

Bethlehem Smart Schools Preliminary Investment Plan Phase II

About the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA)

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). Voters approved the Smart School Bond Act in November 2014 and as a result the Bethlehem Central School District was allocated to receive \$2,039,178.

The purpose of the Smart Schools Bond Act is to improve learning and opportunity for public and nonpublic school students by funding capital projects to:

1. Install high speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities;
2. Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers;
3. Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to accommodate prekindergarten programs and to provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers; and/or
4. Install high tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses, including but not limited to video surveillance, emergency notification systems, and physical access controls.

SSBA Phased Investment Plan

After examining the District's technology needs and reviewing our Smart Schools Bond Allocation, through collaboration with the Bethlehem community, it was determined that it would be best to break up our funds into different projects.

In Phase I, we used an initial portion of the available funds to replace classroom interactive boards in the Middle School and High School, as they were becoming obsolete and were increasingly difficult to repair. The High School and Middle School project was completed in the summer of 2019.

After additional classroom pilots in our elementary schools throughout 2019-2021, we are now ready to move on to Phase II which includes replacing aging interactive boards and projectors in our five Elementary Schools. We will kick off this phase by spending the remaining budget from Phase I, which will allow us to complete one of the elementary schools in the winter/spring of 2021.

To complete the other four elementary schools, we will be filing an Amendment to our initial Smart Schools Spending Plan, to add additional Interactive Boards.

After Phase II is complete, we will most likely spend the remainder of our Smart Schools Bond Allocation on security systems for the district.

Phase II Budget

SSBA Budget Category	Allocations
BC Classroom Technology (103) Interactive Boards for four of Bethlehem's five Elementary Schools	\$596,000
Non-Public Classroom Technology St. Thomas the Apostle School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment to be determined Mt. Moriah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment to be determined Bethlehem Children's School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment to be determined 	\$2,940 \$465 \$240
TOTALS for Phase II	\$599,645
Unallocated Funds available for Phase III	\$282,428

Professional Development

Bethlehem Central School District has an established support structure for all technology deployed to teachers and students. Support personnel include the IT Staff, elementary school teachers employed on a stipend as Tech Coaches, and a full-time Instructional Technologist.

The venues that are available for professional development include department meetings, faculty meetings, Continuous Improvement meetings, after-school drop-in sessions, annual edTechTeam Capital Region Google Summit, and a two-day Tech Bootcamp in August.

It is also our hope that by installing a consistent technology in all classrooms, teachers will be able to assist one another on a regular basis.

Sustainability of Assets

Bethlehem employs a full-time technology support staff that is responsible for maintaining all district technology. The average lifespan of an interactive board ranges from 8-10 years, which will be taken into account as we develop a replacement schedule and incorporate the expense into the hardware allocation of the Technology budget.

SSBA Timeline

All districts will be required to submit a Smart Schools Investment Plan to demonstrate how Smart Schools Bond Act funds will be used to provide the educational tools and opportunities that students throughout New York State will need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

- ❑ September 2019 - January 2021: Elementary teacher pilots in all 5 schools
- ❑ December 2021: Met with elementary principals and conducted presentations in all 5 faculty meetings
- ❑ January 2021: Consulted with nonpublic school representatives to gather their requests
- ❑ January 2021: Consulted with Bethlehem Administrators and Supervisors
- ❑ January 2021: Draft Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) Amendment and presented to the community and Board of Education.
- ❑ January 2021: SSIP Amendment submitted to NYS for approval

SSBA Planning

Pursuant to the requirements for the Smart Schools Bond Act, the planning process for developing and submitting a Smart Schools Investment Plan to the State Education Department must include consultation with parents, teachers, students, and community members. The following are ways that this requirement has been met:

- Both building-level and district-level technology committees have discussed the need to refresh our classroom interactive boards. Pilots were conducted to determine the teacher's choice.
- An initial pilot was conducted in February through April 2018, where ten high school and ten middle school teachers each used an LCD Interactive Panel for two weeks and a Short-Throw Projector for two weeks. These teachers provided feedback in both written form and in tech committee meetings. Additionally, an elementary pilot was conducted throughout the 19-20 and first half of the 20-21 school year.
- Based on the published document "2014-15 Nonpublic District of Attendance Enrollment Record", three non-public schools are identified as being a part of the Bethlehem School District. St. Thomas the Apostle School with enrollment of 196, Mt. Moriah Academy with 31, and the Bethlehem Children's School with 16 students. Each school was given the opportunity to submit requests for classroom technology based on their enrollment with a total budget of \$250 per pupil.

Public Comments

Community members can send their comments on the SMART Schools Investment Plan to Ray Nardelli, Director of Information Technology, 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar NY 12054, or by emailing them to rnardelli@bethlehemschools.org.

References

To learn more about the Smart Bond Act Guidelines go to:

- <http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/smart-school-bond-act>
- http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/home.html