



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Christian Girardi

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

March 27, 2024

To: School Committee

Subj: Fiscal Year 2025 Fee Rate Information- Financial Assistance Data

Background

The annual fee presentation to the School Committee was held on March 13, 2024 prior to Dr. Sawyer's fee recommendation and School Committee vote scheduled for March 27, 2024. During the discussion, the School Committee requested information on the number of students receiving financial assistance to support the cost of participating in a fee-based program.

Free & Reduced Price Meals program

Families seeking eligibility to qualify for financial assistance for Shrewsbury Public Schools fee-based programs are encouraged to complete the Free & Reduced Price Meal Application. *Children from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Children between 130% and 185% of poverty levels are eligible for reduced price meals.

[*Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- National School Lunch Program](#)

Free & Reduced Price Meal qualification supports the following fee-based programs:

Transportation- transportation fees are waived for all students who qualify for Free & Reduced Meals (*per Massachusetts state law*)

Athletics- SHS athletic fees are reduced to \$50 per sport/\$150 family cap for all students who qualify for Free & Reduced Meals; OMSS athletic fees are reduced to \$15 per sport/\$45 family cap for all students who qualify for Free & Reduced Meals; both equate to paying 15% of the full athletic fee

Music lessons- music lessons are reduced to 15% of the lesson cost for all students who qualify for Free & Reduced Meals

Preschool tuition- a Massachusetts state-derived income "sliding scale" allows for lower payments for families with economic need

Extended Day- there is a 60% discount in fees for students who qualify for Free Meals/ there is a 40% discount in fees for students who qualify for Reduced Price Meals

Financial Assistance update

The table below shows the number and percentage of students whose families applied for and qualified for financial assistance. The total number of students Prek-12 who receive financial assistance through the Free & Reduced Price Meals program is 1,048 students, or 17.7%. This is compared to the state average of 42.2%. This data can be found on [DESE School and District Profiles](#) site.

SPS Low-Income Data			
	total district enrollment	SPS students identified as low-income by DESE	% of SPS students identified as low-income
October 1, 2023 data	5,921	1,048	17.7%
Free & Reduced information for Fees and Tuitions Vote- March 2024			
	*number of students in fee program	number receiving financial assistance	% of program receiving financial assistance in each fee category
Transportation	4,201	831	19.8%
Athletics (Gr 7-12)	1,080	126	11.7%
Music Lesson	406	26	6.4%
Extended Day	625	142	22.7%
Preschool tuition	217	19	8.8%

*The ‘number of students in program’ column reflects the number of students participating in that activity (i.e. there are 1,080 students participating in athletics, regardless of how many sports they play.)