



To our Colonial Fund community,

As we begin to plan for reopening schools in the fall, we find ourselves with a staggering financial gap between the resources our students need and the fiscal reality of our school budget. **The significant loss of state and local revenue resulting from the COVID 19 shutdown, combined with new costs we must now anticipate, has created a multi-million-dollar budget gap for the next school year.**

Prior to the pandemic, our school budget for 2020-2021 was already stretched incredibly thin. In March, district leaders announced \$1.7M in cuts that eliminated teachers and staff and significantly lowered funding for curriculum materials, school supplies and technology. Now we must make additional cuts that will result in more reductions to staff and programming. *Our budget situation is dire.* While we are all hopeful that there will be additional stimulus money for public education, any dollars we receive will likely be insufficient with regard to next year's budget crisis.

Our district is now confronted with incredibly difficult choices about how to spend significantly fewer budget dollars in the face of greater need. **You can help alleviate some of this burden by making a gift to the Colonial Fund. Every dollar we raise will go towards the greatest needs in our district, both current and future, and help preserve the quality of education we have all come to expect in Shrewsbury.**

Click [here](#) for information about how to make your gift to the Colonial Fund or scan the QR code at the right. Every gift – regardless of size – will go towards protecting the high caliber of K-12 education in Shrewsbury.



Thanks to your generosity and support, the Colonial Fund has been invaluable to our schools over the past six years, sponsoring innovative projects and programs that were too costly to offer without sacrificing existing curriculum or staff. Today, the Colonial Fund is more important than ever, as **we face a multi-million-dollar budget deficit** that will challenge how we educate and captivate our students in the coming year.

For more specific information about the financial crisis facing our district, view the [May 27th presentations](#) to the School Committee or this brief 5 minute [video](#) from our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joe Sawyer.

With gratitude and appreciation for your ongoing support,

Michelle Biscotti & Kathleen Keohane
Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Activities