

# Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

## School Improvement Plan 2023-2024



### Our Mission:

*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.*

## School Council Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
John Bagni	Staff Representative
Debbie Barnes	Parent/Guardian Representative
Melissa Bates	Parent/Guardian Representative
Alyssa Costantiello	Student Representative
Jessica Cook (co-chair)	Principal
Kari Sullivan Davis	Community Representative
Brendan Driscoll	Community Representative
James Kenney	Parent/Guardian Representative
Kerry O'Brien	Staff Representative
Michael Parent	Student Representative
Alexa Strong (co-chair)	Student Representative
<i>Diane Cedorchuk</i>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>

### Overview

Our school made significant strides during the 2022-2023 school year to improve in key areas, in accordance with the goals outlined in the [2022-2023 SVTHS School Improvement Plan](#). The 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan consists of goals and action items (identified on page 4 of this document) that both build on that work and that help us further the work we do to achieve our mission. A summary is provided below to capture the progress made during the 2022-2023 school year that directly connects to goals identified for the 2023-2024 school year.

- **Supporting All Learners:** During the 2021-2022 school year, a team of SVTHS educators revised the district's District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP). In the 2022-2023 School Improvement plan, the implementation of the newly revised DCAP and a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) was identified as a major priority.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the district:

- Distributed and communicated the purpose of the updated DCAP to all stakeholder groups.
- Provided professional development (PD) to SVTHS staff on how to utilize the DCAP to support all learners.
- Has made significant strides toward defining and strengthening the tiered system of interventions that we use to support SVTHS students. This includes a revision of the Student Study Team (SST process), the implementation of regular Response to Intervention (RTI meetings), increasing Tier II supports for students, and clarifying how students are identified for supports at Tiers I, II, and III.
  - To support these efforts, the district also applied for and received a SEL & Mental Health Grant to fund a contract BCBA position, Tier II After-School Support Groups, Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for staff, and the adoption of a Universal Screening Tool.

Recognizing that the effective implementation of a newly revised DCAP and a MTSS extends beyond one school year, the School Council recommends goal # 1 and action items 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, and 1-5 to continue these efforts into the 2023-2024 school year.

- **Master Schedule/Student Pathways/Course Offerings:** In the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan the School Council recognized work that needed to be done in several areas regarding student pathways, course offerings, and the master schedule. During the 2022-2023 school year, the district:
  - Convened a Scheduling Committee (comprised of representatives from the SVTHS administrative team and the Shawsheen Teachers Association (STA)) to review and develop a proposal for a new master schedule. Recognizing that this is a multi-year process, the School Council recommends action item 2-1 under goal #2 to continue this effort into the 2023-2024 school year.

- Increased student access to inclusive course offerings by expanding the number of co-taught classes (across and into new content areas), and by increasing the number of teachers participating in co-teaching. Recognizing that this is a multi-year process, the School Council recommends action item 2-2 under goal #2 to continue this effort into the 2023-2024 school year.
  - Structured opportunities for SVTHS educators to collaborate in the same inter-disciplinary PD groups on PD days. These groups were led by staff trained to be PD group facilitators, as part of our efforts to improve professional culture, norm expectations, and share best practices. Recognizing the importance of this work, the School Council recommends action items 2-3 and 2-4 under goal #2 to continue these efforts into the 2023-2024 school year.
  - Updated all articulation agreements, added this information to the SVTHS Program of Studies, assigned the oversight and communication regarding articulation agreements to the Guidance Department, and have put a system in place to ensure articulation agreements are updated on an annual basis. This folds into larger efforts the guidance department has taken on this year to review the curriculum, plans, and processes in place to support students. Recognizing the importance of this work, the School Council recommends action item 2-5 under goal #2 to continue these efforts.
  - Increased student access to the PSAT by offering the PSAT 10 to all interested SVTHS 10<sup>th</sup> graders during the winter of 2023 (in addition to the PSAT which is offered to all interested SVTHS juniors every fall). This is the first time the PSAT was offered to grade 10 students at SVTHS.
  - Increased student access to concurrent enrollment courses by adding a concurrent enrollment Science course (Intro to Chemistry) during the junior year. This was the first junior course offering available to SVTHS students - the other concurrent enrollment courses we offer are all for seniors. In the 2023-2024 school year, juniors will also be able to access a history course as another concurrent enrollment option.
- **School Culture & Student Discipline:** In the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan, the School Council recognized the need to provide additional staffing and resources to address student behavior concerns. During the 2022-2023 school year, the district added an Assistant Principal position to the budget and filled that position in July 2022. The Assistant Principal has reviewed discipline practices at Shawsheen and works regularly with the Dean’s office, administrative team, instructional staff, and support staff on matters related to school culture & student discipline as we work collectively 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. To further support this work and gather relevant data, the School Council recommends action item 3-1 under goal #3.
- **Homework Policy:** We began the work of reviewing homework practices during the 2022-2023 school year, but do not have a recommendation for changes for the 2023-2024 school year. This will be an area that will be focused on for norming expectations through the work that is done through action items 2-3 and 2-4.
- **Parent/Family/Community Engagement:** We returned to an in-person format for parent/teacher nights and changed the timing/structure to offer a ‘Meet & Greet’ in September, and teacher conferences in November. These changes were successful, and feedback collected from families and staff will be used to make minor changes as we continue to offer this new format for parent/teacher nights in the 2023-2024 school year. In addition to ensuring engagement with families of current students, the School Council recognizes the importance of engaging with families in our sending communities as part of our recruitment efforts. To this end, the School Council recommends 3-2 under goal #3 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Integration of Digital Tools:** To support our recent transition to becoming a one-to-one district, where all SVTHS students are assigned school laptops, we offered various PD opportunities to staff and digital literacy instruction to students during the 2022-2023 school year. We will continue to provide PD and digital literacy instruction on an annual basis.

## 2023-2024 SVTHS School Improvement Goals

***Goal #1: Continue to improve systems in place to support the learning, growth, achievement, and mental health & wellness of all students.***

**Action Items for Goal #1:**

- 1-1 Continue to strengthen Tier I & Tier II interventions and provide professional development to ensure all educators understand the MTSS and how to implement interventions to support all learners.
- 1-2 Establish a system to collect and analyze data to assess the effectiveness of interventions and use the findings from that process to inform changes to the systems put in place.
- 1-3 Implement a Universal Screening Tool with at least one grade level and use the data to inform improvements to our MTSS at SVTHS.
- 1-4 Increase staffing and resources for student mental health/guidance needs.
- 1-5 Develop a multi-year plan for the development and implementation of a re-entry/transition program.

***Goal #2: Improve teaching and learning at Shawsheen by norming expectations across all programs/departments, and providing students access to the necessary courses and learning experiences that will prepare them for the postsecondary paths they plan to pursue.***

- 2-1 Establish a proposal for the master schedule revision and a timeline for implementation.
- 2-2 Continue to increase the number of inclusive co-taught classes across all grade levels and core academic subjects to increase student access to the full academic program in the least restrictive learning environments and provide professional development to support and strengthen the effectiveness of co-teachers.
- 2-3 Norm expectations for curriculum development, instructional practices, and student engagement within and across all programs/departments.
- 2-4 Continue to use inter-disciplinary PD groups (Professional Learning Communities or PLCs), led by trained facilitators, to structure professional development activities aligned with school improvement goals.
- 2-5 Update guidance curriculum and the career planning process.

***Goal #3: Strengthen the school culture to positively impact all members of the Shawsheen community, including current students & families, potential students & families, and SVTHS staff.***

- 3-1 Research school climate surveys, select a school climate survey, and develop a plan to utilize a school climate survey during the 2024-2025 school year to inform school improvement efforts.
- 3-2 Expand outreach to our sending communities and families and work to further recruitment efforts by offering middle school visits to SVTHS, formalizing a system for student recognition, and assessing the effectiveness of current recruitment efforts.