He discusses these guiding principles at the 1hr30 min mark of the October 28th BOE Regular Meeting [HERE](#). The priorities he lists include the Vision of the Graduate and the Operational Standards (these standards can be reviewed in detail on pages 52-53 [HERE](#)).

## **What's the process for the BOE to discuss and vote on the budget?**

This year's process will differ from prior years, as the Board of Education (BOE) has revised its meeting cadence to focus on higher-level budget issues. At the October 28th BOE meeting, a new budget calendar was approved, eliminating Super Saturday and Add/Cut Night in favor of smaller, weekly meetings dedicated to specific budget areas.

Budget discussions will continue as follows. In-person public comment will be available at all sessions:

- January 13th Regular Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Schools and Curriculum & Instruction
- January 20 Special Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Special Education and Athletics
- January 27th Regular Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Operations; Discussion on Questions/Comments/Feedback from Boards

On February 3rd at 7pm, the BOE will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and the BOE will vote on the proposed budget at a Special Meeting on February 5th at 7pm. Once a final budget is agreed upon, the budget officially becomes the Board of Education budget.

## **Once the BOE approves the budget, is the budget final?**

No! Both the Board of Finance (BOF) and Representative Town Meeting (RTM) must then approve the budget. Both town bodies may make dollar amount cuts to the budget but can not make specific line item cuts to the budget.

## **What's the BOF and RTM timeline for approving the BOE budget?**

The BOF will be presented with the BOE budget at their March 3rd meeting. A public hearing on the town budgets will be held by the BOF on March 10th. On March 31st the Board of Finance will review and discuss the BOE Budget. A final vote by the BOF is scheduled for April 7th. The RTM will have the final vote on the budget on May 11th.

## **What happens if the BOF or RTM reduce the budget passed by the BOE?**

If the BOF or RTM make cuts, the budget goes back to the Superintendent and the BOE. The Superintendent will propose cuts to reduce the budget to the amount approved by either the BOF or RTM. Ultimately, the BOE will discuss and approve the specific cuts required to reach the approved budget amount.

### **How can I voice my opinions during the budget process?**

Public comment will be available at all BOE meetings but must be made in-person (note that zoom public comment is no longer available at BOE meetings). You may also email your thoughts to the BOE at [darienboardofeducation@darienps.org](mailto:darienboardofeducation@darienps.org) or the district administration team at [budgetfeedback@darienps.org](mailto:budgetfeedback@darienps.org). Additionally, once the budget moves to the BOF, public comment will be available at all BOF meetings. The list of BOF members with contact information can be found [HERE](#).

### **Where can I locate all the budget information and documents?**

All District and Board of Education (BOE) budget documents can be accessed on the DPS Website [HERE](#).

Additionally, the CDSP/PTOs have put together the following timeline for the budget process (see page 3). Links to the relevant budget materials and meeting recordings will be added as they occur. Additionally, any CDSP/PTO summaries of budget information will be included as well.

## 2026/2027 DPS Budget Timeline

October 28, 2025

- Regular BOE Meeting - Presentation on Budget Calendar and Forecast
  - [Link to 10/28/25 BOE Meeting Agenda & Materials](#) (Budget materials at pages 43-71)
  - [Link to 10/28/25 BOE Meeting recording](#) (Budget discussion begins at 1 hr 26 minutes)

January 8, 2026 (7pm)

- Special BOE meeting - Presentation of Superintendent's Budget
  - [Link to Proposed 2026-2027 Budget](#)
  - [Link to 1/8/26 BOE Meeting Agenda & Budget Presentation Materials](#)
  - [Link to 1/8/26 BOE Meeting recording](#)

January 13, 2026 (7:30pm)

- Regular BOE Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Schools and Curriculum & Instruction
  - [Link to 1/13/26 Meeting Agenda & Materials](#)
  - [Link to 1/13/26 BOE Meeting recording](#)
  - [Link to 1/18/26 CDSP/PTO Budget Update in School Wires](#)

January 20, 2026 (7pm)

- Special BOE Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Special Education and Athletics
  - [Link to 1/20/26 Meeting Agenda & Materials](#)
  - [Link to 1/20/26 Meeting recording](#)
  - [Link to 1/25/26 CDSP/PTO Budget Update in School Wires](#)

January 27th, 2026 (7:30pm)

- Regular BOE Meeting - Presentation/Discussion of Operations; Discussion on Questions/Comments/Feedback from Boards
  - [Link to 1/27/26 Meeting Agenda & Materials](#)
  - [Link to 1/27/26 Meeting recording](#)
  - [Link to 2/1/26 CDSP/PTO Budget Update in School Wires](#)

February 3, 2026 (7pm)

- BOE Public Hearing on the proposed budget
  - [Link to 2/3/26 Meeting Agenda & Materials](#)
  - [Link to 2/3/26 Meeting recording](#)

February 5, 2026 (7pm)

- BOE Special Meeting - vote on the budget by BOE members
  - [Link to 2/5/26 Meeting Agenda.](#)
  - Link to 2/5/26 Meeting Recordings
    - [1 of 2 meeting recordings](#)
    - [2 of 2 meeting recordings](#)

March 3, 2026

- Board of Finance (BOF) Meeting - BOE budget to be presented to BOF.

March 10, 2026

- BOF Public Hearing on the BOE budget

March 25, 2026

- BOF Meeting - additional budget discussions may be included in this meeting

April 7, 2026

- BOF Meeting - vote on the budget by BOF members.

May 11, 2026

- RTM Meeting - vote on the budget by the RTM