

# SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT

## Proposed Smart School Investment Plan

North Salem Central School District

2019-2020

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## SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

The Smart Schools Bond Act 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 Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State.

The Act requires that **each** Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) be thoroughly reviewed and **approved** by the Smart Schools Review Board **prior to** a district bidding, contracting or expending any SSBA funds. Not doing so will result in such costs not being eligible for reimbursement with SSBA funds.

The revised SSIP application became available on November 8, 2019 and is now available on the NYSED Business Portal. The new form includes certain transportable items under School Connectivity in the calculation of the nonpublic loan amount, as required by statute.

The North Salem Central School District was allocated \$230,261 as a part of the Smart School Bond Act. Regulations and processes required multiple preconditions in order for the District to access funds. A review of the District's needs and goals determined that the primary use of these funds would be devoted to district-wide improvements of our wireless network and management systems as well as the creation of collaborative, active learning spaces that facilitate the use of technology at Pequenakonck Elementary and at the Middle School/High School, as per Goal # 3 or our [2018-2021 Instructional Technology Plan](#).

## PROCESS AND PRECONDITIONS

- NSCSD completed the NYS Technology Assessment Survey
- NSCSD Instructional Technology Committee developed the Districts Instructional Technology Plan
- Board of Education adopted the 2018-2021 Instructional Technology Plan

As a precondition to using the funds, the District has ensured there is adequate Internet bandwidth in excess of 100Mbps per 1,000 students to sustain the increase of more classroom devices. The District's current bandwidth exceeds this minimum at 300MB, with plans to improve coverage at both the MS/HS and Pequenakonck Elementary.

Additionally, the proposed plans aligns closely with our Instructional Technology Plan, approved and on file with the New York State Department of Education.

## SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN GOALS

Strategies for the SSBA allocation closely align to the District's 2018-2021 Instructional Technology Plan Goals:

- A fully articulated K-12 Computer Science Program that follows forth a stand-alone pathway as well as an integrated approach culminating with two coursed AP CSA and AP CSP. The enrollment of these courses will be representative of the diversity of the student body.
- Create and implement a K-12 scaffold curriculum of Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy that empowers students to become safe, responsible digital citizens.
- Reinforce collaboration in Computer Science and in writing through the intentional use of digital tools to advance understanding.
- Ensure that all public facing digital content is accessible to individuals with disabilities by the WCAG 2.0 AA rating.
- Secure all student data housed through third party vendors. We will identify all third-party vendors and determine if they meet mandate requirements in order to comply with State Law and protect student privacy and security.

The SSBA allocation will specifically support the Technology Plan goals by:

- Updating wireless access points at the MS/HS and at PequenaKonck Elementary
- Redesigning classroom and library learning spaces and transforming them into active learning spaces that will incorporate technology: Chromebooks and SMARTBoards
- Adding additional chromebook carts and SMARTBoards to the Middle School/High School and PequenaKonck Elementary

## PURCHASE PLAN AND ALLOCATIONS

In alignment with the approved 2018-2021 District Instructional Technology Plan, the District plans to use SSBA allocations as described below.

Table 1. Summary of Allowable SSBA Expenditures

SSBA Budget Category	Allocations
School Connectivity	\$54,060.00
Classroom Technology and Collaborative, Active Learning Spaces	\$151,969.00
Additional Chromebooks Carts and SMARTboards	\$24,232.00

### School Connectivity

In order to improve online access and connectivity in the District, part of our SSIP funding will be utilized to expand our wireless coverage providing access to wireless internet throughout the entire district. This will also include a cloud-managed Meraki management system with additional security features. This will allow the district to provide strong wireless coverage where we need it and when we need it.

### Classroom Technology and Collaborative, Active Learning Spaces

In addition to the expanded wireless coverage, the district will be redesigning some classroom and library learning spaces at PQ elementary and the MSHS. The redesign of these areas will allow students to easily collaborate and support differentiated learning. Different subjects and teaching methods require different classroom features. Active learning spaces offer adjustable mobile furniture which can be reconfigured to meet the needs of all learners. The restructuring of these areas allows for mini-lessons, student collaboration, small group, and whole-class size instruction. These areas will have interactive touch-screen flat panel displays in the arrangement, in addition to Chromebook carts. The new furniture will give our students and staff increased functionality in an adaptive environment. The redesigned areas will reinforce team-based, student-centered learning, and reconfigurable spaces suitable for information sharing to promote collaboration.

The overall cost of these projects, \$230,261, will be covered by the SMART School bond. Twenty-three percent of the funds will cover enhanced connectivity in the MS/HS and PQ. The remaining seventy-seven percent will cover active learning spaces, SMARTboards, and chromebook carts at the MS/HS and at PQ.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As digital technology becomes more widely available and continues to change, there is a compelling need to provide on-going professional development to support educational reform goals, New York State Next Generation Standards, and locally developed curriculum. Research-based effective practices as well as District outcomes for students demand that students have inquiry-based, collaborative, and differentiated learning experiences. The SSBA allocations support the acquisition of essential tools, but does not provide funding for professional or curriculum development.

North Salem Central School District will continue providing resources based on its approved budgets to support and promote activities for technology integration professional development for staff, teachers and administrators. The NSCSD approved Professional Development Plan highlights the importance of professional development for technology integration. The District is committed to ensuring that our staff, teachers, and administrators can efficiently use technology for productivity and to effectively promote student achievement, teaching and learning.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The District is committed to the expansion of use of SMARTboards and mobile devices in the classroom, particularly in the area of Chromebook use at both Pequenakonck Elementary School and the Middle School/High School. The District will make a commitment to continue allocating money in the budget to continue to support this initiative over the next several years. Each year over the next four years, an allotment of funds will be budgeted for the normal repair costs of a percentage of the total devices. After four years, devices will be replaced and/or reallocated in order to ensure the equipment stays current and new technology is supported.

## PROVISIONING AND DISTRIBUTION TIMELINE

Once the Investment Plan is approved by the State, equipment will be purchased in accordance with the District's purchasing policies. Once equipment arrives, the IT staff will prioritize the unboxing, inventorying and provisioning of the equipment. The district will include this new equipment in its existing inventory database and monitor it to ensure equipment is securely maintained in its designated locations. The District's comprehensive asset insurance policy will be updated to reflect the additional equipment as well.

<p>If anyone in the North Salem Central School District would like to submit written feedback on the North Salem CSD NYS Smart Schools Bond Act Preliminary Proposed Plan, please email Mary Rhuda, Secretary to the Superintendent, <a href="mailto:mrhuda@northsalemschools.org">mrhuda@northsalemschools.org</a>.</p>
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