

Bethlehem Smart Schools Preliminary Investment Plan Phase III

About the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA)

In January 2014, New York State invested \$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 remaining Smart Schools Bond Allocation, through collaboration with the Bethlehem community, it was determined that it would be best to utilize the remaining funds on classroom technology.

This new phase directly supports our 2026-2029 ITP Goal 1 (Academics) by providing student-centered learning spaces that facilitate collaboration and critical thinking. The ViewSonic boards allow for multi-touch interaction and seamless integration with our Google Workspace environment.

The ViewSonic boards have a projected lifespan of 7–10 years. The district will utilize its general fund and Technology Reserve to maintain and replace these units at the end of their lifecycle, ensuring no 'fiscal cliff' for the technology

Phase III Budget

SSBA Budget Category	Allocations
BC Classroom Technology (350) Chromeboxes	\$306,924.91

(20 PCs) (75) Viewsonic Boards Associated peripherals	
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 	\$8,264.45 \$641.21 \$997.43
TOTALS for Phase III	\$316,828

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 teachers employed on a stipend as Tech Coaches, middle and high school teachers employed on a stipend as department technology liaisons and two full-time K-12 district Instructional Technology coaches.

The venues that are available for professional development include department meetings, faculty meetings, Continuous Improvement meetings, after-school drop-in sessions, anytime anywhere embedded PD, Model Schools courses, annual edTechconferences, New Teacher orientation and a two-day technology teaching and learning conference in August.

It is also our hope that by installing consistent technology in all classrooms, teachers will continue to be able to grow and assist one another on a more 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 6-10 years, which has been taken into account as replacement schedules have been developed. Additionally these costs have been incorporated 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.

- ❑ October 2025 - February 2026: Pilot new classroom technology in all 7 schools

- ❑ December 2025-January 2026: Conducted meetings with all principals and district administrators, BCTA, President's Council
- ❑ February 2026: Consulted with nonpublic school representatives to gather their requests
- ❑ December 2025 February 2026: Consulted with BCTA Tech Committee, Elementary building coaches, High School and Middle School Liaisons who in turn provided turn key training and information to all BCTA teachers
- ❑ February 2026: Draft Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) Amendment and presented to the community and Board of Education.
- ❑ May 2026: 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 testing period was conducted in January through April 2026, where elementary, middle and high school teachers each used the new technology for two weeks. These teachers provided feedback in both written form and in tech committee meetings.
- Three non-public schools are identified as being a part of the Bethlehem School District. St. Thomas the Apostle School with enrollment of 116, Mt. Moriah Academy with 9,, and the Bethlehem Children's School with 14 students. Each school was given the opportunity to submit requests for classroom technology based on their enrollment with a total budget of \$71.25 per pupil.

Public Comments

Community members can send their comments on the SMART Schools Investment Plan to Erin Sheevers, Chief Technology Officer, 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar NY 12054, or by emailing them to esheevers@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