

Alignment of K-8 Math Program to New Standards

Why is this expenditure necessary?

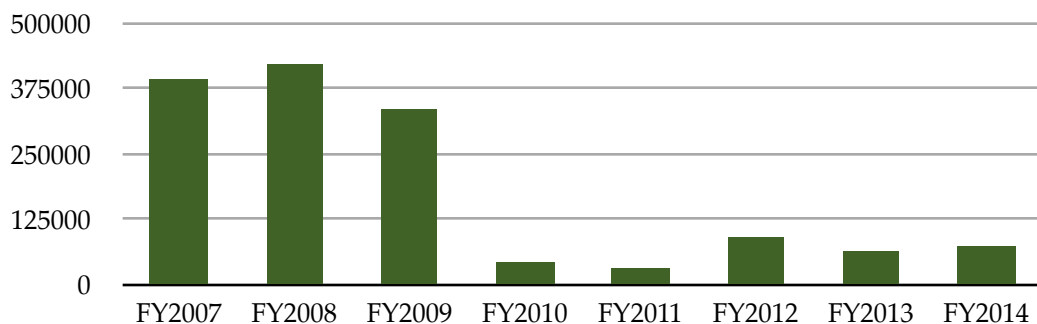
- The Massachusetts Department of Education adopted new math standards in 2011 that are aligned to the Common Core standards being used across the country. These standards expect mastery of key concepts at each grade level and require our students to apply mathematics to solve abstract problems at a higher level than they were expected to in the past. Our current curriculum materials are significantly out of alignment with the new standards and will need to be replaced. Our K-8 teachers are also in need of professional development and on-going coaching to ensure that this new math curriculum and the supporting resources are implemented at high levels. For a full explanation of the instructional shifts associated with these new standards, please follow this link: <http://www.engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-mathematics-overview>
- Shrewsbury students are still being taught under the old standards. State testing now uses the new standards. Shrewsbury saw a significant drop in its overall math student growth score and was second to last in this category when reviewing comparable districts' data.
- During the past 5 years, Shrewsbury has been postponing textbook and instructional material purchases as a cost savings measure. Given that students are now being assessed on these new math standards, we are no longer able to put off making this significant investment for our students.

How will the funds be spent?

The funds will be spent on purchasing a new core math program for all K-8 students and math teachers. The cost will also reflect training expenses to provide all K-8 math teachers with a comprehensive background on what is expected under the Common Core math standards and how the new core materials can be used to support these standards.

Core materials are being piloted this year in our “early adopter” classrooms. These core materials are *Focus in Math* (Singapore Math) for grades K-5 and *CMP3* (Connected Mathematics Program) for grades 6-8.

■ Shrewsbury Funding for Text Books and Instructional Materials (Budget Lines 540180 and 540200)



Cost Break Down:

Purchase of Focus in Math for all K-5 Classrooms: \$500,000

Purchase of CMP3 for all 6-8 Classrooms: \$182,000

Funding for early adopter teachers to plan and deliver training during the 2014-15 school year: \$40,000

Total Cost: \$722,000

Pre-K-8 Curriculum and Instruction Positions

Why is the expenditure necessary?

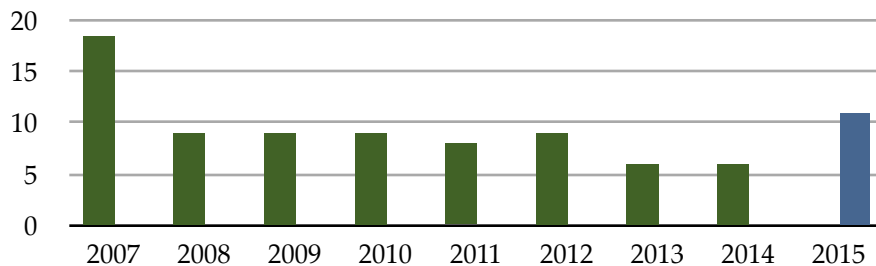
- Since 2007, Shrewsbury has seen a significant decline in the number of curriculum and instruction positions in the district. These positions were cut as cost savings measures. These cuts have come at a time when there have been increased demands on curriculum and instruction staff due to new state wide standards and assessments and the ever increasing need to integrate technology into instruction.
- We are projecting over 180 Pre-K to 8 classrooms in our district. All math curriculum coordination has been lost at the Pre-K to 8 levels. There is also no english language arts, science or social studies coordination for the approximately 100 elementary classrooms in the district and no coordination for Social Studies in grades 5-8. These types of curriculum support positions are standard in most districts of comparable size to Shrewsbury.
- The budget request is to restore the most basic needed positions to our curriculum and instruction staff, not to return to the levels the district had in place during better financial times.

How will the funds be spent?

This budget request would add back in three instructional coaching/curriculum positions at the elementary level in order to return to a basic level of curriculum coordination at the PreK- 4 level. This increase would enable each school to have one dedicated staff member that would focus on instruction and curriculum work at the building level. The FY15 budget requests 7 total curriculum and instruction staff at the elementary level. In 2007, there were 14.5 elementary staff members doing comparable work.

This budget requests also returns the middle level Math Curriculum Coordinator and the Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator positions that were eliminated due to budget cuts in 2013. These coordinators facilitate content area curriculum, instruction, assessment, supervision, and technology integration across our two middle school campuses, which serve several thousand students.

Pre-K to 8 Curriculum and Instruction Positions



Cost Breakdown:

3 Elementary Instructional Coach/Curriculum positions: \$240,000

2 Middle Level Curriculum Coordinators: \$184,000

Total Cost: \$424,000

Assessment Needs

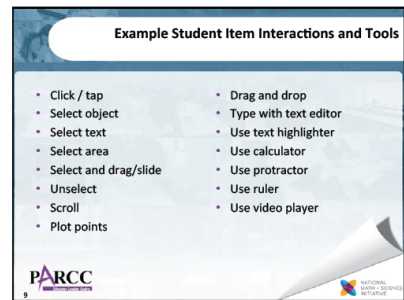
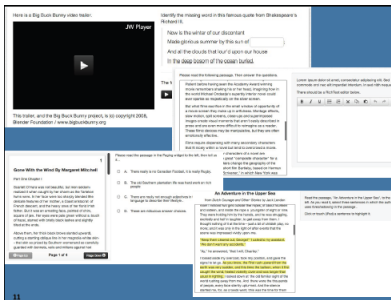
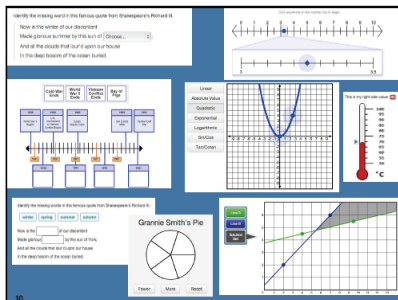
Why is the expenditure necessary?

- As part of the Educator Evaluation regulations, the district is required to develop at least two common assessments (*District Determined Measures*) for all educators in Shrewsbury. The results from the *District Determined Measures* become part of an educator’s evaluation in the form of a “Student Impact Rating”. Educators will also use the data obtained from these assessments to adjust and modify instruction when needed. Current regulations are that these measures must be implemented during the 2014-2015 school year.
- Training will be required for educators who will be developing the *District Determined Measures* and taking a leadership role in using this data to inform practice
- Massachusetts is in the process of moving from MCAS to a new generation of assessments (PARCC) designed to measure students’ proficiency with the new Common Core standards. The PARCC assessment, which is designed to be administered on-line, is built on the assumption that students have developed basic digital literacies and have had instructional experiences with technology. Shrewsbury is taking part in the multi-state pilot of this exam during the spring of 2014. The Shrewsbury school district can opt to have its students take this exam instead of MCAS in the spring of 2015, and the timeline in place suggests all students in Massachusetts will be taking this exam in the spring of 2016.

How will the funds be spent?

The development of *District Determined Measures* will require funding educator training and work time during the summer of 2014. A new software system will need to be purchased to manage the data generated by these assessments and to ensure that the data is used to impact student instruction.

Preparations for the PARCC assessment will impact the technology budget as it will require additional capacity in terms of data management, tech support, and updating hardware and wireless capacity.



Digital Literacies required for PARCC

Cost Breakdown:

- DDM development/data training costs: \$10,000
- Teacher summer curriculum work to create state mandated assessment tools: \$20,000
- Software system: \$27,000
- Total Cost: \$57,000**