



Information Technology – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Overview

Kadion Phillips

Director of Information Technology

Key Areas of Budget Responsibility

- I. Providing computing hardware, software, and technical support to all staff members, students and family members
- II. Ensuring that the district's network and telecommunications systems are reliable and secure
- III. Providing audio-visual hardware and support to facilitate classroom instruction and school events
- IV. Supporting physical security systems such as keycards and surveillance cameras
- V. Providing data systems and ensuring their availability and security

Key Budget Investments for Fiscal Year 2027

No additional budget increase requested

Key investments in staffing and services over the year

The Technology department continues to look for cost savings to offset annual increases in subscription and hardware price increases.

Recommended New Investments

Key investments of \$216,000

- \$25K to upgrade to “Google Workspace for Education Standard” edition, as we currently use the free “Education Fundamentals” edition of Google Workspace. Upgrading to the Education Standard edition would provide additional tools for managing email and data security.
- \$25K to purchase updated USB-C keyboards for elementary school iPads. We currently have keyboards with a lightning connector and the new iPads are now using USB-C.
- \$13K for enhancements to keycard security
- \$33K for replacement of various audio amplification systems in public spaces (gyms, auditoriums) across the district. These systems are more than 20 years old and are starting to show signs of failure
- \$120K for classroom projector replacements at Floral Street & Sherwood Middle School due to manufacturer no longer making replacement bulbs

Efficiencies Through Use of Grant or Alternative Funds in Fiscal Year 2026

Grant or alternative funds used for Information Technology include:

- Received Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security's (EOTSS) Office to improve overall cybersecurity posture through

end-user training and simulated phishing campaigns.

- \$108K (50%) E-Rate reimbursement to the Town for Internet Access, Wide Area Network, Wi-Fi maintenance, and switch replacement costs
- \$130K in trade-ins of obsolete off-lease technology toward future lease payments
- \$38K in grants to replace the computers in the Project Lead the Way lab at Shrewsbury High School for Career Technical Education pathways programming
- \$35K in grants to add additional security cameras across the district in areas that were not covered

Other Examples of Efficiencies in Fiscal Year 2026

Other Examples of Efficiencies for Information Technology include:

- Hosted another unpaid intern from Quinsigamond Community College who came in 15 hours a week to help with Technology tasks and trying to get another one for this summer.
- Connected with the RISE program to bring in students who are interested in the Technology field and were looking for an internship to help with various tasks
- Using existing Level Data service to automate data tasks, including account creation
- Using existing Clever service to automate population of student data into various systems and provide for streamlined and secure login



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Kadion Phillips
Director of Information Technology

March 24, 2026

To: School Committee
Re: FY 2027 IT Budget Recommendation

The Technology Department interacts directly with every other department in the Shrewsbury Public Schools as we have moved to a connected world that requires increasing access to online tools and resources. The expectation of reliable use of technology in our daily operations requires constant support and training that is provided by a dedicated information technology team. The information technology team responds to technology needs in each building and helps with training staff on how to use technology tools. Our team is spread out across the district to provide help when needed by all stakeholders including staff, students, parents, or other outside agencies who may need access to our facilities.

The current information technology team consists of the following positions:

- Director – 1.0 FTE
- Project Manager - 1.0 FTE
- Administrative Assistant – 0.3 FTE
- Data Manager – 1.0 FTE
- Data Specialist – 1.0 FTE
- Network Manager – 2.0 FTE
- Tier 2 IT Support Specialist - 1.0 FTE
- Senior Audio/Visual (AV) Technician – 1.0 FTE
- IT Support Specialist – Audio/Visual (AV) – 1.0 FTE
- IT Support Specialists (Building-based tech support) – 9.0 FTE



The Technology operating budget consists primarily of recurring subscriptions, and hardware and software lines. Our district has been fortunate to make a number of large-scale investments in infrastructure and online resources. As with any infrastructure, ongoing investment is required to sustain reliability and utility. We will continue to need funding to replace aging technology in various areas of our infrastructure and end-user facing technology.

The ever expanding pace, complexity, and severity of cybersecurity threats, has necessitated increases to the IT budget request, for both personnel and services over the years. Reacting to these threats requires more frequent and timely responses than ever before. In addition to reacting to threats, we have necessarily become more proactive about taking time to vet the privacy and security of various technologies that staff use with their students. These investments are reaping rewards as our educators have become much more proficient with using technology for necessary daily activities. The technology team is also now more proactive in supporting and protecting our stakeholders by constantly monitoring and remediating cyber threats as they arise on a daily basis.

It is important to note that the “Recommend New Investments” sections of the budget summary that precedes this memo details items that will be needed but are not covered in the current recommended IT budget. While some of these items are capital expenses that may be included if any one-time funding that might become available, other items are recurring costs that would need to be added to our operating budget. Funding sources may be identified in the current fiscal year for some purchases, shifted from another cost within next year’s budget plan, or deferred beyond FY27.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information regarding our Information Technology budget needs. I look forward to answering any questions you have at your meeting on March 25th.