



COVID-19

District Operational & Financial Update

Presented to the School Committee
May 6, 2020

Operations Continue During School Closure

- Providing meals to families who need them three days per week (pickup at SHS and delivery where transportation is a barrier)
- Provided limited scheduled access to school buildings (with social/physical distancing) for educators to retrieve additional teaching materials, followed by re-sanitizing spaces

Operations Continue During School Closure

- Student registration process for next year has begun – shift to online registration last year is paying dividends now
- Financial management tasks continue remotely, including pay processing, grants management, etc.
- Human Resources, Payroll, & Town Treasurer staff are now assisting 100+ furloughed School Department employees with unemployment process and state-required wage data for each claimant

Federal Assistance

- Based on initial information from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, aid to SPS from the first round of federal funding directed to public education will likely be approximately \$150,000 less allocations to private schools; recommendation is to hold this sum in reserve to address unknown costs of responding to COVID-19 issues in FY21
- This assistance will be handled like federal entitlement grants, and proportionate share of funding will need to be allocated to private schools in Shrewsbury

Federal Assistance

- Additional federal assistance to state and local governments, including public school districts, will be critical to maintain educational programming and staffing in the year ahead

Financial Challenges

- School Department administration continues to work with Town Manager regarding financial forecasting for Fiscal Year 2021, which remains unclear due to lack of information on state funding levels
- SPS leadership team is discussing options for potential *additional* budget cuts in FY21 to prepare for various levels of resource reductions (\$1.7 million in cuts already recommended prior to pandemic)