

From: **Sanam H. Zaer** <sanam.zaer@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 29, 2020, 1:13 PM
Subject: ELL at Shrewsbury High School
To: Joe Sawyer <jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us>, SchoolCommittee
<schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us>

Dear Dr. Sawyer & School Committee members,

I understand that the district is in a tough situation right now and making many cuts across the board. However, at the same time, both the recent equity audit and DOE data shows large inequities in our ELL department. To highlight a few:

1. 53.5% of ELL students were chronically absent compared to the school average of 23.9%
2. 40% of ELL students participated in advanced courses as opposed to an overall school average of 92.4%
3. 47.1% of ELL students went on to attend an institute of higher education compared with an 85.4% average of the entire student population.

Source: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=02710505&orgtypecode=6&leftNavId=300&>

As you continue to move money around in the budget, I would like to ask for your consideration in adding either a teacher's aide or a reading tutor to the High School ELL department while the newly formed coalition comes up with a more thorough and longer term plan to address these inequities. While I understand that the district is making incredibly difficult decisions and mostly discussing cuts, I also believe an investment needs to be made in resolving these issues and hope this is something district leadership will consider as you move forward with your final decisions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Sanam Zaer