



**Shrewsbury Public Schools
Massachusetts 01545**

**Liam T. Hurley
Director of Business Services**

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To: School Committee

Subj: RECOMMENDATION FOR TUITION INCREASES FOR FULL DAY
KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL: FISCAL YEAR 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the district increase its tuition rates by for the Full Day Kindergarten and Preschool Program for the 2013-2014 school year.

Full Day Kindergarten

In FY13, we increased our number of full-day kindergarten classrooms located at the Beal (10), Coolidge (3), and Spring Street (2) Schools. In addition, we have 3 sections of half day kindergarten. For FY14, Dr. Sawyer will likely be recommending a similar level of Full Day Kindergarten classrooms depending upon the final outcome of the budget and the resulting classroom spaces available. The additional sections along with an increase in tuition will help us offset our operational budget. In FY13, approximately \$316,000 of costs for the kindergarten program that were previously funded by the appropriated budget were shifted to the kindergarten tuition account.

It is important to note that the tuition revenue is budgeted to offset 50% of the cost for teachers, aides, support staff, and a small proportion of some Central Office secretarial staff. In addition, revenue is used to pay for some supplies, and to reimburse the town for any health insurance premiums (town share).

This recommendation allows the program to continue to operate at a self supporting level while maintaining a competitive rate when compared to surrounding private schools, while absorbing inflationary pressures.

Below is a comparison rate table for area school districts with tuition-based full-day kindergarten programs.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools in partnership with the community, will provide students with the skills and knowledge for the 21st century, an appreciation of our democratic tradition, and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.

Full-Day Kindergarten Rate Comparison: 2013-2014

Town	Tuition Rate '13-'14
Hudson	\$3,600
Lilliput	\$7,407
Marlboro	\$2,700
Montessori	\$10,950
Nashoba	\$3,000
Northboro/Southboro	\$3,000
Shrewsbury* (Recommendation)	\$3,700
St. Mary's (Parish Member)	\$5,425
St. Mary's (Non-Member)	\$5,825
Wachusett	\$3,250
West Boylston	\$3,000
Westboro	\$3,400
Average	\$4,604

Average= \$4,604 (Shrewsbury would be \$904 below average)

Full Day Kindergarten Tuition Increase Recommendation

Increase the Full Day Kindergarten Fee to **\$3,700** (15.6%) for FY 14. The rate increased in FY13 from \$2,800 to \$3,200, however, the rate had not changed from the previous six years. The increased revenue along with the additional sections will help offset our budget during this challenging fiscal climate. This increase is comparable with similar districts and still well below competitors in Shrewsbury. Additionally, we provide a state-mandated sliding scale for families in need.

Preschool

Our Preschool program is housed in three locations, Parker Road Preschool at 15 Parker Road, 2 Wesleyan Terrace, and the Little Colonials Preschool at Shrewsbury High School.

The Parker Road Preschool offers 2-day morning, 3-day morning, 4-day morning, 5-day morning and 4-day afternoon preschool sessions. Morning sessions run 8:30-11:00 (arrival begins at 8:15) and afternoon sessions run 12:00-2:30 (arrival begins at 11:45). Preschool classrooms are mixed-age (3, 4, and 5 year olds) or pre-kindergarten age

students (4 and 5 year olds). Class size is typically 15 students with one certified teacher and 1.5 classroom assistants. Each class includes students with and without disabilities. Students with disabilities attend preschool according to special education regulations and their Individual Education Plan. The Parker Road Preschool also houses the intensive special needs programming. This programming is provided 4 or 5 full days per week for children with disabilities who require more specialized instruction than can be provided solely in the integrated sessions.

The Little Colonials Preschool is a component of the Child Development Program at Shrewsbury High School. The High School setting provides enrichment opportunities for the preschool children by offering an extended community of high school students and staff members. The Little Colonials Preschool offers a 3-day morning session from 8:15-10:45 and a 3-day afternoon session from 11:40 – 2:10. These times may change from year to year. Each classroom is mixed-age and includes 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Class size is typically 15 students with one certified teacher and 1 classroom assistant.

Preschool Tuition Comparisons

(NP: No Program offered, all tuitions are assumed 2012-2013)

District/Session	2 Day (1/2 days)	3 Day (1/2 days)	4 Day (1/2 days)	5 Day (1/2 days)
Shrewsbury Public	\$1650.00	\$2145.00	\$2585.00	\$3163.00
Hudson Public	\$1,295.00	\$1695.00	\$2,260.00	NP
Maynard Public	NP	NP	\$3750.00	NP
Nashoba Public	\$1365.00	\$2050.00	\$2625.00	\$6300.00 (FULL DAY)
Berlin-Boylston Public	\$1600.00	\$2260.00	NP	NP
Westborough Public	NP	\$2500.00	\$3500.00	NP
Northboro/Southboro Public	\$1,254.00	\$1980.00	\$2,508.00	\$2,904.00
Marlboro Public	\$1002.00	\$1602.00	\$3500.00	NP
Do Rey Me	\$2200.00	\$2560.00	\$3400.00	NP
Lilliput	\$2300.00	\$2900.00	\$3400.00	NP
St. Mary's	\$2125.00	\$2625.00	NP	\$4560.00
Montessori	NP	NP	NP	\$6280.00 \$10,760.00 (FULL DAY)
Hopkinton	NP	\$3200.00	NP	NP
Wachusett	\$1,095.00	\$1,470.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,560.00
Grafton	NP	NP	\$2,500.00	NP
Shrewsbury Children's Center	\$3,960.00 (7:30-1:00)	\$5,160.00 (7:30-1:00)	NP	\$7,884 (7:30-1:00)
Little Beginnings	\$3,500.00 (8:00-12:30)	\$4,850.00 (8:00-12:30)	\$6,200.00 (8:00-12:30)	\$6,75.00 (8:00-12:30)

Preschool Tuition Increase Recommendation

Increase the Preschool Tuition by 15% for FY 14. The rate increased in FY13 by 10%, however, the rate had not changed from the previous four years. The increased revenue along will help offset our budget during this challenging fiscal climate. This increase is comparable with similar districts and still below competitors in Shrewsbury. Additionally, we provide a state-mandated sliding scale for families in need.

The recommended tuition for FY14

Session	Annual fee	Monthly fee (9 Month Schedule)
2 day session	\$1,897.00/year	\$210.77/month
3 day session	\$2,466.00/year	\$274.00/month
4 day session	\$2,972.00/year	\$330.22/month
5 day session	\$3,637.00/year	\$404.11/month

The snack fee is currently .85 cents per day. An increase to \$1.00 per day is recommended to meet the actual cost of food services personnel and the snack and drinks provided.