



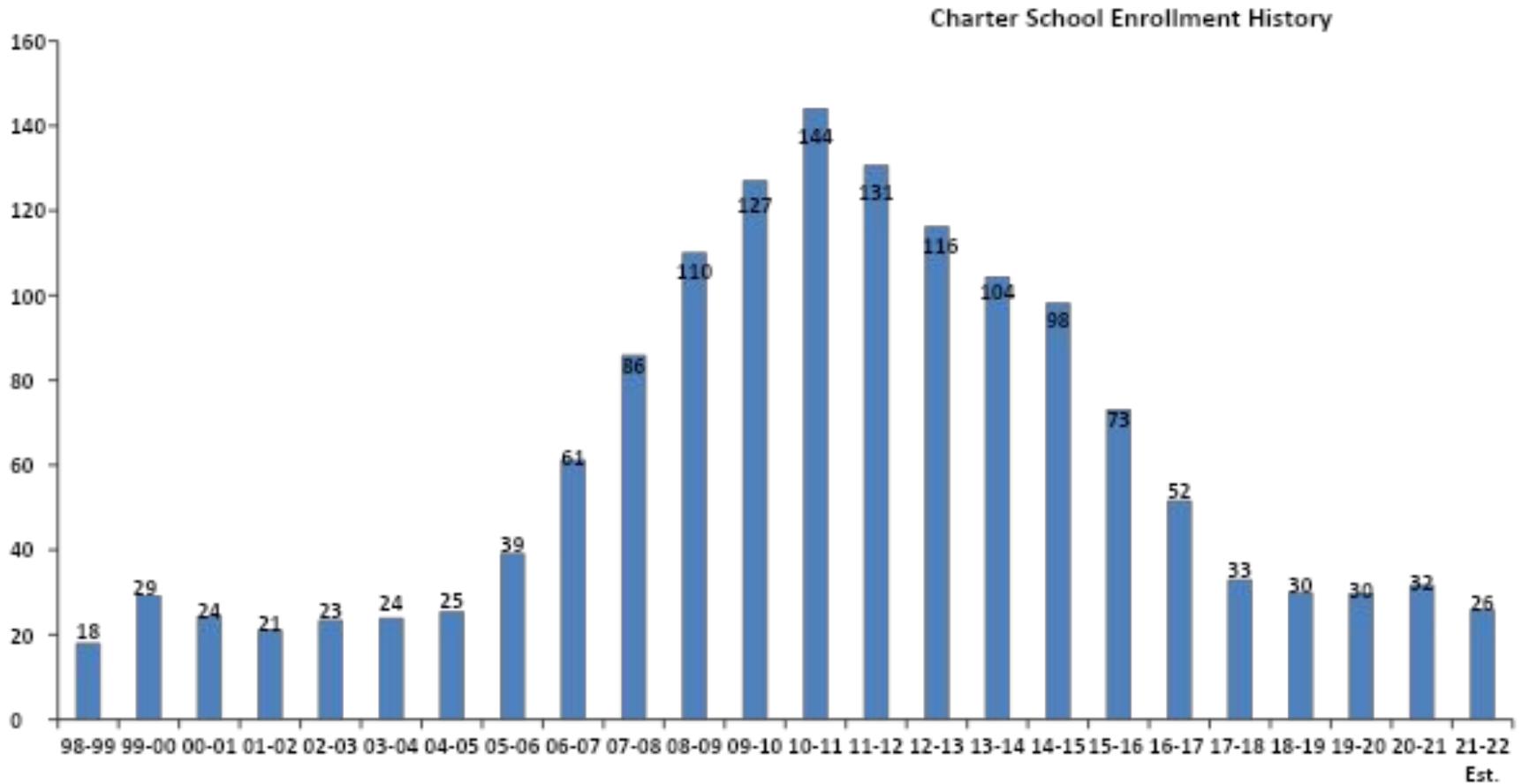
# School Choice, Charter School Enrollment, and Homeschool Students

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16 March, 2022

# Topics

- Enrollment and finances related to:
  - Charter Schools
  - Homeschool Students
  - School Choice
    - Virtual Schools
- School Choice Hearing for 2022-2023 school year
- School Choice Vote for 2022-2023 school year

# Charter School Enrollment History: Shrewsbury Resident School-Age Children



# Charter School Enrollment by School 2021-2022 [as of Dec. 2021]

- Enrollment of the 26 students by school:
  - Advanced Math & Science Academy [Marlboro]
    - 23 students
  - Abby Kelley Foster Charter School [Worcester]
    - 2 students
  - Learning First Charter School [Worcester]  
(formerly Seven Hills Charter School)
    - 1 student

# Tuition, Aid, & Net Cost History

- ▶ Annual average tuition rate is \$15,121 per student for FY22.
- ▶ The fundamental objection to the funding scheme is that when a student attends a charter school, the average cost in dollars is diverted to that school. Yet the marginal cost for us to educate is close to \$0 because most of the costs to educate are fixed costs.
- ▶ Returning all the charter students would decrease costs to the town by \$369K in as students would be “absorbed” into the district across all grade levels.

SHREWSBURY	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22*
FTE	104.36	98.19	73.17	52.00	33.77	30.24	29.81	31.84	26.00
Tuition	\$ 1,142,099	\$ 1,221,904	\$ 923,221	\$ 693,667	\$ 447,475	\$ 421,564	\$ 460,898	\$ 457,622	\$ 393,135
Facilities Aid	\$ 90,037	\$ 85,270	\$ 63,281	\$ 45,963	\$ 29,507	\$ 25,957	\$ 27,950	\$ 29,061	\$ 24,381
Transition & Other Aid	\$ 38,663	\$ 81,365	\$ (71)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,999	\$ 6,722	\$ (7)
Total Aid	\$ 128,700	\$ 166,635	\$ 63,210	\$ 45,963	\$ 29,507	\$ 25,957	\$ 58,949	\$ 35,783	\$ 24,374
Net Cost to District	\$ 1,013,399	\$ 1,055,269	\$ 860,011	\$ 647,704	\$ 417,968	\$ 395,607	\$ 401,949	\$ 421,839	\$ 368,761

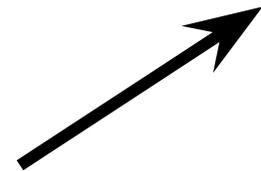
# Preliminary FY18 Charter School Tuition & Reimbursements

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Office of District and School Finance

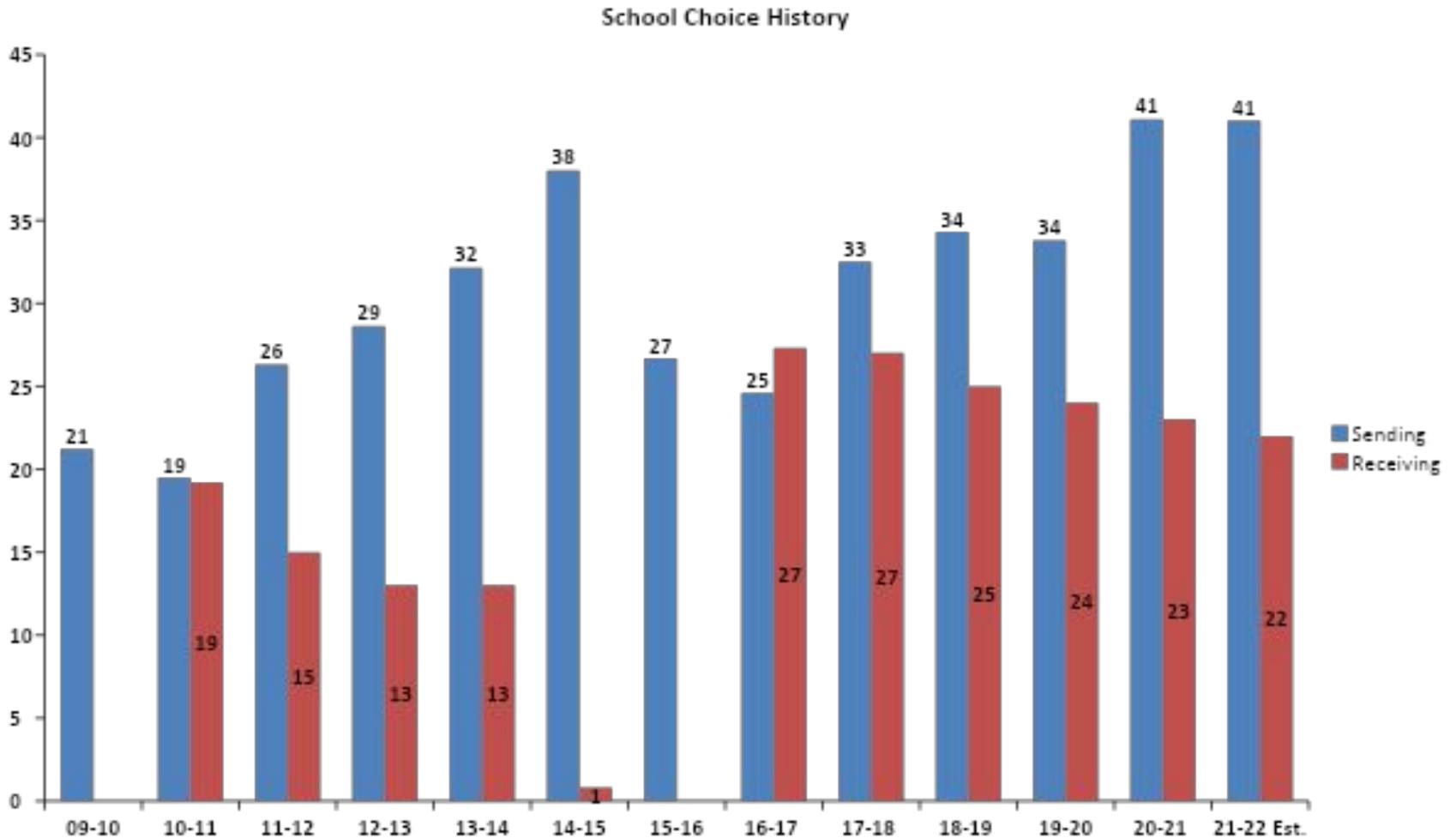
Preliminary FY22 Charter School Tuition Payments and Reimbursements for Sending Districts (Q2)

LEA	DISTRICT	FTE	DISTRICT PAYMENT				STATE REIMB TO DISTRICT			NET DISTRICT COST	STATE REIMBURSEMENT SUMMARY			STATE REIMB AT FULL FUNDING
			LOCAL FOUNDATION TUITION	LOCAL TRANSPORTATION TUITION	LOCAL FACILITIES TUITION	LOCAL PAYMENT	FACILITIES REIMB	100/60/40 TRANSITION REIMB	TOTAL CHARTER REIMB		FACILITIES REIMB	100/60/40 TRANSITION REIMB	TOTAL STATE REIMB	
271	SHREWSBURY	26.0	368,754	0	24,381	393,135	24,381	(7)	24,374	368,761	24,381	(7)	24,374	39,310



The state did not fully fund Charter School Reimbursement account. We would be getting another \$15K in reimbursement if it were fully funded.

# School Choice History: Enrollment



# 2021-2022 School Choice: Sending Students by Grade Level

On the following slides is a headcount of all the students attending a School Choice placement in another district.

The decision to attend another School Choice receiving district is sometimes related to parental employment situations, size of school, access to full-day kindergarten (in the past), ability to begin kindergarten or grade one at an earlier age, or other issues not related to comparative quality of S.P.S. versus other school districts.

# FY22 School Choice Sending Students: Grade Levels

FDK	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
0	2	0	0	2	6	5	3	6	4	1	5	7	41
						K-4	4						
						5-6	11						
						7-8	9						
						9-12	17						
							41						

**Note:** This is the first year in many that we have 0 students attending full-day kindergarten via the School Choice Program.

Shrewsbury began offering free, full-day kindergarten to all students starting this year.

# School Choice Sending ['21-22]: Destination Districts

Receiving District	Grade
Auburn	09
Berlin-Boylston	07
Berlin-Boylston	09
Grafton	11
Milford	11
Uxbridge	08
Uxbridge	11
Uxbridge	12
Webster	06
West Boylston	12
West Boylston	05
Worcester	04
Worcester	08
Worcester	10
Worcester	12
Worcester	12
Worcester	12

Receiving District	Grade
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	01
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	01
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	04
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	05
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	05
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	05
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	05
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	05
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	06
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	06
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	06
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	06
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	06
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	07
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	07
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	08
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	08
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	08
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	08
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	09
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	09
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	11
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	11
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	12
TEC Connections Academy Comm. Virtual School	12

# School Choice 10-year History: FTE & Tuition [Sending & Receiving]

FY	Receiving		Sending	
	FTE Pupils	Tuition	FTE Pupils	Tuition
2012	15.0	\$ 79,568	26.3	\$ 149,193
2013	13.0	\$ 69,167	28.6	\$ 144,191
2014	13.0	\$ 68,725	32.1	\$ 185,881
2015	0.8	\$ 4,989	38.0	\$ 220,220
2016	0.0	\$ -	26.7	\$ 162,855
2017	27.3	\$ 139,913	24.6	\$ 139,287
2018	27.0	\$ 145,604	32.5	\$ 230,088
2019	25.0	\$ 141,547	34.3	\$ 243,040
2020	24.0	\$ 131,092	33.8	\$ 247,941
2021	23.0	\$ 119,226	41.1	\$ 295,750

- Tuition is \$5,000 per student per year and pro-rated by month if not enrolled for full-year.
- A cost “increment” is applied for special education students depending upon services provided.

# Virtual School Enrollment

- A subset of School Choice Program
  - Currently have 24 students enrolled at the The Education Cooperative Connections Academy [TECCA]
- Tuition for Virtual School is \$8,863 per student.

# Students in School Choice: Attending a State Virtual School

	<i>School Year</i>				
	<b>17-18</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>Headcount Enrollment</b>	17	14	16	22	24

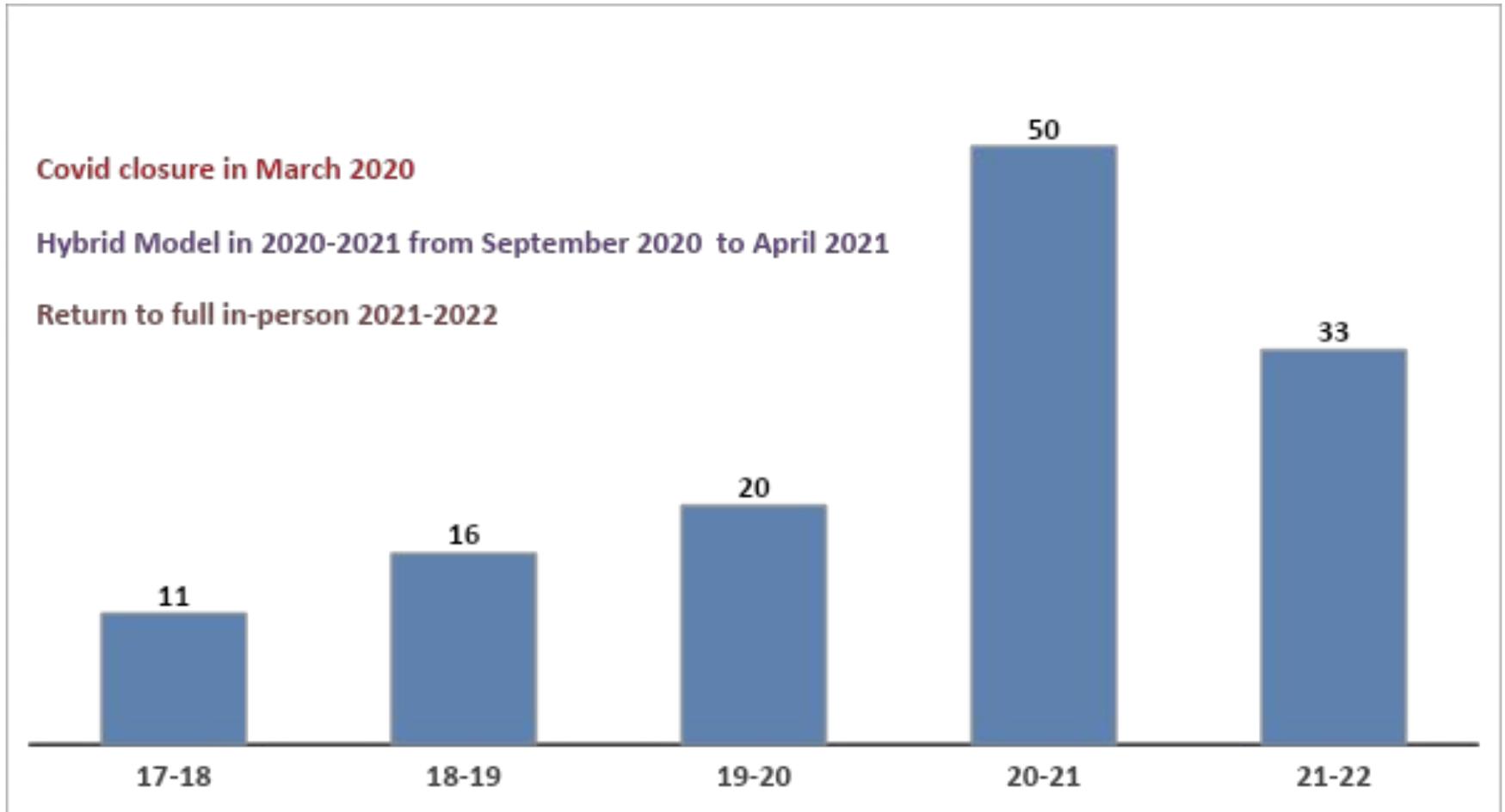
# School Choice Receiving 2021-2022

- Worcester= 17
- Wachusett= 1
- Boylston= 2
- Grafton= 1
- Millbury= 1
- Total= 22

Grade 7	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Totals
7	4	2	9	22

Expected School Choice revenue is \$114,226. It's \$5,000 per student plus \$4,226 additional funding for two students with Individual Education Plans.

# Homeschool Students



# Summary Notes

- Charter School enrollment has **declined** which is a significant net benefit to Town of Shrewsbury/School Dept. finances.
  - State is currently not fulfilling its reimbursement commitment.
- School Choice sending enrollment **increased** for '21-'22.
  - Virtual School enrollment has increased since Covid-19 onset.

# Summary Notes

- School committee, by law, must vote each year to accept or not accept School Choice students into S.P.S.
  - The recommendation for 2022-2023 is to NOT open any new seats for School Choice students due to space limitations at upper grade levels.
  - Once students are enrolled at any grade they have a right to stay through Grade 12.

# School Choice Hearing & Vote

- The School Committee is required to hold an annual School Choice Hearing [scheduled for tonight] and vote on whether or not they wish to accept any School Choice students from other communities for the upcoming school year, 2022-2023.

# Final Note

- The general public policy of creating student choices in public education is one that has “*creating a competitive environment*” at its core.
- To this end, the community’s continued investment in our district is necessary to maintain the high-quality educational and co-curricular programs at all levels.
- This will lead to student retention and forestall the outflow of funds to charter schools or other districts.