



Superintendent's Update

November 11, 2015

Dear Shrewsbury Families,

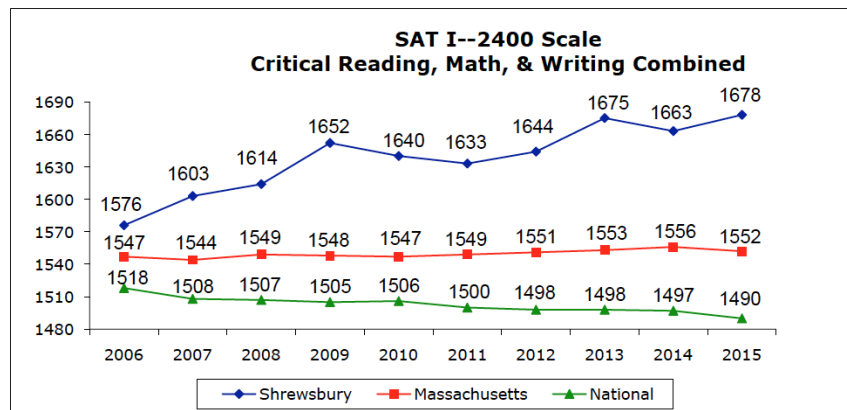
On this **Veterans Day**, I want to express my sincere thanks to all of you who served our country. Part of our school district's mission is to ensure our students develop "an appreciation of our democratic tradition," and you should know that in our schools this includes teaching our students about the sacrifice and service our military veterans have made to defend and protect democracy throughout our nation's history. Yesterday's annual Veterans Day assembly at Oak Middle School is just one example of how we achieve this important goal.

Today is also **Diwali**, an important Hindu holiday that many of our community's families observe. Happy Diwali to all who are celebrating the "festival of lights!"

Please note the following informational items below:

- 1) Strong assessment results
- 2) SHS Class of 2015 college matriculation
- 3) SPS students present at regional technology conference
- 4) Parent representatives on Calendar & Start Time Committee
- 5) Enrollment update
- 6) Colonial Fund donation match challenge from Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

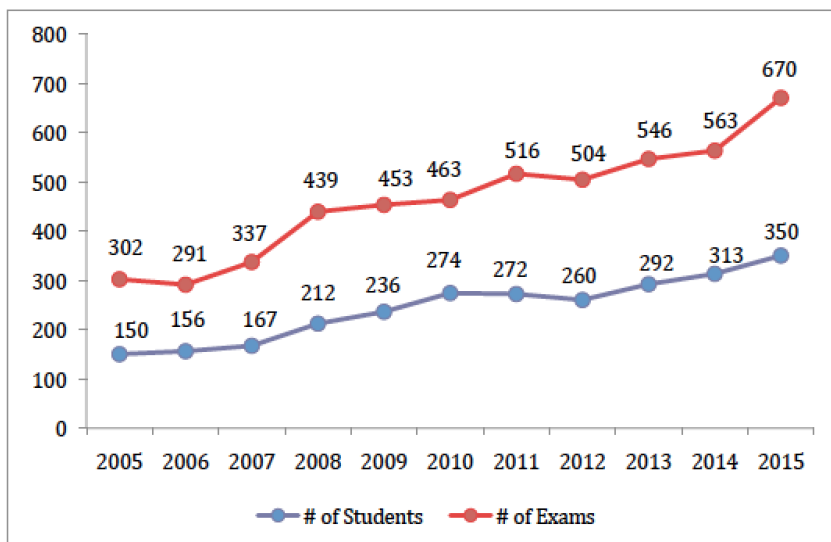
1) Strong assessment results:



Shrewsbury High School's testing results from 2014-2015 were recently reported to the School Committee. Highlights include:

- The school's highest ever combined SAT scores, with an average of 550 Reading, 581 Math, 547 Writing, 1131 Reading/Math Combined, and 1678 Reading/Math/Writing Combined. We are very proud that this achievement level is based on a 96% student participation rate, which is extremely high.
- The school's highest ever number of students taking Advanced Placement exams (350) and the most exams taken (670), with 94% "passing" scores of 3 or higher and 46% receiving the highest possible score of 5. SHS had 124 students recognized as AP Scholars, the most ever.
- The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, exam results were released yesterday. Our students in Grades 3-8 took this exam last spring in both English language arts and math. As this was the first year of this new assessment, it establishes a baseline and is not directly comparable to MCAS scores from previous years. At first look, it appears that Shrewsbury's performance was typically strong compared to similar districts (click [here](#) for data and [here](#) for a Boston Globe summary). A full report will be presented to the School Committee at their November 18 meeting, at which time we will also know the decision made by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding which test the state will use next year, PARCC or MCAS.

**Advanced Placement Participation Rates
Shrewsbury High School**

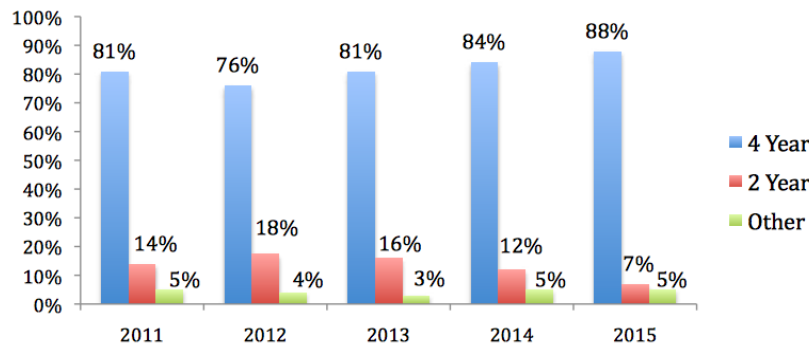


2) SHS Class of 2015 College Matriculation:

The SHS administration recently presented its annual [Future Plans Report](#) for the most recent graduating class. A few facts:

- 88% of last year's graduates are attending four-year colleges and universities, 7% are attending two-year community colleges or technical schools, and 5% chose employment, the military, or other.
- 53% of those attending four-year colleges and universities matriculated at institutions with admissions ratings of Most Competitive (14%), Highly Competitive (15%), or Very Competitive (24%).

Future Plans: 5 Year Trend



3) Shrewsbury students present at regional technology conference:

Two student groups from Shrewsbury High School and three from Sherwood Middle School were selected to present at the annual Massachusetts Computer Using Educators conference, more than any other school district. They included the SHS TV Studio video production team; the SHS Student Innovation Team (Help Desk); and Sherwood students showcasing student-created digital academic portfolios, student-created digital & video newsletters, and a fitness program using digital fitness trackers. Some of these students presented at the last School Committee meeting, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

4) Parent representatives on School Calendar & Start Time Committee:

There was an outstanding response to my request for parent representatives for this committee, with over 53 volunteers. Those selected represent all levels (early childhood/elementary, middle, and high school), hold various viewpoints, and have a variety of types of expertise that will help inform the committee's work. I am pleased to announce that the following eight parents will serve on the committee:

Mike Albertson (elementary and middle school parent; marketing professional in financial industry)

AnneMarie Bird (middle school parent; nurse)

Joe Burdo (elementary parent; neuroscience professor)

AnnMarie DeAngelis (elementary and middle school parent; pediatrician)

Lynsey Heffernan (preschool and elementary parent; attorney with Dept. of Youth Services specializing in adolescent behavior)

Sumathi Narayanan (middle and high school parent; realtor and quality/project manager)

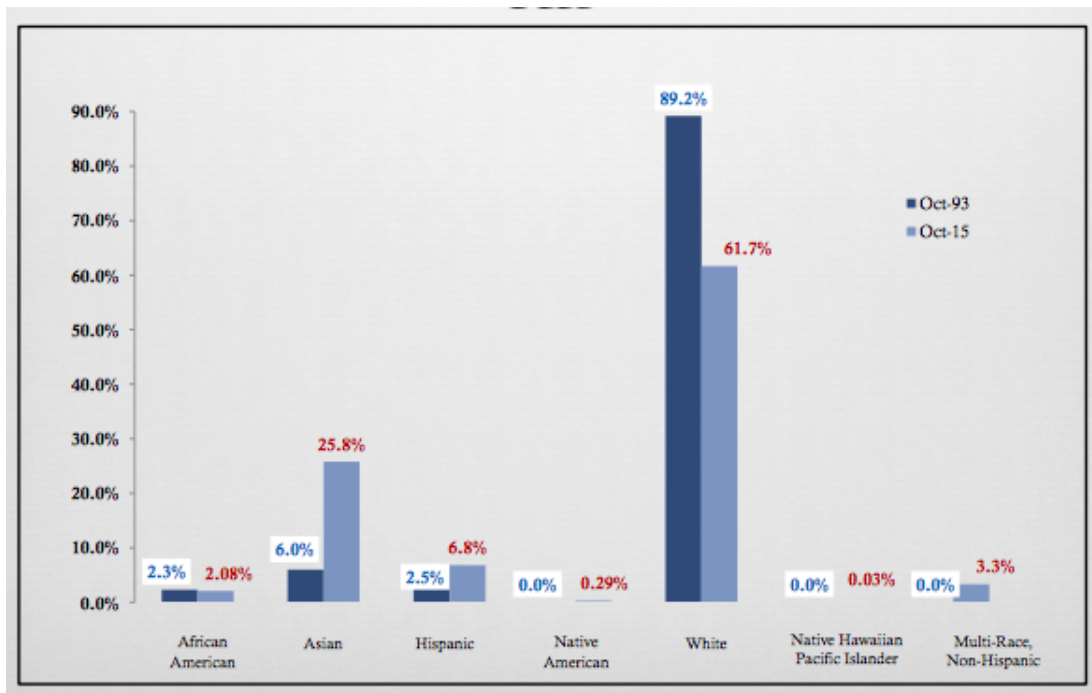
Hatem Tolba (high school parent; executive in pharmaceutical industry)

Denise Wall (high school parent; local small business owner/operator)

Part of this committee's work will include surveying parents regarding these topics, so please look for this in the coming month.

5) Enrollment update:

October 1 is the annual reporting date for school enrollment. This year, the district hit another all-time high for enrollment in Preschool through Grade 12 with 6,046 students. To view various enrollment and class size data, click [here](#) and go to the October 21 meeting report links. One statistic that may be of interest is the increasing diversity of our student body, as shown in the graph below comparing 1993 to 2015:



6) Colonial Fund donation match challenge from Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union:

I am very grateful to Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union for their willingness to become the Colonial Fund's first "Innovation Partner." SFCU has donated \$5,000 to the Colonial Fund and will match the next \$5,000 of donations, resulting in a \$15,000 investment in fostering innovation and providing enriching educational experiences in our schools. Please click [here](#) to find out how the Colonial Fund makes a difference for our schools and click [here](#) to make a donation that will be doubled by SFCU, making twice the impact!

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at 508-841-8400 or at jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer

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