



# Pembroke joining South Shore Technical High School (SST)

## **FAQs** (updated 1/13/2026)

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### **1. Can Pembroke students apply to South Shore Technical High School?**

Currently Pembroke students can apply to SST, but because Pembroke is not a member Town, students are not able to gain admittance until all eligible students from the 9 member towns have been admitted.

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### **2. If Pembroke joins SST, starting in what year would Pembroke students be able to gain admittance?**

As a member town, our first group of students would be able to join SST in the fall of 2027. With a full enrollment of students in grades 9-12 in the fall of 2031

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### **3. How are the number of seats allotted to Pembroke determined?**

The formula to determine how many seats each member town gets is based off a rolling average of 5 years of historical 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment. At full enrollment (grades 9-12) Pembroke would have 80-84 seats.

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#### **4. What share of the new South Shore Tech building costs will Pembroke be responsible for?**

Starting in FY28, Pembroke's debt assessment will represent 10.17% of the total cost of the building project, roughly \$20 million

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#### **5. What other costs are associated with Pembroke joining SST?**

In addition to the costs associated with the new school building, Pembroke would be responsible to make an investment into the SST Stabilization Fund. That too would be calculated by assessing Pembroke a 10.17% share. This amount would be roughly \$330,000 and payments can be made over 5 fiscal years. In addition, Pembroke would need to fund the tuition and associated costs with sending students to SST. When Pembroke has between 80-84 students there in the Fall of 2031, this would amount to roughly \$1.75 million.

#### **6. What are the necessary votes Pembroke must take to join SST?**

October 21, 2025 – Fall Town Meeting. Pembroke residents will be asked to vote on whether or not they would like to enter into a Regional Agreement to join SST.

Spring 2026 – Pembroke voters would be asked to vote on funding membership.

- Debt Exclusion Override for the new building – Roughly \$20 million
- Operational Override for costs associated with sending students – Roughly \$1.75 million

**All three votes must pass in order for Pembroke to join SST**

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#### **7. How does the existing debt associated with the Pembroke School Building projects in 1999-2001 play into this timeline?**

Each of our 5 schools underwent extensive renovations and remodeling between 1999-2001. The debt associated with those projects (about \$1million) will end after FY27.

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**8. What if the other member towns do not want Pembroke to join?**

In addition to the three votes we will be taking in Pembroke, each of the nine member towns will be taking a vote in the Spring of 2026 on whether or not they wish to accept Pembroke as a member. 6 of the 9 current member towns must vote in favor of Pembroke joining in order for us to move forward.

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**9. What vocations are offered at SST?**

Allied Health, Electrical, Graphic Communications, Automotive Engineering, Carpentry, Computer Info Technology, Horticulture and Landscape, Cosmetology, HVAC-R, Culinary Arts, Metal Fabrication, Coming Soon: Plumbing and Vet Tech.

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**10. Do Pembroke students still take traditional academic classes?**

Yes. Students receive a full academic curriculum (English, math, science, history, etc.) along with their vocational training.

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**11. Will attending South Shore Tech affect eligibility for sports or extracurriculars?**

No. South Shore Tech has its own sports teams and clubs. Pembroke students compete as Vikings (South Shore Tech’s mascot), not through Pembroke High School.

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**12. Is there an additional cost to attend for Pembroke families?**

No. As a member town of the South Shore Tech district, tuition is covered by the town. Families are responsible only for typical student costs such as supplies, uniforms, or tools required for specific programs.

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**13. How do Pembroke students get to SST?** Transportation is provided, free of charge for enrolled students.+

**14. Why don't we retrofit Hobomock to be a vocational school?** Retrofitting a building, like Hobomock, would be a very expensive project. First, we would need to redistrict elementary students currently attending Hobomock (increased transportation costs). Then we would need to do a major renovation of the building which would include all plumbing, electrical, HVAC, etc. We would need to remodel the interior of the building as well, including all flooring and fixtures.

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**15. Why don't we add a wood shop at Pembroke High School?** Adding a wood shop to Pembroke High School would require an extensive renovation of the existing space. There is an area of the building that was a shop space 30 years ago. We would need to upgrade all plumbing, electrical and HVAC of the entire building as part of the renovation. In addition, adding a wood shop would be the equivalent of adding an additional elective. We would need approximately 125 students to be interested in taking a course in addition to needing to find a certified teacher.

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**16. Why aren't we looking at the Hatch Building as a site?** The Hatch Building is a 7500 square foot building on a very small parcel of land. There is not enough space to consider a vocational site. In addition, in its current state, the building is in need of asbestos and hazardous material abatements and is not currently ADA compliant.

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**17. What would it take to add a "couple" of shops to Pembroke High School?** There is no easy way to add a "couple" of shops. The addition of any shop would require significant remodel and renovation of the building. The process for becoming an approved Chapter 74 program through DESE is quite extensive and would require more than a "couple" of shops to meet those requirements. There is not any 1 or 2 shops that Pembroke students have historically shown a critical mass of interest in. At any one time the most students we have enrolled in a particular vocation at either Silver Lake or South Shore Tech was 12-14 students.

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**18. Why can't Pembroke students still access Silver Lake for vocational offerings?** Silver Lake must take all students from their member towns that meet the minimum entrance requirements before they can take students from a non-member town like Pembroke. Given the increase in popularity of the trades coupled with the lowering of the minimum requirement for acceptances, there are no available seats left for Pembroke students.

**19. How does the lottery for seats work?** All Pembroke students that meet the minimum criteria for entrance would be entered into the lottery and the number of students that are drawn would be equal to Pembroke's share of seats for any given year. For example if Pembroke were allotted 22 seats, 22 Pembroke students would be drawn from the lottery.

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**20. What has been the most popular vocation for Pembroke students?** Metal fabrication, Early Education & Automotive.

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**21. When will you have actual cost numbers?** We will have more accurate cost numbers for the South Shore Tech building project in late January/ Early February.

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**22. What reductions at Pembroke High School would need to occur for this?** At this time the goal would be to preserve all the current offerings at Pembroke High School. Over time, when we reach full enrollment at South Shore Tech (estimated 85 students) we may be able to make some reductions at PHS that would not have a programmatic impact on the students still attending PHS. For example, with 85 less students, we may be able to reduce sections of courses like Algebra I or US History II. In addition, the School Committee may look to allow school choice at Pembroke High School in subsequent years to combat the loss of students by adding students from surrounding towns.