



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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School Committee

## **Proposed Policy on Equity**

One of the Shrewsbury Public Schools core values is equity. The district's core values document states: "The school community strives to create opportunities for all students to achieve success. We provide all students with appropriate and rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction that recognizes differences in needs and learning styles. We advocate for the resources necessary to support successful teaching and learning and we use our resources responsibly for the maximum benefit of students."

A) In order to meet the district's aspiration for student equity, the school district shall work to ensure that all students have access to the district's academic programs, in accordance with all applicable federal and state law. Wherever possible, the school district shall monitor students' academic performance according to various student characteristics, and these results will be reported to the School Committee and considered by Committee members and administrators when determining district and school priorities through the creation of the annual district goals, annual school improvement plans, and other similar documents. By doing so, student groups whose performance is less than satisfactory may receive the attention and resources necessary for improvement. These characteristics will include, but not be limited to:

- 1) gender
- 2) race/ethnicity
- 3) socioeconomic status
- 4) English language proficiency
- 5) learning disability

B) The school district shall also endeavor to provide access to all cocurricular and extracurricular activities, e.g., performance groups, academic teams, athletic teams, extended school care, clubs, social events, school sponsored trips, etc., regardless of a student's ability to pay any associated costs. While it is not possible for the school district to erase the socioeconomic differences among students' families, wherever possible it shall provide assistance that allows students with legitimate financial need to participate in programs and activities. The more closely associated the program or activity is to the educational program, the greater the importance of providing student access.

C) In order to guide the district's approach to providing financial assistance and access, the Superintendent shall annually develop and distribute a set of guidelines to be used by school personnel to administer assistance. These guidelines will be in accordance with federal and state law where applicable (e.g., school lunch assistance). If assistance will be directly related to a fee imposed by the School Committee (e.g., transportation fee, athletic fee, etc.), the School

Committee shall vote on recommended eligibility criteria and levels or types of assistance associated with that program.

D) When determining approval of school sponsored travel or other program requests that come under the School Committee's authority, the Committee shall consider its affordability for students of limited means and use this as one criterion in the decision making process. Likewise, the Superintendent and other administrators shall consider affordability when approving programs and events that come under the scope of their authority.