



# SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shrewsbury Public Schools Spring 2023

Thought Exchange Highlights (Top Thoughts by Group)

*Compiled and analyzed by:*

*Focused Schools, LLC*

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| Rank (out of 178) | Staff  | Key Word(s)   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1                 | Our teachers are, at their best, passionate about what they teach and devoted to the needs and well-being of students. Reaffirming that teachers are valued and finding ways to let teachers teach to their strengths while supporting student needs should be a priority.                             | Teacher morale  |
| 2                 | We need to emphasize that students and parents have SOME responsibility for their learning and behavior. Teachers are being made responsible for fixing every issue and literally doing everything for the students. Student responsibility has been lost.   | Student responsibility/ ownership; behavior                                   |
| 3                 | Faculty are awesome but overworked. We are continuing to pile on stretching our most important resource to the breaking point.   | Teacher morale  |
| 4                 | I would love to see more vocational programming in the high school (i.e. hands on learning, automotive, wood shop etc) These are not only life skills but its important to offer the high school students classes that expose them to different hands on learning                                      | Vocational/Technical Opportunities  |
| 5                 | The staff work to establish personal relationships with students. Students need to feel that they are valued members of the community- that they belong.   | Student-teacher relationships, community, sense of belonging                  |
| 6                 | Shrewsbury is making a pointed effort with the start of the RISE program to better prepare students with disabilities for life outside of school. It would be great to see an increase in other class options (automotive, construction, etc) for students who might not have college in their future. | Support for students with disabilities;<br>Vocational/Technical Opportunities |
| 7                 | We need to offer trade classes - not everyone is meant for college and they deserve exposure to other options There used to be auto and shop classes. They got kids through the day.   | Vocational/Technical Opportunities  |

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| 8  | Need partnership with vocational/trade schools Not all students are bound for 2/4 year colleges and it's important for all students to know what the post-secondary options are  | Vocational/Technical Opportunities |
| 9  | I value the professionalism and dedication of SPS staff to the success of our students. This creates a culture focused on making a positive difference for students.   | Professional and dedicated staff   |
| 10 | Everyday I see teachers putting an enormous amount of thought and attention into how to best reach and support every individual student. Our staff is incredibly caring, thoughtful, and engaged. I think that's probably what matters most in terms of student success. | Caring and engaged staff           |

| Rank (out of 696) | Students  | Key Word(s)   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1                 | We need more field trips. I feel like school is just boring during the winter time. We need more activities.  | Field trips, out of classroom learning opportunities                      |
| 2                 | THE WATER THE JUICE IS FREE BUT THE WATER COSTS MONEY WHICH IS CONFUSING BECAUSE THEY WANT US TO BE HEALTHY AND THEY SELL SELTZER AND THE BUBBLERS ARE BROKEN   | Lunch, beverage options   |
| 3                 | Make water free in the lunches. In my opinion paying for water is ridiculous especially in schools the bubbler isn't as good either it always tastes funny .  | Lunch, beverage options   |
| 4                 | Better lunch Because lunch is not good right now  | Lunch   |
| 5                 | I think we should go on a field trip or have extra recess time. Also we need better food. I think it's important because I would like to go to different places with my class. we need to get outside more. Food should be more fresh and good. | Field trips, out of classroom learning opportunities, outdoor time, Lunch |
| 6                 | We should get input on a friend that would be in our class. It's important to have someone you feel comfortable around in your class.   | Peer relationships, sense of belonging                                    |
| 7                 | Let us listen to our music when working Bcs   | Music in classrooms, student agency                                       |
| 8                 | Field trips I think we should have more field trips. They make us remember what we learned because it is memorable and fun  | Field trips, out of classroom learning opportunities                      |
| 9                 | We need time outside in high school. Reduced time outside means our vision will be negatively impacted, which can lead to more serious issues later in life.  | Outdoor time  |
| 10                | You should have more lunch options Some of the food is very bad   | Lunch   |

| Rank (out of 409) | Parents/Caregivers  | Key Word(s)  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 1                 | Shrewsbury needs to be part of a vocational-technical school district. Students need this opportunity. Currently they have very limited ability to pursue training in professional trades. It is a huge disadvantage!                                       | Vocational/Technical Opportunities                                     |
| 2                 | I value the smaller class sizes and hard working teachers. It's important that the teachers get to know the students and don't get lost in too big of a class size  | Small class size;<br>Facilities/space                                  |
| 3                 | The high school is overcrowded. As our community has grown (and continues to grow) we need to ensure enough space for effective space for learning at the high school level.  | Facilities/space   |
| 4                 | I believe students should be exposed to real world classes like personal finance, handling debt, home and car repairs, etc to better prepare them. So many students are "book smart" but have a hard time adjusting to the real world.                      | "Real world"/ life skills  |
| 5                 | I think offering internships to students during high school years is important and needed. The world is a competitive place. In order for students to explore different areas of interest prior to graduation from High School is essential                 | Internships  |
| 6                 | I value the relationships that teachers develop with students. It is important for kids to feel connected to the important adults in their lives.   | Student-teacher relationships, community, sense of belonging           |
| 7                 | Shrewsbury students need more opportunities for vocational-technical training At the high school level, students would greatly benefit from an option for this type of education.   | Vocational/Technical Opportunities                                     |
| 8                 | I would like to see more opportunities for electives or internships at SHS where students can explore possible career tracks. Expanding options for subjects like computer science, biotech, engineering could get more students interested in STEM fields. | Elective offerings at SHS; preparation for college/career; internships |

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| 9  | Teachers dedication for the students Builds confidence in the students   | Dedicated staff; preparation for "real world"; college/career |
| 10 | I think at the high school level kids need more help with how to prepare for life after high school including college and career help. It's a tough competitive world out there! | "Real world"/life skills                                      |

| Rank (out of 19) | Community Members  | Key Word(s)                                   |
|------------------|--|---|
| 1                | Lack of Vocational Education is a critical deficiency The group accessing vocational education often is not adequately reached in district schools and may not succeed here but could at voc   | Vocational/Technical Opportunities            |
| 2                | While our school system does well to prepare those who eventually will be college bound, the lack of trades training, needs to be resolved Many trades are extremely short of junior apprentice level employees. Assabet has basically shut us out of available seats.                                   | Vocational/Technical Opportunities            |
| 3                | Teacher/staff dedication and communication Students and families feel more connected to their schools when everyone is part of the team.   | Communication;<br>family/caregiver engagement |
| 4                | The dedication to our students For students to be successful   | Dedicated staff                               |
| 5                | Both of my sons attended Shrewsbury schools. What we value the most are the caring teachers. To better prepare students for the future is life skills. Personal finances & social skills. Not every child has a good role model at home. As a community we need to assist these children to be prepared. | "Real world"/ life skills                     |