



# Smart Schools Bond Act 2014

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*Smart Schools Investment Plan*

**Classroom Technology**

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## I. Introduction:

On November 4, 2014, New York State voters approved a statewide referendum, the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA), as part of the General Election. This approval authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds intended to finance the improvement of educational technology and infrastructure throughout the State. As a result of the SSBA, the Yonkers Public Schools was allocated a total of \$23,965,851 to be used in support of the following eligible categories:

- **Educational Technology Equipment** – including but not limited to – interactive whiteboards, desktops, laptops, tablets, servers
- **High Speed Broadband**
- **Wireless Internet Connectivity** – for schools and communities.
- **Construct, Enhance or Modernize Educational Facilities** – to accommodate Pre-K programs
- **Provide Instructional Space** – to replace transportable classroom units
- **High-tech Security Features** – in school buildings and campuses

The District has assembled a Smart Schools Bond Act Committee, which includes representatives from all stakeholder groups, as outlined in the SSBA Guidance. The committee has been charged with the development and implementation of the Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP). Additionally, we have met with representatives from our non-public school community to ensure that their interests with regard to the SSBA funds are addressed and met.

As is required by the statute, the Yonkers Public Schools has completed and submitted the District's 2018-2021 Instructional Technology Plan and Survey which was approved by the New York State Education Department on October 25, 2018. All anticipated technology related expenditures are in alignment with the goals and expectations of the District's Technology Plan.

## **II. Smart Schools Bond Act Committee**

- **Reverend Steve Lopez – Yonkers Board of Education, President**
- **Mr. James Cavanaugh – Yonkers Board of Education, Trustee**
  
- **Dr. Edwin Quezada – Superintendent of Schools**
- **Dr. Andrea Coddett – Deputy Superintendent of Schools**
- **Ms. Christine Montero – Assistant Superintendent**
- **Dr. Luis Rodriguez – Assistant Superintendent**
- **Ms. Patricia Malgieri - Manager of Administration**
- **Mr. John Carr –Executive Director of Facilities**
- **Ms. Gina Bell – Director of Library Services**
- **Mr. Christopher Carvalho – Director of Technology**
- **Mr. Brian Schulder – Director of Safety and Security**
- **Mr. Ian Sherman – Principal Lincoln High School**
- **Mr. Nasser Ibrahim – Assistant Principal Yonkers Middle/High School**
- **Mr. Michael Garbowski – Teacher School 30, Yonkers Federation of Teachers Representative**
  
- **Mr. Rob Rijos – Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSAs**
  
- **Mr. Bob Cacace – City of Yonkers Commissioner of IT**
- **Ms. Cheryl Green – City of Yonkers Deputy Commissioner of IT**

### **III. Preconditions**

As part of the use of the SSBA funds districts must ensure that they meet the Federal Communications Commission's standard minimum bandwidth requirements of 100mbps per 1,000 students. That being said, the Yonkers Public Schools currently provides Internet access via 2 10 gigabit per second (gbps) circuits, located in its Data Center, which is housed in the District's Central Office, and at Yonkers Montessori Academy, to all District sites.

In addition, The District has a Wide Area Network (WAN) which provides 10gbps WAN access between all schools and the District's Central Office.

Both of these prerequisites are or will be met prior to the implementation of any projects that include the expenditure of any SSBA funds and will not require the use of any SSBA funds.

Section 753 of Education Law and part 100.12 of the Commissioner's Regulations, require that all New York State school districts complete and submit an Instructional Technology Plan Survey to the New York State Department of Education. The Yonkers Public Schools received notification on the approval of our submitted Instructional Technology Plan on October 25, 2018.

### **IV. Smart Schools Investment Plan Goals**

The goals of the District's SSIP are to:

- Ensure that the District has devices available for students to borrow in order to conduct online learning as needed during school closures.

V. Purchase Plan and Allocation of Funds

**Smart Schools Bond Act / Subcategory Allocation - Learning Tools: \$5,000,000**

SSBA CATEGORY	PURCHASE PLAN ALLOCATION
High Speed Broadband	\$0.00
Learning Technology Equipment or Facilities	Up to \$784,614.00 of \$5,000,000 allocation
Construct, enhance, modernize Prekindergarten facilities and/or trailer replacement	\$0.00
High Tech Security	\$0.00
<b>Totals – Stage 1</b>	<b>Up to \$392,307.00</b>

**Education Technology – Stage 1 Projected Expenditure Areas**

Public Schools Learning Tools Expenditure	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Computers – Laptop and/or Tablet	1,000	\$701.00	\$701,000.00
Non-Public School Learning Tools	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
“Undecided”	TBD	TBD	\$83,614.00
Combined Total >			\$784,614.00

## VI. Non-Public Schools

The Yonkers Public Schools shall make available, in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 (SSBA), computer equipment for students attending non-public schools within the City of Yonkers.

The statute declares that the District's responsibility in this endeavor is to provide an allocation up to \$250.00 per student based on the District's budget for the Classroom Learning Technology category of the SSBA. The Yonkers Public Schools has budgeted \$5,000,000.00 of its total SSBA allocation to the Classroom Technology category. Based on the District's phase one purchase plan the per pupil allocation per Non-Public School student (2014-2015 BEDS data) is \$27.81.

$$\begin{aligned} \$701,000/25,210 &= \$27.81 \text{ per non-public school student} \\ &\text{(25,210 YPS 2014-2015 enrollment)} \end{aligned}$$

All requests for computer hardware to be loaned to an individual institution **must** be communicated to the Yonkers Public Schools in writing **via email** to:

Christopher Carvalho  
[ccarvalho@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ccarvalho@yonkerspublicschools.org)

**ALL REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED, IN WRITING, by June 30, 2020**

Included in the request, in addition to the requested hardware (*see below for eligible hardware*), should be:

- A single point of contact identified by the requesting school for all requests made on behalf of the receiving school, including phone number, fax number and email address of contact person
- Storage capabilities of the requesting school for the equipment on loan while school is not in session. Schools able to facilitate the storage of the equipment on loan shall make the Yonkers Public Schools aware of that ability
- Those unable to house the equipment will be notified as to when the equipment is to be returned to the District

All equipment will be asset tagged by Yonkers Public Schools personnel and added to the District's inventory. The inventory information for the equipment on loan to each school will be provided upon fulfillment of the request. The equipment eligible for this loan program under the Smart Schools Bond Act Guidance document includes the following:

- Interactive whiteboards (installation not included)
- Computer Servers
- Desktop, laptop and tablet computers
- Other technology items that enhance teaching and learning



## **VII. Professional Development**

Professional Development supports the differentiated needs of learners, both staff and students, to enhance teaching and learning. Varied means of delivery ensure that an immersive approach enhances stakeholder comfort and engagement. A sampling of professional development opportunities include, but are not limited, to the following:

- School based and District Wide Instructional Opportunities both in-person and online means;
- Events, Conferences, Presentations;
- Staff meetings including faculty, congruence, Principal, and team meetings in daytime, afterschool, weekend, and Summer learning experiences;
- On demand resource provision through both district created, OER, and purchased services;
- Embedded instruction and peer coaching;
- Model courses and resources to support onboarding of new learning techniques and tools;
- Development of shared knowledge and a shared learning community through both in-person and online means;
- Communications through discussion boards, training materials, instructional resources, social media, newsletters, email and other means;
- Workshops for staff and families.
- Newsletters, parent workshops, etc.

## **VIII. Sustainability**

The Yonkers Public Schools provides all District locations with technical support staff through the Infrastructure Support Department. The department provides all schools with dedicated technical support field technicians, responsible for 3-4 schools each. Their responsibility is to respond to help desk incidents entered into our web-based system by the end user. Technicians will respond in a timely manner to the issue and take appropriate action to resolve.

All devices come standard with a three year warranty, exclusive of vandalism, so these devices will be maintained for three years at a minimum. Going forward, Infrastructure Support routinely budgets accordingly, to ensure that there is funding available to replace devices that are irreparable beyond their standard warranty. Therefore, upon expiration of the warranty, the District will be able to support replacement of devices, as needed, to ensure that the hardware is always available for student use.

Regarding Internet and wireless fees, these items are always applied for in the annual E-Rate applications and are budgeted for accordingly. These items are provided to the entire District centrally and schools are not responsible for any funding for Internet access or wireless fees. Building maintenance, in general, is the responsibility of our Facilities Department. The Infrastructure Support and Facilities Department work in concert to ensure that the building infrastructure is operational and maintained.

## **IX. Timeline**

Upon approval of the submitted Smart Schools Investment Plan, the District will begin the procurement process. Upon delivery of the equipment to its designated location, units will be asset tagged, in accordance with District inventory policies and procedures, and added to the District's overall asset inventory. The Technical Support staff will begin the imaging process of the hardware, as units are received. It is expected that the devices will be ready for distribution approximately one week after receipt of the units.

## X. Appendix

For additional information on the Smart Schools Bond Act, please visit the website below:

**Smart Schools Bond Act Website:**

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart\\_schools/home.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/home.html)

This website contains all of the information related to the SSBA including SSBA Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The Yonkers Public Schools' plan will be posted on the District's website

([www.yonkerspublicschools.org](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org)) to give all District stakeholders the opportunity to review the plan and provide written feedback, comments or concerns via the email address below. Additionally, the District will host a public forum where stakeholders will have another opportunity to ask questions or provide additional feedback or comments.

[ssbacomments@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ssbacomments@yonkerspublicschools.org)