



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Amy Clouter

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

To: School Committee
From: Amy Clouter
Re: Student Opportunity Act plan
Date: June 15, 2020

Background

As you know, the Chapter 70 program is the major program of state funding aid to public elementary and secondary schools. Based on the formula, Shrewsbury's Chapter 70 funding has only increased by "minimum aid" over the last many years. This will be the case again next year – unless Chapter 70 funding is cut because of the state budget crisis. Currently, we are slated to receive an additional \$30 per student of "minimum aid," totaling \$186,210. To be clear, this is *not* a new source of funding that we otherwise would not have received, but rather a new state requirement that we indicate how we will spend the annual small increase in Chapter 70 funding we receive each year.

Because the new Student Opportunity Act state legislation is tied to Chapter 70, starting this year any increases in Chapter 70 funds must be aligned with certain requirements in the law, including state educational priorities and accountability measures. As such, every district now is required to submit a plan for how these funds will be expended. The purpose of this memo is to seek your approval of Shrewsbury's plan as presented on June 10, 2020.

Shrewsbury's Student Opportunity Act Plan

The plan you are asked to approve on June 17, 2020 shows that Shrewsbury's SOA funds will be expended on two state priorities that are also priorities for our district: expanding full-day kindergarten access and providing inclusive special education through co-teaching.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) advised districts to select high-impact, evidence-based programs that support student subgroups. Importantly, the Department clarified that it's acceptable to "adopt, deepen or continue" evidence-based programs already in use

Evidence-based programs: 17 examples of high-quality programs

Enhanced Core Instruction	Targeted Student Supports
1. Expanded access to full-day, high-quality pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds, including potential collaboration with other local providers*	6. Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs
2. Research-based early literacy programs in pre-kindergarten and early elementary grades*	7. Inclusion/co-teaching for students with disabilities and English learners
3. Early College programs focused primarily on students under-represented in higher education*	8. Acceleration Academies and/or summer learning to support skill development and accelerate advanced learners
4. Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum	9. Dropout prevention and recovery programs
5. Expanded access to career-technical education, including "After Dark" district-vocational partnerships and innovation pathways reflecting local labor market priorities	

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

As shown here, Shrewsbury's proposal meets DESE guidelines.

Community Feedback

Following last week's presentation I sent a follow up communication to SPS families. That document included a link to a survey designed to elicit thoughts, concerns and questions from the community. There was nothing in the feedback to contradict the plan as shared.

Shrewsbury remains committed to high expectations for all students. More to the point, the vision depicted in our *Portrait of a Graduate* speaks to the importance of preparing our students to meet the demands and expectations of the world they will enter by ensuring a strong start. I am confident that the programs we have identified will help us to meet both goals.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have about our Student Opportunity Act plan at this week's School Committee meeting on June 17th.