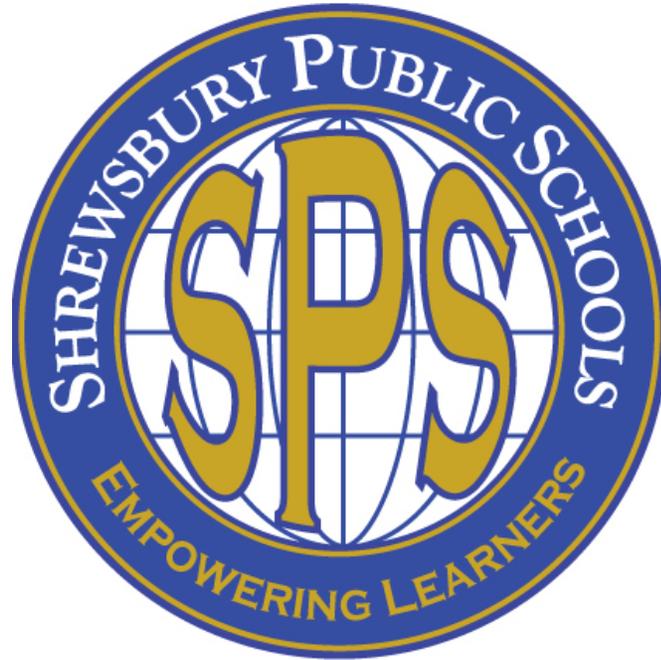


Shrewsbury Public Schools



**State of the District
January 6, 2016**

State of the District

- Our students are thriving
- Our educators are succeeding
- Our school facilities are strong – however...
- Our district is experiencing demands, mandates, and pressures that must be addressed despite fiscal constraints

Our students are thriving

- Our schools provide excellent educational experiences
 - ✓ SPS students excel on measures of academic performance
 - ✓ Expert instruction and engaged learners
 - ✓ Innovative use of technology
 - ✓ Wide variety of academic opportunities
 - ✓ Successful co-curricular programs

Our students are thriving

- Our school cultures are respectful and purposeful
 - ✓ Thousands of hours of community service
 - ✓ Student voices are valued
 - ✓ Student leadership is promoted

Our educators are succeeding

- High quality educators
 - ✓ Rigorous hiring process
 - ✓ Supervision and evaluation focused on professional growth, while exercising accountability when necessary
 - ✓ Culture of professionalism

Our educators are succeeding

- Professional collaboration
 - ✓ Examining assessment data
 - ✓ Ambitious goals for students
 - ✓ Sharing best practices
 - ✓ Teamwork is the norm

Our educators are succeeding

- Innovative practice with and without technology
 - ✓ Real time assessment
 - ✓ Personalized learning
 - ✓ Multiple pathways to understanding
 - ✓ Evolving approaches that reflect a commitment to continuous improvement and a “growth mindset”

Our school facilities are strong – however...

- Infrastructure is strong overall, with some key needs
 - ✓ Schools built since 1997 are among the finest in the state
 - ✓ Coolidge, Paton, & Spring Street Schools will require significant work in the coming years (e.g., heating system replacement)
 - ✓ Beal Early Childhood Center is near the end of its useful life (built in 1922)

Our school facilities are strong – however...

- There are space needs that need to be addressed
 - ✓ Enrollment bubble entering SHS next year will stress capacity, but can be absorbed
 - ✓ Inadequate space for Floral Street population, continuing to use Beal as overflow for Grade 1
 - ✓ Continuing to rent additional preschool space on Wesleyan Terrace

Our school facilities are strong – however...

- There are space needs that need to be addressed
 - ✓ In-district special education, English language learner programs require space
 - ✓ Lack of space for special subjects in some schools (e.g., “art on a cart”)
 - ✓ Not enough classrooms to provide enough full day kindergarten sections to meet demand
 - ✓ Paton has one multipurpose space which constricts schedules and opportunities

Demands, mandates & pressures

- This is both an exciting and demanding time for public education
 - ✓ More access to information, best practices and powerful educational tools
 - ✓ Accountability to educate all students to high standards
 - ✓ State mandates regarding curriculum standards, assessments, English language learner education, educator evaluation, educator training, etc.

Demands, mandates & pressures

- This is both an exciting and demanding time for public education
 - ✓ Rising number of students requiring intensive programming (developmental and medical)
 - ✓ Mental and behavioral health challenges
 - ✓ Societal problems, including addiction

Fiscal environment

- Public school districts, including Shrewsbury, operate in a fiscal environment that is constrained
 - ✓ Many costs are unavoidable (mandates)
 - ✓ New policies create costs (e.g., virtual schools, recovery high schools)
 - ✓ Public education is personnel intensive and operates in a highly regulated sector
 - ✓ Enormous pressures on state and local government relative to cost drivers (healthcare, pensions, special education)

Fiscal environment

- Public school districts, including Shrewsbury, operate in a fiscal environment that is constrained
 - ✓ Revenue is disconnected from results
 - ✓ State education finance formula is outdated, but even if updated Shrewsbury is unlikely to benefit due to the town's financial status relative other communities
 - ✓ Local government's financial capacity is limited

State of the District

- Our students are thriving
- Our educators are succeeding
- Our school facilities are strong – however...
- Our district experiences demands, mandates, and pressures that must be addressed despite fiscal constraints