

# Shrewsbury Public Schools



**State of the District  
January 6, 2016**

# State of the District

- Our students are thriving
- Our educators are succeeding
- Our school facilities are strong – however...
- Our district is experiencing demands, mandates, and pressures that must be addressed despite fiscal constraints

# Our students are thriving

- Our schools provide excellent educational experiences
  - ✓ SPS students excel on measures of academic performance
  - ✓ Expert instruction and engaged learners
  - ✓ Innovative use of technology
  - ✓ Wide variety of academic opportunities
  - ✓ Successful co-curricular programs

# Our students are thriving

- Our school cultures are respectful and purposeful
  - ✓ Thousands of hours of community service
  - ✓ Student voices are valued
  - ✓ Student leadership is promoted

# Our educators are succeeding

- High quality educators
  - ✓ Rigorous hiring process
  - ✓ Supervision and evaluation focused on professional growth, while exercising accountability when necessary
  - ✓ Culture of professionalism

# Our educators are succeeding

- Professional collaboration
  - ✓ Examining assessment data
  - ✓ Ambitious goals for students
  - ✓ Sharing best practices
  - ✓ Teamwork is the norm

# Our educators are succeeding

- Innovative practice with and without technology
  - ✓ Real time assessment
  - ✓ Personalized learning
  - ✓ Multiple pathways to understanding
  - ✓ Evolving approaches that reflect a commitment to continuous improvement and a “growth mindset”

# Our school facilities are strong – however...

- Infrastructure is strong overall, with some key needs
  - ✓ Schools built since 1997 are among the finest in the state
  - ✓ Coolidge, Paton, & Spring Street Schools will require significant work in the coming years (e.g., heating system replacement)
  - ✓ Beal Early Childhood Center is near the end of its useful life (built in 1922)

# Our school facilities are strong – however...

- There are space needs that need to be addressed
  - ✓ Enrollment bubble entering SHS next year will stress capacity, but can be absorbed
  - ✓ Inadequate space for Floral Street population, continuing to use Beal as overflow for Grade 1
  - ✓ Continuing to rent additional preschool space on Wesleyan Terrace

# Our school facilities are strong – however...

- There are space needs that need to be addressed
  - ✓ In-district special education, English language learner programs require space
  - ✓ Lack of space for special subjects in some schools (e.g., “art on a cart”)
  - ✓ Not enough classrooms to provide enough full day kindergarten sections to meet demand
  - ✓ Paton has one multipurpose space which constricts schedules and opportunities

# **Demands, mandates & pressures**

- This is both an exciting and demanding time for public education
  - ✓ More access to information, best practices and powerful educational tools
  - ✓ Accountability to educate all students to high standards
  - ✓ State mandates regarding curriculum standards, assessments, English language learner education, educator evaluation, educator training, etc.

# **Demands, mandates & pressures**

- This is both an exciting and demanding time for public education
  - ✓ Rising number of students requiring intensive programming (developmental and medical)
  - ✓ Mental and behavioral health challenges
  - ✓ Societal problems, including addiction

# Fiscal environment

- Public school districts, including Shrewsbury, operate in a fiscal environment that is constrained
  - ✓ Many costs are unavoidable (mandates)
  - ✓ New policies create costs (e.g., virtual schools, recovery high schools)
  - ✓ Public education is personnel intensive and operates in a highly regulated sector
  - ✓ Enormous pressures on state and local government relative to cost drivers (healthcare, pensions, special education)

# Fiscal environment

- Public school districts, including Shrewsbury, operate in a fiscal environment that is constrained
  - ✓ Revenue is disconnected from results
  - ✓ State education finance formula is outdated, but even if updated Shrewsbury is unlikely to benefit due to the town's financial status relative other communities
  - ✓ Local government's financial capacity is limited

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