

Shrewsbury Public Schools – FY24 Final Budget Recommendation

The information below reflects updated adjustments to projected FY24 costs and additional investments to implement key strategic priorities

Item	Category	Difference from proposed FY24 Budget	Notes
Reduced projected costs			
Adjustment to out-of-district special education tuition projection	Tuition	-\$164,884	Updated cost projection based on analysis of current and potential students requiring out-of-district special education placements
Updated personnel cost projection due to attrition	Personnel	-\$39,000	Updated projection based on additional retirement and resignations
Subtotal of projected cost reductions from initial budget		-\$203,884	
Increased projected costs			
Custodial supplies	Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	Updated projection for cost of disinfectant wipes
Updated estimate re: vendor contracts	Contracted Services	\$10,000	Inflation effects resulting in higher estimates for some contracts
Updated estimate for vocational/tech high school tuitions	Tuition	\$47,709	Higher than projected tuition rate increase of 9.7% for students attending Assabet
Subtotal of projected cost increases from initial budget		\$62,709	
Potential additional strategic investments			
2.0 FTE reading specialists K-4	Personnel	\$190,000	Licensed reading specialists to provide interventions for students reading below benchmark, coordinate literacy tutor interventions, and provide coaching and job-embedded professional development re: literacy curriculum, instruction, and assessment; currently there is one K-4 reading specialist who is also the Title I Program Director, will create ratio of one reading specialist per 656 students. These would be "permanent" staffing positions.
Literacy/reading consultant for 2023-2024	Personnel*	\$50,000	Engage services of literacy/reading consultant to provide coaching and job-embedded professional development to K-4 leaders and educators to support training and implementation of updated literacy instructional practices and programming *Would be considered temporary contracted employee, so one-time investment
Career and technical education programming investment	TBD	\$100,000	Effectively a shift of funding from what would have been tuition to Assabet; this is <u>in addition to</u> the existing plan to add a teacher at SHS to increase Project Lead the Way programming to provide more career and technical education options for students
Safety and security audit	Contracted Services	\$77,000	Comprehensive review and report for all district schools regarding safety and security related to building infrastructure and emergency response practices
Attendance and residency validation services	Contracted Services	\$25,000	Resource for addressing attendance concerns and validating residency status of students for eligibility to enroll
Strategic plan implementation and monitoring	Contracted Services	\$38,500	Consultation services to ensure development of robust action plan and data tracking systems for successful implementation of strategic plan
Subtotal of projected additional strategic investments		\$480,500	
Net Adjustment to Initial FY24 Budget Plan		\$339,325	As the increase to the town appropriation is already at the 4.75% maximum, the bottom-line town appropriation request does not change from the initial plan. The source of funding for these additional investments would be the Circuit Breaker reserve balance. For the town-appropriated budget, each item listed above would be added/subtracted from their respective line items; to maintain the bottom line of a 4.75% increase, additional Circuit Breaker funds would be applied to the special education out-of-district tuition line, resulting in a net decrease to the appropriated funds needed for that category. The impact on the Circuit Breaker reserve is illustrated below.
Original projected end of FY24 Circuit Breaker reserve balance		\$2,967,498	84.8% of projected maximum Circuit Breaker reserve carry-forward
Adjusted projected end of FY24 Circuit Breaker reserve balance based on above items		\$2,628,173	75.1% of projected maximum Circuit Breaker reserve carry-forward*
			*Note: 75% is defined as the threshold for a "strong" Circuit Breaker reserve
Bottom-Line FY24 Recommended School Department Town Appropriation		\$83,086,622	4.75% increase over current fiscal year; no change from initial budget plan