

**Information Regarding Proposed
Biotechnology Charter School
*to be sited in Shrewsbury: September 2016***

Recommended Feedback to
Commissioner of the Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education
September 2015

Proposal Elements

- Proposed opening is September 2016
- Starts with grades 6 and 7 in 2016
- Adds a succeeding grade each subsequent year until 2022 when it reaches full enrollment at 936 students grades 6-12

Proposal Elements

- Academic focus on biotechnology (life sciences, technology, and engineering)
- Applicants are primarily from Connecticut
- No specific site in Shrewsbury is identified in prospectus; upon inquiry applicant indicated site of interest is former Edgemere Drive-In on Route 20

Reasons to Oppose

1. Redundancy of programming:

Would replicate academic and co-curricular programs currently available to Shrewsbury Public Schools students:

- Strong performance and multiple options for academic experiences in science, technology, mathematics & engineering (STEM)
- Opportunities for advanced academic programming and independent research
- State, regional, and national recognition for academics and co-curricular programming

Reasons to Oppose

2. Redundancy of public school options:

Would be very similar to multiple public school choices available to Shrewsbury families:

- Shrewsbury Public Schools
- Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School [Biotechnology Program]
- Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School
- Mass Academy at WPI

Reasons to Oppose

3. Negative financial impact :

Would divert significant state aid [Chapter 70] from S.P.S., adversely impacting our programs or requiring more local revenue to maintain our existing programs:

- Estimate of \$900K to \$1.8 million net funding diverted yearly, *including* state reimbursement

Projected Annual Fiscal Impact: FY17-FY23

With **10** Shrewsbury students
enrolled per grade:

School Year	Total Cost	Reimbursement Total	Projected Net Cost
2016-2017	\$ 273,455	\$ 273,455	\$ -
2017-2018	\$ 422,488	\$ 217,396	\$ 205,091
2018-2019	\$ 580,216	\$ 263,351	\$ 316,866
2019-2020	\$ 747,028	\$ 311,866	\$ 435,162
2020-2021	\$ 923,327	\$ 363,056	\$ 560,271
2021-2022	\$ 1,109,531	\$ 417,036	\$ 692,495
2022-2023	\$ 1,142,817	\$ 242,305	\$ 900,512

Projected Annual Fiscal Impact: FY17-FY23

With **20** Shrewsbury students
enrolled per grade:

School Year	Total Cost	Reimbursement Total	Projected Net Cost
2016-2017	\$ 546,909	\$ 546,909	\$ -
2017-2018	\$ 844,975	\$ 434,793	\$ 410,182
2018-2019	\$ 1,160,432	\$ 526,701	\$ 633,731
2019-2020	\$ 1,494,057	\$ 623,732	\$ 870,324
2020-2021	\$ 1,846,654	\$ 726,112	\$ 1,120,543
2021-2022	\$ 2,219,063	\$ 834,072	\$ 1,384,991
2022-2023	\$ 2,285,634	\$ 484,610	\$ 1,801,024

Reasons to Oppose

4. Questionable viability of proposal:

If proposal moves forward, several issues must be resolved, including location/building:

- Proposed potential location in Shrewsbury (Edgemere Drive-In) is unsuitable for school site to open within one year

Recommendation

- That the School Committee vote to send feedback opposing the Massachusetts Biotechnology Charter School to the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education for his consideration during the review period.