



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget – Public Hearing February 26, 2014

Key issues:

1. Evidence of decline in student academic performance (State overall rating of district and 5 of 7 schools downgraded from Level 1 to Level 2)
2. Enrollment is forecast to increase slightly, with only a slight decline in future years (over 6,000 students in-district)
3. Classes of 30 or more students at all levels, which are too large and are compromising teaching and learning
4. Outdated instructional materials and technology are obstacles to teaching and learning
5. Need to build more in-district capacity to serve the needs of students with special education and mental health/behavioral needs, which will result in long-term savings for out-of-district tuition and transportation
6. Loss of curriculum and instructional support capacity is preventing program coordination, delaying teacher training, and compromising appropriate supervision and evaluation processes
7. Modest increases in staff compensation, operational costs

Critical needs:

1. Additional teachers to reduce class sizes
2. New math program in grades K-8 to align with new state curriculum (two years behind); restoration of curriculum support personnel
3. Additional psychological/behavioral/counseling staff to address mental and behavioral health needs
4. Replacement of significantly outdated computers, improvements to the network, and adequate technical support
5. Increased in-district special education capacity to cope with mandated needs and to continue to reduce out-of-district costs

Risk factors:

1. Academic harm to students; reduced number and lower quality of opportunities for our children
2. Compromised school cultures/climates leading to problem behaviors in and out of school
3. Declining school district reputation and lower property values
4. Problems with retention and recruitment of quality personnel

Question for the community:

Will our town commit to providing the level of resources required to provide our children with an education that prepares them for a successful future, and that is comparable in quality to what existed just a few years ago?

Personnel + Tools + Space = Program