

# Massachusetts School Building Authority

## Statement of Interest Form

The purpose of this Statement of Interest Form (the "Form") is to ascertain from cities, towns, and regional school districts whether they believe they have any deficiencies in their respective school facilities (1) that meet one or more of the statutory priorities set forth in M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8 **and** (2) for which they anticipate filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "Authority"). This Form is **NOT** intended to obtain information about any plans or designs of any construction or renovation project that a city, town or regional school district may be considering, and no such information should be included in or submitted with this Form.

The Authority anticipates a multi-phase approach to the planning and submission of applications for funding. A critical element of this initial phase is for the city, town or regional school district, through this Statement of Interest Form, to clearly and concisely identify what they believe are deficiencies in a school facility. After July 1, 2007, the new school building assistance program will require that the Authority and the city, town or regional school district agree first on the problem necessitating a solution and then on the solution to the problem. Receipt of funding from the Authority will require a collaborative effort throughout all stages of a project, beginning with the identification of deficiencies in school facilities.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8, the Authority shall consider applications for school construction and renovation projects in accordance with the priorities listed below:

- (1.) Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (2.) Elimination of existing severe overcrowding, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (3.) Prevention of loss of accreditation, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (4.) Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments, which must be substantiated, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (5.) Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in any schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (6.) Short term enrollment growth, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (7.) Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements, as determined in the judgment of the Authority; and
- (8.) Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts, as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

*This Form is **NOT** an application for funding. Submission of this Form in no way commits the Authority to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation or requirement upon the Authority.*

The application will be a separate document(s) that must be completed and submitted to the Authority for consideration for a grant pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B and the Authority's regulations and policies. The Authority will not consider any project for funding without a properly filed application. The Authority will not accept any applications for funding until after July 1, 2007, or such later date as may be determined by the Authority.

Submission of this Form does not commit a city, town or regional school district to filing an application for funding with the Authority.

## **Instructions for submission of this Statement of Interest Form:**

This Form must be completed by a city, town or regional school district and submitted to the Authority **BEFORE** filing an application with the Authority pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B and the Authority's regulations and policies. This Form will be a prerequisite for presenting an application to the Authority.

The Authority expects that this Form can be completed at no cost to the city, town or regional school district. The Authority will **NOT** reimburse for any expenses that may be incurred in connection with the completion of this Form.

A separate Statement of Interest Form should be submitted for each school for which the city, town or regional school district may have an interest in applying to the Authority for funding. Please identify the priority category(s) for which you are expressing interest, provide a brief description of any deficiencies, and provide any readily available supporting documentation. More than one priority may be checked off for each school.

In the case of a city, **majority votes** of both (1) the City Council/Board of Aldermen **AND** (2) the School Committee, authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, taken in accordance with the local charter, by-laws, or ordinances, are required. In the case of a town, **majority votes** of both (1) the Board of Selectmen or the equivalent governing body **AND** (2) the School Committee, authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, taken in accordance with the local charter, by-laws, and ordinances, are required. If the school district is a regional school district, a vote of the Regional School Committee authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority is required. A form of each vote required is set forth on page 12 of this Form. Proper documentation of each vote must be submitted with this Form, as described on page 12.

Additionally, this Form must be **signed and certified** by (1) the Local Chief Executive Officer\*, (2) the Chairperson of the School Committee, and (3) the Superintendent. Certification information can be found on page 13 of this Form.

\* Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, § 7 and c. 31A, § 2, Local Chief Executive Officer means: in a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of that municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and towns, the board of selectmen, unless the town has designated some other office. Regional School Districts are exempt from the Local Chief Executive Officer signature and certification requirement.

**Please do NOT submit applications, design documents, plans, schematics, or drawings with this Form. This Form is NOT an application for funding. The Authority will not accept any applications or design documents, plans, schematics, or drawings prior to July 1, 2007 or such later date as may be determined by the Authority.**

**Please note that, in some cases, the Authority may need to clarify the contents of this Form with the city, town or regional school district. The Authority reserves the right to request and obtain additional, follow-up information from the city, town or regional school district.**

This Form, as signed and certified, along with the local vote described herein, must be returned to:

**Massachusetts School Building Authority  
3 Center Plaza  
Suite 430  
Boston, MA 02108**

School District: Shrewsbury Public Schools  
 Name of School: Sherwood Middle School

District Contact: Anthony J. Bent, Ed.D.  
 Date: September 30, 2006

## Enrollment Projections

Please provide the following enrollment information for EACH school building within a district if this Statement of Interest Form is intended to describe conditions associated with Priority 2 (existing severe overcrowding), Priority 4 (future overcrowding) or Priority 6 (short term enrollment growth).

### Existing Enrollment (FTE)

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2006						462	493						

### Projected Enrollments (FTE)

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2007						529	473						
2008						492	530						
2009						494	493						
2010						504	494						
2011						507	504						
2012						533	508						
2013						486	534						
2014						520	486						
2015													
2016													

## Priority 1

- Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.***

Please provide a detailed description of the perceived health and safety problems below. Attach copies of orders or citations from state and/or local building and/or health officials.

1. **Department of Public Health Findings (see enclosed report):** The Department of Public Health (DPH) conducted an investigation of the school in January 2006 based upon a parent complaint about air quality. DPH indicated both short-term and long-term problems with the facility. The school district and town have addressed all short-term concerns via corrective maintenance including a significant investment in replacement floor tile. However, long-term concerns related to air quality and moisture can only be rectified with a major investment into the facility.
2. **Inadequate plumbing/bathroom facilities:** School was constructed in 1964 with a design capacity and core facilities for 700 students. In 1995, ten portable classrooms were added to meet the demands of the increasing enrollment. However, no bathrooms were added to this wing. The school currently houses grades 5 and 6 with a total enrollment of 955. From a programmatic standpoint bathroom facilities are severely deficient with only two student bathrooms for each gender (four bathrooms total). As stated earlier there are no toilet facilities in the portable classroom wing and it is approximately a 450 foot walk to the nearest bathroom for these students. Today's code calls for toilet facilities to be no more than 300 feet away.
3. **Inadequate cafeteria facilities:** Due to the inadequate café and kitchen space for the enrollment, the school operates four lunch periods of approximately 240 students each. The first lunch begins at 10:25am- far too early for students in this age group to maintain a normal dietary schedule. (The schedule is: Lunch 1) 10:25- 10:50, Lunch 2) 10:55-11:20, Lunch 3) 11:25-11:50, Lunch 4) 11:50-12:15. Many students end up not eating a full lunch and getting hungry at midday. Not only is this unhealthy it is clear from the research that hungry students cannot focus on learning.
4. **Congested traffic flow due to inadequate road access/egress and parking:** Each day approximately 300 "parent drop off" cars enter a single entrance for the Oak/Sherwood campus to drop off students. In addition, approximately 250 "staff/faculty" cars enter the same entrance. At the same time 45 school buses pass through the shared parking lot to drop off students at both the Oak Middle School and Sherwood Middle School. (See enclosed traffic flow map.) A second and separate access/egress road is needed for the Sherwood campus-possibly connecting to Crescent Street. This will serve the purpose of further separating bus and car traffic, relieve some congestion, and ultimately reduce the risk of accidents.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

**1. Department of Public Health Findings (see enclosed report):** “Quick-fix” and corrective maintenance items noted in the report have been addressed. For example,

- ▶ Univents have been cleared of furniture and materials
- ▶ Wall mounted exhaust vents have been cleared of obstructing furniture
- ▶ The kiln vent has been moved further away from a classroom window
- ▶ Several exhaust fans have been repaired
- ▶ Hallway floor tile has been replaced

**2. Inadequate plumbing/bathroom facilities:**

Nothing can be done with regard to this issue without a major capital investment.

**3. Inadequate cafeteria facilities:**

Nothing can be done with regard to this issue without a major capital investment.

**4. Congested traffic flow due to inadequate road access/egress and parking:** In conjunction with the Police Dept. and school bus contractor, several different traffic flow patterns have been tested. While we have devised an agreed-upon “best system” it is still very busy each day. It is heavily supervised by staff including the building principals directing traffic each day to insure safety.

---

---

## Priority 2

*Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.*

Please describe the existing conditions that constitute severe overcrowding.

Sherwood Middle School has a design capacity for 700 students and was constructed in 1964 when space and program needs were less than today's standards. It currently is home to 955 grade 5 and 6 students. Mathematically, it is 36% over capacity. Its core facilities are severely deficient in terms of both space allocation and condition.

In addition to the enrollment growth, the staff has grown dramatically as well. As a result, the staff has no dedicated work space, no room to meet with parents, and no space to plan and coordinate curricular activities. With each classroom used almost 100% of the time, this prevents teachers from being able to work in the classrooms during preparation time. The growth of staff and students is felt acutely in the delivery of special education services. With 15% of the student population (approximately 140 students) on Individual Educational Plans, dedicated space is a necessity to service these students well. With classroom spaces occupied special education services are often delivered in hallways, the cafeteria, or the lobby. Dedicated and specialized spaces are needed to provide one-on-one and small group services. Sherwood Middle School was just labeled a school "needing improvement" by the Department of Education for failing to meet Adequate Yearly Progress for the subgroup of special needs students. The lack of appropriate educational spaces has contributed to this deficiency.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

In the last decade Shrewsbury has constructed two new schools (Floral St. Elementary School, Shrewsbury High School), conducted a full renovation of the Oak Middle School, and constructed an addition to the Parker Road Preschool added 23 modular classrooms across four other schools and leased two classrooms for its kindergarten program. Furthermore, a major grade reconfiguration was recently completed that reduced Sherwood Middle School's grade levels from 6,7, and 8 to only housing grades 5 and 6.

Name of School Sherwood Middle School

---

---

**Priority 3**

*Prevention of the loss of accreditation.*

Please provide a detailed description of the *facility-related* issues that are threatening accreditation.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

Name of School Sherwood Middle School

---

---

**Priority 4**

*Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.*

Please describe the conditions within the community and School District that are expected to result in increased enrollment.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

## Priority 5

- Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse.***

Please provide a detailed description of the energy conservation measures that are needed and include an estimation of resultant energy savings as compared to the historic consumption.

1. **Replace windows and shades:** The school has the original single-pane windows with aluminum casings installed in main building in 1964. Industry standards and Department of Energy reports indicate that replacement of single-pane windows with double-pane systems can save a significant percentage of heating expenses. Many of the existing window shades also do not operate properly and as a result allow more sunlight and heat than necessary during the hot months resulting in excess solar heat gain. The single pane system creates condensation build-up that has further deteriorated the building envelope by eroding the plaster/mortar around the windows. (See DPH report pictures 8,9,10,11)
2. **Replace Heating and Ventilation System:** The boiler is original equipment and in poor condition. It is not efficient and is very difficult and costly to repair. The U.S. Department of Energy indicates that *“replacement of inefficient boilers, lighting, and other systems—can save up to 30% annually”*. As noted in the DPH report unit ventilators are original equipment, inefficient, and difficult to repair as well. Updating the HVAC system will also improve air quality and allow us to meet today’s fresh air standards.
3. **Re-Point the Brick Exterior:** The building loses significant heat and allows moisture to enter because of the old and porous brick mortar.

Please describe the measures the School District has already taken to reduce energy consumption.

The district continues to conserve energy via control of the temperature during heating months and only operating the HVAC system when the school is occupied.

The M.S.B.A. Needs Assessment survey categorized Sherwood Middle School as a “3” indicating that the *“building is approaching poor condition and some building systems may need attention”*. Certainly, the HVAC system and building envelope have reached the poor condition status and complete replacement is the needed and cost effective remedy.

---

---

**Priority 6**

*Short term enrollment growth.*

Please describe the conditions within the community and School District that are expected to result in increased enrollment and describe why these conditions are only expected to exist in the short term.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

---

---

## Priority 7

- Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.*

Please provide a detailed description of the programs not currently available due to facility constraints, the state or local requirement for such programs and the facility limitations precluding the programs from being offered.

Sherwood Middle School is grossly undersized given the current and projected school enrollment. The main building is 85,000 s.f. and the addition of 10 portable classrooms added another 11,000 s.f. With current enrollment at 955 and expected to grow to 1,041, more space is required to adequately deliver academic and allied arts programs to a diverse student population. Draft M.S.B.A regulations indicate secondary school buildings of this size ought to have 160 s.f. per student. Clearly, this facility falls short of that figure by 63,000 s.f. Noted below are some examples of how we are failing to adequately provide programs.

- 1. Instructional Technology**- this school has two dedicated computer labs and some computers located in the media center for research purposes. These programs were interrupted three times just last week as a result of power losses due to insufficient load capacity and distribution systems in the building. Providing sufficient electrical capacity throughout the building was noted as a significant deficiency in the M.S.B.A. Needs Assessment Survey.
- 2. Science**- The Massachusetts Department of Education (D.O.E.) has a clearly articulated Curriculum Frameworks in Science and Technology. It is vital, according to the D.O.E., for middle school students to: “formalize their understanding of what an experiment requires by controlling variables to ensure a fair test. Their work becomes more quantitative, and they learn the importance of carrying out several measurements to minimize sources of error. Because students at this level use a greater range of tools and equipment, they must learn safe laboratory practices.” Sherwood Middle School faces an enormous challenge to meet the state criteria in Science with an outdated facility, insufficient science classrooms, and a lack of water to the science rooms.
- 3. English Language Learners**- in Shrewsbury approximately 20% of our student population speaks English as their second language. In a school of 955 that amounts to approximately 190 students- many of whom we are required to provide English Language learner services. However, we have no educational spaces for these services and use a converted storage closet in the basement. NCLB requirements mandate specific levels of service and student performance.
- 4. Library/Media**- the space is undersized for its population and when built did not incorporate the use of computer technology. The small space is now shared by the collection and some computer research tools but both are insufficient for the population. The Massachusetts School Library Association standard for secondary printed collections is 20 books per student. Sherwood Middle has maximized the space and shelves approximately 11,000 volumes, a shortfall of 9,000 books. More space is needed to meet the standard of 20,000 books.

- 5. Music/Drama** – there is only one music practice room and no performance space. The stage was converted to office use many years ago. Music and performing arts are practiced in classrooms which is disruptive to our academic program.
- 6. Nurse’s Station-** With regard to nursing services MGL Ch:71 Sec. 53 stipulates that each district shall provide “proper facilities for the performance of their duties”. Clearly, our nurse’s station is inadequate for the student population. In 2005-2006 the nurse’s station saw 6,467 medical visits for an average daily load of 36. Again, it was originally built in 1964 for 700 students and is now inadequate and obsolete for the 955 adolescents who go there each day. Lack of privacy and space are significant deficiencies. There is only room for 3 couches separated by curtain and this is not adequate given the complex nature of today’s nursing services (diabetics, special need students, clearing tracheotomy tubes etc....)
- 7. MCAS Administration:** The D.O.E. provides very clear requirements for the storage, handling, and administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Sherwood Middle School lacks the storage space to adequately handle and safeguard thousands of test items shipped each spring to the school. Additionally, significant scheduling and space utilization arrangements are made each spring that are disruptive to the program and staff but necessary to provide alternative test environments for students with special needs.

Please describe the measures the School District has taken to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

The district continues to make minor modifications to the interior when possible to accommodate programs. For example, two summers ago the former wood and metal shops were gutted and reconfigured to house allied arts classrooms. Also, many years ago the stage area was converted to use as office areas. However, only a major renovation/replacement investment can remedy the deficiencies noted above.

Name of School Sherwood Middle School

---

---

**Priority 8**

- Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.*

Please provide a copy of the court-ordered and board of education approved racial balance school districts plan.

Please provide a copy of the redistricting plan.

## AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

In the case of a city, **majority votes** of both (1) the City Council/Board of Aldermen **AND** (2) the School Committee, authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, taken in accordance with the local charter, by-laws, or ordinances, are required. In the case of a town, **majority votes** of both (1) the Board of Selectmen or the equivalent governing body\* **AND** (2) the School Committee, authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, taken in accordance with the local charter, by-laws, and ordinances, are required. If the school district is a regional school district, a vote of the Regional School Committee authorizing the Superintendent to submit this Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority is required.

\*A Town Meeting vote is not required to authorize the Superintendent to submit this Form.

Documentation of each vote must be submitted as follows: For the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body, a copy of the text of the vote with a certification of the City/Town Clerk that the vote was duly recorded and the date of the vote. For the vote of the School Committee, Minutes of the School Committee meeting at which the vote was taken, signed by the Committee Chairperson.

**Form of Vote** required from both City Council/Board of Aldermen, Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body **AND** the School Committee. If a regional school district, a vote of the Regional School Committee is required.

Resolved: Having convened in an open meetings on September 20, 2006, and September 25, 2006, respectively, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen of Shrewsbury, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated September 30, 2006 for the Sherwood Middle School located at 30 Sherwood Avenue which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the

Priority 1) Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists

- ▶ Department of Public Health findings
- ▶ Inadequate plumbing/bathroom facilities
- ▶ Inadequate cafeteria facilities
- ▶ Congested traffic flow due to inadequate road access/egress and parking

Priority 2) Elimination of severe overcrowding

- ▶ 955 students are housed in a school building constructed in 1964 for 700 students

Priority 5) Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a schoolhouse

- ▶ Replacement of single pane windows and shades
- ▶ Replacement of heating and ventilation system
- ▶ Re-point brick exterior

\* All above items were recommended by D.P.H. also for health-related reasons.

Priority 7) Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements

- ▶ A space shortfall of 63,000 s.f. does not allow for adequate delivery of curriculum or support functions for instructional technology, science, English Language Learners, library/media, music/drama, nursing services, MCAS administration

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

---

---

## CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this Statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

**LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

(E.g., Mayor, Town Manager, Board of Selectmen)

SCOTT I. LEBLANC  
(print name)

By [Signature]  
(signature)

Date OCT 5, 2006

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

Anthony J. Bent  
(print name)

By [Signature]  
(signature)

Date OCT 3, 2006

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Mark T. Murray  
(print name)

By [Signature]  
(signature)

Date OCT 4, 2006