



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

September 1, 2023

To: School Committee

Re: Enrollment of Students from Local Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families

Last May, the Department of Housing and Community Development, now called the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC), opened an emergency shelter in a hotel in Shrewsbury. Click [HERE](#) to see the joint statement I made with the Town Manager to the community at that time.

The latest communication from HLC indicated there are just over 80 families living at this emergency shelter. As of today, we have 49 students enrolled in our schools across grades K-12, as follows:

Beal School 14  
Floral Street School 19  
Sherwood Middle School 5  
Oak Middle School 5  
Shrewsbury High School 6

Kindergarten 14

Grade 1 3

Grade 2 2

Grade 3 8

Grade 4 6

Grade 5 2

Grade 6 3

Grade 7 3

Grade 8 2

Grade 9 2

Grade 10 0

Grade 11 3

Grade 12 1

Ten other students are being transported back to their districts of origin, per their families' choice under state law.

To address student needs, we are using state funding provided for the education of students in emergency shelters to add the following positions:

- A full-time English language education teacher at Floral Street School (in process of hiring) – estimate \$90,000
- A part-time Homeless Family Coordinator to serve as a liaison between families at the site and the schools – \$23,500
- Two bilingual instructional aides – \$60,000
- Two applied behavioral analysis technicians – \$70,000

In addition to the above, there are costs for various supports such as interpreters, technology, supplies and materials, etc. Our current estimates for costs to support these students is about \$570,000 based on current estimates.

As indicated in the grants report in your packet, we are receiving funding from the state as follows:

- 1) Homeless Emergency Support Grant, which provides \$1,000 for each student enrolled in our district from an emergency shelter for initial needs (such as technology, supplies, etc. This is estimated to provide about \$49,000 in funds as of our current enrollment (please note that the grant report was completed earlier when we had 46 students)
- 2) Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding Program, which provides \$104 per student per day for the time they are enrolled in our district, which is estimated to provide about \$900,000 in FY24 if all 49 students were to remain for the entire year.

Based on the above, depending on how long students remain at the shelter, the amount of state funding will more than cover the expenses we are estimating we will incur.

At your meeting on September 6, I will provide information regarding how we provided summer programming for our students from the shelter, and ways in which we have supported them for a successful start to their school year.