

Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 Preliminary Investment Plan

PUBLIC HEARING ON SMART SCHOOLS BOND FUNDING

A public hearing for Smart Schools Bond Funding was held on the
Board of Education Meeting, May 5, 2016
at 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry School District, Library

We encourage our community to submit written comments on the
DFSD Preliminary Proposed Plan, please email:

smartbond@dfs.org

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I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Smart Schools Bond Act, the Dobbs Ferry UFSD was allocated a total of \$367,973. “In January 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo called for New York State to invest \$2 billion in its schools through a Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) that will build out schools and classrooms for the 21st Century to ensure that our students graduate with the skills they need to thrive in the economy of today and tomorrow. Voters approved the Bond Act in November 2014.” <http://programs.governor.ny.gov/smart-schools-ny>

The Dobbs Ferry UFSD will follow on the guidance from NYSED fulfilling each one of the following steps prior to certifying and submitting its Smart Schools Investment Plan:

- The preliminary plan has been posted on the district website for at least 30 days. The district has provided an electronic and physical address to which any written comments on the plan should be sent.
- The school board will conduct a public hearing that will enable stakeholders to respond to the preliminary plan. This hearing will occur as part of the Scheduled Board meeting, but adequate notice of the public meeting has been provided through local media and the district website for at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- The district has prepared a final plan for school board approval.
- The final proposed plan will be certified and submitted to NYSED for review and will be posted on the district website.

II. PRECONDITIONS

All New York State public school districts are required to complete and submit a District Instructional Technology Plan survey to the New York State Education Department in compliance with Section 753 of the Education Law and per Part 100.12 of the Commissioner’s Regulations. Districts that include investments in high-speed broadband or wireless connectivity and/or learning technology equipment or facilities as part of their Smart Schools Investment Plan must have a submitted and approved Instructional Technology Plan Survey on file with the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The Dobbs Ferry UFSD submitted their required Instructional Technology Plan Survey to NYSED and was approved in December 2015.

As established by the Smart Schools Bond Act Guidance a precondition to utilizing the SSBA funds requires that the District must ensure adequate Internet bandwidth to further expand wireless connectivity for classrooms and additional technology devices for classrooms. The minimum adequate Internet bandwidth is 100Mbps per 1,000 students to support the inclusion of additional learning technology devices for the classroom.

The Dobbs Ferry UFSD has a TLS connection from its Internet Service Provider (ISP) The Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) with a bandwidth of 200 Mbps and we are planning on using the funds to maximize our infrastructure and upgrade our internal connections from 1Gbps to 10Gbps capabilities in alignment with our Instructional Technology Plan approved by NYSED.

III. PLAN GOALS

The goal of the Smart Schools Bond Act is to increase use of and access to educational technology to improve learning and opportunity for students. The Dobbs Ferry UFSD will use allocations from the Smart School Bond funding to the following to School Connectivity and Classroom Learning Technology Categories. On July 21, 2015, school community stakeholders met to discuss options for allocating our Smart Schools Bond Act award from New York State. The categories identified were School Connectivity and Classroom Technology:

School Connectivity category will cover the replacement of and or upgrades to:

- Wifi Access Points
- Switches
- Infrastructure Wiring
- Broadband

Classroom Technology category will cover the replacement of and or upgrades to:

- Smartboards
- Chromebooks / Wireless Devices
- Servers
- Computers / Laptops

IV. PURCHASE PLAN & ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Budget Category	Sub Allocation
School Connectivity	\$211,821
Connectivity Projects for Communities	\$0
Classroom Technology	\$156,152
Prekindergarten Classrooms	\$0
Replacement of Classroom Trailers	\$0
High-Tech Security Features	\$0
Unallocated Funds	\$0
Total	\$367,973

School Connectivity Allocations

SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY	SUB-ALLOCATIONS
Network/Access Costs	\$141,030
Outside Plant Costs	\$0
School Internal Connections and Components	\$70,791
Professional Services	\$0
Testing	\$0
Other Upfront Costs	\$0
Other Costs	\$0
Totals:	\$211,821

ITEMIZED LIST (use Quote information and group devices/items)

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Network/Access Costs	Network Switches	11	\$6489	\$71,379
Network/Access Costs	WiFi Access Points	109	\$639	\$69,651
Outside Plant Costs				\$0
Connections/Components	HS, MS & SH Replacement Internal Wiring	1	\$70791	\$70,791
Connections/Components				
Professional Services				\$0
Testing				\$0
Other Upfront Costs				\$0
Other Costs				\$

Classroom Technology

CLASSROOM LEARNING TECHNOLOGY	SUB-ALLOCATIONS
Interactive Whiteboards	\$52,725
Computer Servers	\$39,035
Desktop Computers	\$2,960
Laptop Computers	\$61,432
Tablet Computers	\$0
Other Costs	\$0
Totals	\$156,152

ITEMIZED LIST (use Quote information and group devices/items)

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Interactive Whiteboards	Smartboards	15	\$3515	\$52,725
Computer Servers	Server	1	\$20,211	\$20,211
Computer Servers	Server Blade	2	\$9412	\$18,824
Desktop Computers	Classroom Computers	5	\$592	\$2960
Laptop Computers	Non-Public Devices	98	494	\$48,472
Laptop Computers	Public School Devices	54	240	\$12,960
Tablet Computers				\$0
Other Costs				\$0

V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Professional Development Plan as outlined in the NYSED approved Tech Plan Survey follows on the state standards for high level training for teachers. In keeping with standard 2 of the New York State Professional Development Standards Dobbs Ferry is committed to providing teachers with opportunities to expand their knowledge of the technology skills necessary to provide developmentally appropriate instructional strategies. Teachers and staff will be provided with many opportunities for professional learning. The District will continue with the monthly technology sessions which have been provided to teachers over the past four years. These menu driven sessions are designed to address staff learning needs that emerge from the administration of the Clarity survey each spring.

This is consistent with the New York State Professional Development standard #1 also which calls for job embedded learning that is based on needs identified in data. Currently, the District staff is engaged in professional learning around Google tools for education, including Google classroom. We have Google certified educators who “turnkey” training with colleagues. With the addition of the emerging technology coach who works in the District 2 days each week, teachers are receiving “just-in-time” classroom support as they try new technologies for student learning.

Our teachers participate in the River Towns Consortium coordinated by the Teachers Center where they learn with their colleagues from surrounding Districts and where the turn-key best practices in technology integration. The District provides

financial support for professional development for teachers at all grade levels and works closely with the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation to support teacher instructional practices which integrate technology into the classrooms. Professional development will support teacher's ability to collaborate with colleagues. (New York State Professional Development Standard # 4)

VI. SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to the existing DFSD Technology Refresh program in which the District budgets funds for device replacements, every four/five years, our district is committed to upgrading to new devices purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act which will supplement the existing equipment replacement cycle already in place. In each of the next four years, funds will be budgeted for the normal repair costs as a percentage of the total cost of the devices.

After four years, the devices will be replaced and/or redeployed in order to ensure the equipment stays current and new technology is supported following on a staggered schedule as the devices reach their end of life status (EOL).

In addition, our district takes advantage of financing opportunities to obtain leased devices for the District at an effective cost. This financing strategy allows the District to extend and sustain the initial investment in devices using the Smart Schools Bond Act funding.

VII. INVESTMENT PLAN TIMELINE

Once the Dobbs Ferry UFSD Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan is reviewed by the state education department and then approved by the Smart Schools Review Board, equipment will be purchased in alignment with the District's purchasing policies and budget cycles within the next four/five years. Once equipment arrives, the Technology Department Staff will prioritize inventory and provision of the equipment in accordance with our multi-year plan. Based on proposed quantities, equipment should be in place and operational within 60 days after it arrives.