



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

---

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

August 19, 2020

To: School Committee  
From: Joe Sawyer  
Re: Recommendation to Allow Children of SPS Staff to Attend More Frequently in the Hybrid Model

Childcare for the children of school staff is a major issue for returning to school due to the various permutations of reopening plans in local school districts, with remote or hybrid programs requiring the supervision of school-age children who otherwise would have been in school.

One way to provide some childcare relief to SPS staff who live here in Shrewsbury and have children enrolled in our schools is to allow their children to attend more frequently in person. The Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education has encouraged this and may issue some guidance from the state level. At this time, I am recommending that the district allow more frequent attendance by the children of SPS staff who are in grades K-6, with potential exceptions for other ages on a case-by-case basis.

By authorizing me to provide this option, it may enable some of our faculty and staff who otherwise might request a childcare leave under current federal law to continue to serve our district full time. This will help stabilize our workforce during this uncertain time.

Suggested motion:

That the School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent to allow children of Shrewsbury Public Schools employees who are enrolled in the Shrewsbury Public Schools in kindergarten through grade six, and who are assigned to an alternating two-day, in-person cohort in the hybrid educational model, to attend school in person for four or four and one-half days in the hybrid program in order to promote workforce stability during the pandemic; and to further authorize the Superintendent to make exceptions to the age level of student to be accommodated as such on a case-by-case basis.