



# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Presented by the School Council  
March 2022

# 2022-2023

**Shawsheen Valley Technical High School**  
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*Shawsheen Valley Technical High School admits students and makes available to them its advantages, privileges, and course of study without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by law.*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Bagni               | Staff Representative     |
| Deborah Barnes           | Parent Representative    |
| Rebecca Chaffee          | Parent Representative    |
| Jessica Cook (co-chair)  | Principal                |
| James Marshall           | Community Representative |
| Kerry O'Brien (co-chair) | Staff Representative     |
| Michael Parent           | Student Representative   |
| Danielle Santiago        | Parent Representative    |
| Alexa Strong             | Student Representative   |
| Paul Troisi              | Community Representative |
| Diane Cedorchuk          | Recording Secretary      |



***At Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, it is our mission to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.***

**Supporting All Learners:** The District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) is outdated and requires revision. A committee of Shawsheen educators was convened during the 2021-2022 school year by the Director of Student Services to review and update the DCAP, which will then serve as a way to clarify and educate the Shawsheen community on a system of tiered interventions that will be used to support all students. To this end, the School Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year, under the purview of the Director of Student Services:

- Broadly distribute and communicate the purpose of the updated DCAP to all stakeholder groups.
- Provide professional development to SVTHS staff to ensure all educators understand how to utilize the DCAP to support all learners.
- Clearly define the tiered system of interventions that will be used to support SVTHS students.
- Provide professional development to SVTHS staff to ensure all educators understand how to utilize the tiered system of interventions to support all learners.
- Establish a system to collect and analyze data to assess the effectiveness of interventions used and use the findings from that process to inform changes to the systems put in place.

**Master Schedule/Student Pathways/Course Offerings:** A new master schedule is needed to ensure all students are provided access to a progression of course offerings that support the postsecondary paths they plan to pursue, and students & families need to be aware of the range of options available to them. The administrative team has already identified student needs that cannot be met by the current master schedule, and is working on a proposal for a new master schedule that will be designed around the diverse needs of Shawsheen students. Recognizing that a revision to the master schedule will be a multi-year process, the School Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Develop a proposal for a new master schedule that addresses the concerns presented by the current master schedule and that is designed around the diverse needs of Shawsheen students.
- Present proposal to the Superintendent-Director and School Committee for approval and establish a timeline for implementation that includes time for collective bargaining efforts, and a supportive transition to the new master schedule (accounting for impacts to curriculum, scheduling, etc.).
- Update and improve communication with staff, students, and families regarding articulation agreements, as follows:
  - Update articulation agreements for all applicable chapter 74 programs at Shawsheen.
  - Add a section to the 2022-2023 Program of Studies that identifies and explains these articulation agreements.
  - Ensure that all guidance counselors are aware of current articulation agreements so they can discuss these options with students.
  - Communicate information to students and families regarding articulation agreements.
  - Review and update articulation agreements during the development of the 2023-2024 Program of Studies.
- Continue to develop inclusive course offerings and that are available to students by expanding the number of co-taught classes across and into new content areas.

- Increase the number of teachers participating in co-teaching at Shawsheen and provide ongoing professional development to both veteran and new co-teachers to support the long-term success of the co-teaching model.
- Norm course expectations within academic levels and departments.
- Increase student access to concurrent enrollment offerings by adding at least one course offering during the junior year.
- Explore opportunities to increase student access to the PSAT.

**School Culture & Student Discipline:** At SVTHS we believe that “[w]hen students have strong, trusting relationships both with adults in the school and with their peers, and when their lessons are interesting and relevant, it’s harder for them to misbehave.”<sup>1</sup> We also believe that education and skill-building is necessary when addressing student behavior concerns to help students learn, grow, and avoid engaging in inappropriate behaviors in the future. Additional resources, professional development, initiatives, and interventions are needed to support these beliefs, and in turn to support all students, at Shawsheen. To this end, the School Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Hire an Assistant Principal for the 2022-2023 school year to oversee the Dean’s Office and all student discipline at Shawsheen and assign the following priorities to that individual:
  - Conduct a comprehensive review of our current discipline practices and make recommendations for improvement.
  - Work with other members of the high school administration to strengthen teachers’ skills in proactively managing student behavior, such as identifying root causes of misbehavior and bringing in appropriate resources to address the underlying issues.

**Homework Policy:** Concerns have been presented to the Council about the inconsistencies in how homework is assigned to students (the amount per class, academic homework assigned during shop week, homework assigned over vacations, etc.), and the negative impact that this can have on students and their mental health. The Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of current homework practices at Shawsheen.
- Utilize findings from that review to develop a homework policy that increases consistency in how homework is assigned and effectively supports student learning, health, and wellness.

**Parent/Family Engagement:** Parent/Family engagement is essential and SVTHS staff employ a range of practices to engage with parents and families. These efforts can always be improved to help ensure that relationships and communication are established early on and to be proactive in order to best support students. To this end, the School Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Return to an in-person format for parent/teacher nights.
- Change the timing and structure of the two parent/teacher nights that are scheduled annually at the end of quarter 1 and quarter 2 as follows:
  - Schedule the first evening in September as a “Meet & Greet” - instead of one-on-one parent/teacher conferences, parents/guardians will rotate through their child’s

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<sup>1</sup> [Punitive or Restorative: The Choice Is Yours \(ascd.org\)](https://www.ascd.org/~/media/ASCD/2018/04/Punitive-or-Restorative-The-Choice-Is-Yours.pdf)

- schedule (for both Week 1 and Week 2) and meet all of their child's teachers and learn about each of their child's classes from their teachers of record.
- Schedule the second evening in November at the end of the first quarter for one-on-one parent/teacher conferences.

**Integration of Digital Tools:** During the 2021-2022 school year, all SVTHS students were assigned laptops from the school, to be used in academics, shop, and at home. To help organize digital tools and support students to effectively manage and access assignments and other course materials digitally, the school has purchased a school-wide license for the learning management system Schoology, and informed all staff that starting in the 2022-2023 school year, all educators must use Schoology as the starting point from which students access digital tools/resources for their courses. To support the successful implementation of this effort, and to continue to build the digital literacy of SVTHS staff and students, the School Council recommends the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Provide professional development to staff over the summer and at the start of the school year to support this transition.
- Continue to provide professional development to staff during the school year.
- Provide digital literacy instruction to incoming SVTHS students.
- Establish digital literacy supports for returning SVTHS students.
- Provide resources and information to parents.