



Barker Central School District
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 Barker, NY 14012



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BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1628 Quaker Road, Barker, NY 14012



May 12, 2025 - Public Hearing

6:30 p.m., Auditorium - Proposed 2025-2026 budget will be presented.

May 20, 2025 - Annual Meeting & Election

Noon – 8:00 p.m. in 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 20, 2025 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 2025-26 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 increase by a larger amount than normal this time for a total of \$22,475,710 as compared to the current year voter approved budget of \$18,895,718. There are two major factors that account for the entire budget increase. First is debt service, including the initial payments for the ongoing \$25 million capital project (\$1,973,116), which will be more than offset by state building aid revenue (\$2,116,704). The second factor is a substantial increase in the number of special education students requiring costly outside placements (budget increase of \$1,730,000). State aid covers much of the cost of these placements. Overall staffing levels will be held steady and all current programs will be funded for another year.

On the revenue side, total state aid is projected to increase by 20.10% over the current school year for a total of \$14,244,935. The Energy Cessation Mitigation revenue will decrease by \$263,551 to \$1,348,449. The property tax levy is proposed to increase by 2.45% for a total of \$5,283,993.

Property Tax Levy Increase of 2.45% to \$5,283,993

The District is proposing a tax levy of \$5,283,993. This represents a 2.45% increase above the 2024-25 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 2.45%.

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%

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 2021-22 school year. Membership this year included three Board members: Randall Atwater (President), John Sweeney (Vice President) and Deanna Carnes. Community members were also part of the process: Ruth King, Tammy Mallon, Ted Dauphinee 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.

Budget Goals

Balanced Budget
Long-term sustainability of District
Best learning opportunity for students

Proposed 2025-26 Barker School Budget

The 2025-26 proposed budget reflects a continuation of programs and opportunities for students in the current 2024-25 budget. The majority of the increased expenses relate to contractual obligations.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2024-25	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
General Support	2,585,905	2,494,298	91,607	3.67%
Instruction	12,278,607	10,651,379	1,627,228	15.28%
Pupil Transportation	1,472,126	1,440,047	32,079	2.23%
Community Service	33,600	33,600	0	0.00%
Undistributed*	6,105,473	4,276,394	1,829,079	42.77%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	22,475,710	\$18,895,718	3,579,992	18.95%

*Includes the Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 consisting of renovations to the structural work to the interior and exterior of the building and campus, including but not limited to concrete, flooring, windows, and other work.

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

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 for the link to goals or scan the QR code below.



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