



# SHS Space Needs Update

Joint Select Board and School Committee Workshop

January 25, 2024

This slide deck is an updated version of the one presented at the joint workshop between the School Committee and Select Board on February 27, 2023, found [here](#).

# Key Capital Planning Actions in 2023-2024

Over the past year, two key capital planning actions were taken:

- 1) The School Committee and Select Board each unanimously voted to submit a statement of interest to the MSBA to add a significant addition to the High School in order to address chronic overcrowding and the resulting diminished educational programming, in order to meet our community's need.
- 2) A PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee was formed, which includes representatives from the School Committee, Select Board, municipal and school leaders, and parents and educators from each school PreK-4 (recommendations due in March)

# SHS Statement of Interest Priorities

The SHS statement of interest submitted in April 2023 cited 3 of the MSBA's priorities:

Priority #2: Severe and persistent overcrowding

Priority#5: Replacement/modernization of the roof and HVAC systems nearing end of life and incorporating new, energy efficient systems

Priority#7: Addition to the building to provide a full range of programs to potentially include some Chapter 74 vocational/technical programs and/or Innovation Pathways Programs

*These priorities are in order of importance for consideration by MSBA per [MGL Chapter 70B, Section 8](#)*

# SHS Statement of Interest Outcome

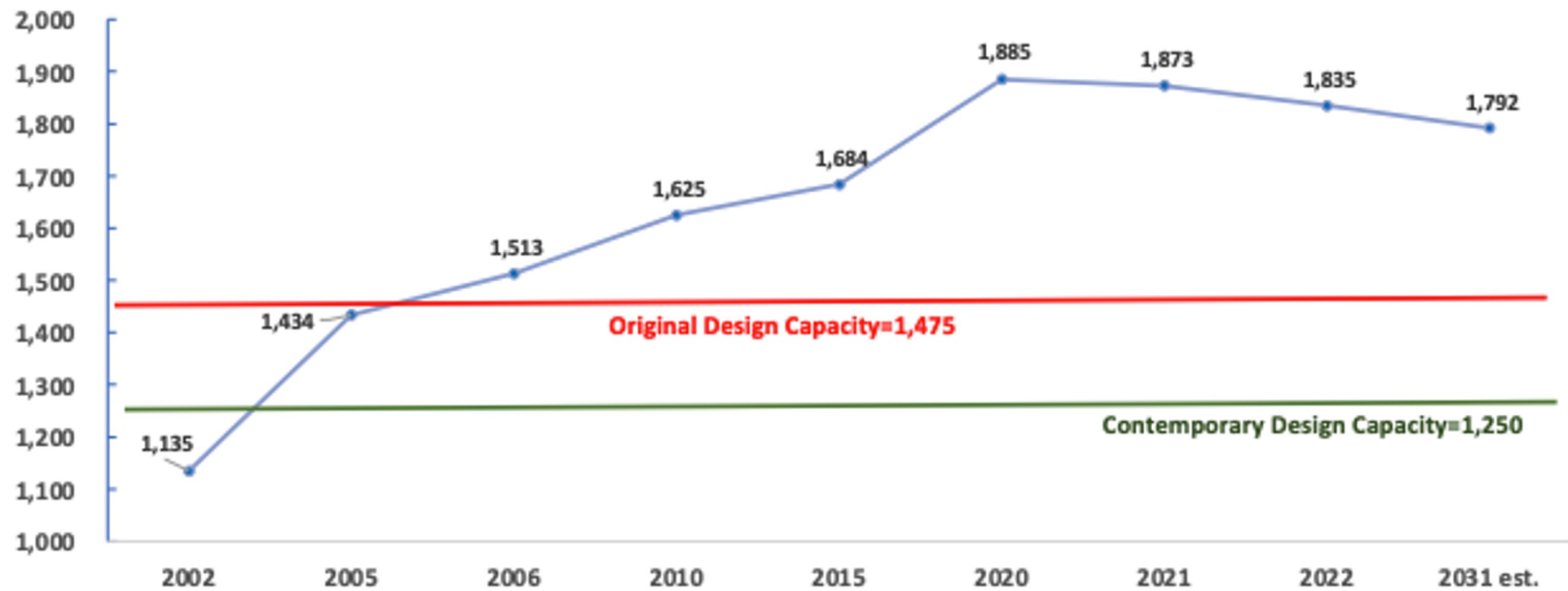
- MSBA leaders and architects made a “senior study” site visit to SHS; fewer than half of submitted projects were advanced for this visit, which only are conducted for what are judged to be viable projects
- In December, the MSBA did not select Shrewsbury to move forward into the eligibility phase for the SHS project. [19 projects were selected out of 63 submissions](#), including [6 high school projects](#). Many of these projects had been submitted for consideration in a previous year.
- The MSBA has opened the statement of interest process for 2024. Core program submissions are due by April 12, 2024

# High School Enrollment & Space Needs Update

# High School: Enrollment

- The PreK-12 Space study, as a point in time assessment, determined that the High School **as designed can serve 1,250 students.**
- **Enrollment as of October 1, 2023 is at 1,870**, an increase of 49 students in one year. Absorbing students who otherwise would have attended Assabet is a key reason for this increase.
- This school has the greatest enrollment pressure today and is severely overcrowded.
- The space study demographer's **enrollment projections predict a population of 1,792 in 2031**, but this was completed *before* the Assabet admissions change. **This is 542 students above design capacity.**

# Shrewsbury High School Enrollment History





# High School: Physical Needs

- A renovation and addition of 87,669 square feet would alleviate that pressure.
- Per MSBA guidelines, the High School is **deficient in space for “Core Academic Spaces,” “Special Education,” and in “Vocations & Technology” by nearly 86,900 square feet.**
- “The academic and technology deficits should be the driver for any future space needs.”
- Additionally, lack of air conditioning limits the building’s use. The town has provided funding for temporary air conditioning to be added to many classrooms on upper floors in spring of 2024 – thank you!

# From the LPA PreK-12 Space Study

- “The academic and technology deficits should be the driver for any future space needs”
- **Core Academic Spaces:** Many classrooms undersized (especially science labs); Classrooms that do comply with guidelines are on the low end of the acceptable square footage range; quantity is far from meeting need; No academic “Commons”
- **Special Education:** Many classrooms undersized; Classrooms that do comply with the guidelines are on the low end of the acceptable square footage range; Quantity is far from meeting need; Resource rooms are greatest deficiency by far
- **Vocations & Technology:** Some undersized technical classrooms remain; Original ‘shop’ spaces have been reallocated over time for academic needs

# High School: Educational Needs

- No room for expanded academic programming, including
  - Electives for existing departments (we have fewer than peer schools in the humanities and we have very limited ability to offer students multiple STEM classes)
  - New academic programming (examples could include more business/ finance / entrepreneurship, computer science, graphic design, engineering, robotics, etc.)
- We have already had to cannibalize spaces to provide space for increased, mandated special education and English language education programming, and this will keep happening if these needs continue to grow **Update: English language learner population in the district increased by 65% this year, accelerating this trend.**
- The building was not designed to have the number of school (guidance) counselor offices for this size population, and does not have sufficient confidential spaces/offices for school adjustment counselors, the BRYT program (for students returning from hospitalizations, etc.); we have had to subdivide spaces in recent years

## High School: Repurposed Spaces Over Time

- 4 large computer lab spaces converted into academic classrooms
- Auto and wood shops converted to special education classrooms
- Staff lunch room converted to special education classroom

## High School: Repurposed Spaces Over Time (continued)

- Student activity room converted to much smaller staff lunch room
- Reduced Guidance Department Career Center space to add counselor office
- Subdivided existing Guidance Department offices to create more offices

## High School: Repurposed Spaces Over Time (continued)

- 2 large conference rooms converted into special education and counseling spaces
- Large hallway display case converted to office space
- Teacher collaboration workroom converted to classroom for students returning from medical/emotional leaves

## High School: Repurposed Spaces Over Time (continued)

- Converted storage room into small classroom for special education reading services
- Converted furniture storage room into special education space for occupational and physical therapy services
- Allocated auditorium for music or drama classes for parts of the day, limiting intended use as large meeting/assembly space

*Existing building spaces have been converted/maximized to the greatest extent possible – very limited remaining options*

# Public Buildings presentation: Renovations to subdivide space for more offices

## SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL- GUIDANCE





# Vocational/ Hands-On Programming

- Clearly the community wants to see the town address the troubling lack of access for vocational programming. The state is not coming to our aid.
- The additional space at the High School would **not** create an Assabet-like program.

# Vocational/ Hands-On Programming (Continued)

- However, additional space at the High School could include instructional space that can be designed for flexible use, including expansion of programs that could provide voke-tech educational experiences such as Project Lead the Way engineering or biotech, etc. **Update: Plans are underway to add Biomedical and Manufacturing Innovation Pathways programs in FY25 by utilizing/converting existing science and engineering spaces – however, lack of space will limit additional career technical education programming in future years**
- Additional computer/technology lab space could expand options for graphic design, computer science and information technology, robotics/machining; **over time computer labs have been converted to classroom spaces, and some remaining computer labs are used for non-technology classes for some class periods due to lack of other classroom spaces**