

Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan's #6

December 16, 2024

Agenda

- Smart Schools Bond Act
- Technology Committee – Mission & Goals
- Status of Smart Schools Investment Plan #1, #2, #3, 4 and #5
- Smart Schools Investment Plan #6
- Smart Schools Investment Plan #6 Timeline

SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT

- The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014 was passed in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.
- The North Syracuse Central School District was allocated \$6,256,194
- The Smart Schools Bond Act requires that school districts develop and receive approval of a Smart Schools Investment Plan from the Smart Schools Review Board

The Purpose of the Smart Schools Bond Act

- Install high-speed broadband or wireless interconnectivity
- Acquire learning technology equipment to include: interactive white boards, computer servers, desktops, laptops, tablets
- Construct, enhance and modernize educational facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs
- Install high-tech security features in buildings

Technology Expenditures

Allowable

- Interactive White Boards
- Computer Servers
- Desktop, laptop, tablet
- Other technology items that enhance teaching and learning
- Construction of Infrastructure (i.e. wiring for wireless)

Non Allowable

- Software
- Subscription services
- Professional Development
- IT Personnel staff

Nonpublic Schools

- The Smart Schools Bond Act requires that school districts must loan, upon request, any classroom technology purchased by the district with Smart Schools Bond Act funding to students attending nonpublic schools within the same school district. The lending school district would retain ownership of the devices and responsibility for maintenance and repair.
- No school district may be required by the Smart Schools Bond Act to loan technology in amounts greater than that obtained under the Smart Schools Bond Act.
- No school district may loan Smart Schools Bond Act classroom technology in an aggregate amount greater than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) multiplied by the nonpublic school enrollment in the base year at the time of enactment, 2014-2015.

Impact on Property Tax Cap

- Expenditures for approved Smart Schools Projects will not affect a school district's Tax Levy Limit pursuant to Education Law § 2023-a, often referred to as the "Property Tax Cap."
- In calculating the Tax Levy Limit, school districts should not include in Capital Local Expenditures any approved Smart Schools Project expenditures that will be reimbursed with Smart Schools Bond Act funds.

Technology Committee

- NSCSD has a Technology Committee that meets regularly to discuss the development and implementation of the District's technology plan.
- Each school building has a building level technology committee that sends a delegate to the district technology committee.
- Through the work of these committees the District has identified some critical student and staff needs. These include but are not limited to :
 - Access to technology equipment
 - Connectivity to the internet
 - Mobility of devices
- Using of a portion of Smart Schools Bond Act funds, we have provided sufficient infrastructure that allows the District to meet the Federal Communications Commission's 100 Mbps per 1,000 students standard in all buildings.
- Using general funds in our annual school budget we have provided professional development to ensure administrators, teachers and staff can employ the technology purchased with funds from the Smart Schools Bond Act to enhance instruction successfully.

Mission of Technology Committee

- The NSCSD is committed to working collaboratively to provide educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens.
- We recognize that technology is an essential tool for competing in our global society. In order to succeed in college and career, our students need ethical, digital, visual, information and textual literacy.
- We are committed to providing our students with a high level of proficiency in the use of technology for communication, critical thinking and creative problem solving.
- It is a district priority to provide equitable and widespread access to technological tools and resources for all staff and students in the NSCSD.

Goals

- Effectively utilize technology to increase student achievement to prepare our students for college and careers in a global economy.
- Establish opportunities for professional learning and collaboration that increase our capacity to enhance teaching and learning through the use of educational technologies.
- Provide robust and reliable access to current and emerging technology and digital resources with connectivity for all students, staff and school leaders.
- Develop a system of ongoing evaluation to assess technology applications, implementation and instructional efficacy.

Status of Investment Plans 1 - 5

Investment Plan #1:

- Purchased and Installed the Chromebooks and carts
- Purchased and Installed new Project lead the Way and Graphic Arts PCs
- Purchased and Installed new large instruction projectors
- Purchased and loaned parochial school equipment
- Purchased Network Access Points, Switches and Routers
- Access control project completed this past summer.
- Paging systems under evaluation

Investment Plan # 2

- C-NS HS, NSJH & Main Street EEP wiring for wireless has been installed.

Investment Plan # 3

- All network devices and Chromebooks have been deployed.

Investment Plan # 4

- All Chromebooks, desktops, interactive boards, and projectors have been deployed.

Investment Plan # 5

- All of the ViewSonic interactive board have been deployed.

The District expanded Internet bandwidth to meet the Federal Communications Commission's 100 Mbps per 1,000 students standard in all buildings in 2016.

Smart Schools Investment Plan #6

- We have \$365,076.01 that is unallocated in our Classroom Learning Technology budget that we would like to use to purchase interactive panels to replace our aging Smartboards in the classroom. With this allocation we plan to purchase 195 interactive ViewSonic interactive panels (75”).
- This new Investment Plan will close out our funding in the Smart Schools Bond Act and also complete the number of boards needed to fully update our aging Smartboard fleet in the buildings. With this purchase every classroom in the district will have an updated interactive panel for student instruction.

Smart Schools Timeline – Investment Plan #6

- Present Smart School Investment Plan draft to Board of Education 12/16/24.
- Share Smart School Investment Plan draft with community.
- Post Smart School Investment Plan on district website for 30 days 12/17/24 – 1/15/25.
- Hold Public Hearing at BOE meeting on 1/27/25.
- If no material comments from community, BOE will adopt the Smart Schools Investment Plan on 1/27/25.
- Submit Smart Schools Investment Plan to NYS 1/28/25.