

# Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan



Scarsdale Public Schools  
Scarsdale, NY

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These sections are required components of the District's Smart Schools Investment Plan. Note that the *italicized text* represents the descriptors used by NYSED to gather the information provided in this document.

## **I. PLAN OVERVIEW**

The Scarsdale Technology Vision Statement declares: “We believe that all members of the school community should be able to use appropriate technology as a tool for teaching, learning, and assessment....In order to realize this vision, we must continually respond to changes in technology by maintaining a robust technology infrastructure, providing technical and financial support, investing in professional development for all staff, and providing a wide variety of educational opportunities for all students.” This Smart Schools Investment Plan supports this vision of technology and our three-year technology plan.

After examining the District’s technology needs and reviewing our Smart Schools Bond Allocation, it was determined that the best use of these funds would be to help replace classroom SMARTBoards, as they are becoming obsolete and are increasingly difficult to repair. Newer classroom technology uses a flat LCD panel instead of an overhead projector, resulting in a significantly brighter image and lower maintenance costs. The Smart Schools Bond Act funds will help us to accelerate the replacement of our aging SMARTBoards, which have served as important instructional tools. A portion of our annual lease/purchase hardware funds will be used to replace remaining displays over the course of the next three to four years.

To prepare for this Preliminary Finance plan, the District submitted a technology plan to NYSED in 2016. The plan was approved by the Board and NYSED in that same year. In accordance with NYSED requirements, the District also sent its technology plan to Deborah Shanley, Interim Dean at the School of Education at Lehman College, *the SUNY/CUNY teacher preparation program* which graduates the largest number of our new teachers.

Teachers and computer teachers reviewed several vendor options during the 2016-17 school year. Our current plan is to purchase 65” Sart 6000 series displays for the elementary schools and the Middle School, and 75” Smart 6000 series displays for the High School. The plan also includes the purchase of mobile stands for the 65” models. It was determined that the 75” Smart displays should be mounted, and the District will fund their installation. IHM, the largest non-public school in our region, would like to have access to three Chromebook carts, so their request is included in this plan.

## **II. TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE PRECONDITIONS**

*In order for students and faculty to receive the maximum benefit from the technology made available under the Smart Schools Bond Act, their school buildings must possess sufficient connectivity infrastructure to ensure that devices can be used during the school day. Smart Schools Investment Plans must demonstrate that sufficient infrastructure that meets the Federal Communications Commission’s 100 Mbps per 1,000 students standard currently exists in the buildings where new devices will be deployed, or is a planned use of a portion of Smart Schools Bond Act funds, or is under development through another funding source.*

The District infrastructure features a state-of-the art high speed wireless network with access points that support the 802.11ac standard. Buildings are connected by a 10 GB Wide Area Network that supports a 1 GB connection to the Internet. All of the interactive displays purchased in this investment plan will have access to adequate power and will be connected to

our existing desktop computers and laptops. The District has a four-year hardware cycle, so device compatibility will not be an issue.

**III. SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN GOALS**

The use of interactive displays will help students to become more engaged in classroom instruction. Teachers will use the displays to annotate information, show presentations and videos, and replicate the functionality of a white board with the benefits of interactivity. For example, students who are learning “drag and drop” coding environments can observe a teacher who is able to physically replicate the work they will be doing on their laptops. This allows visual learners to understand concepts more easily.

**IV. PURCHASE PLAN & ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

**V. SSBA CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATIONS**

| CATEGORY                              | SUB-ALLOCATIONS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| School Connectivity                   | \$0             |
| Connectivity Projects for Communities | \$0             |
| Classroom Technology                  | \$252,545       |
| Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms           | \$0             |
| Replace Transportable Classrooms      | \$0             |
| High-Tech Security Features           | \$0             |
| Totals:                               | \$0             |

## Classroom Technology

The following chart provides information on the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible item under each-subcategory in the Smart Schools Plan

|                         | Item to be purchased  | Quantity             | Cost per Item  | Total Cost   |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|--|--|
| Interactive Whiteboards | 65" Smart displays<br>6000 for elementary schools and the Middle School<br><br>75" Smart displays<br>6000 for the High School | 35 65"<br><br>15 75" | \$3,999 for the 65" display<br><br>\$4,999 for the 75" display   | \$214,950  |
| Computer Servers        | 0   |                      |  | \$0  |
| Desktop Computers       | 0   |                      |  | \$0  |
| Laptop Computers        | Acer R11 Chromebooks for IHM (including management module)  |                      |  | \$18,483   |
| Tablet Computers        | 0   |                      |  | \$0  |
| Other Costs             | 35 Smart Display stands<br><br>3 Chromebook carts for IHM   |                      | Smart display Carts = \$16,415<br><br>Chromebook carts = \$2,697 | Smart display Carts = \$16,415<br><br>Chromebook carts = \$2,697 |

## **VI. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The District provides support for technology professional development through a number of support systems:

1. Computer teachers, located in each building, provide professional development and training to teachers on a regular basis. The computer teachers will participate in a turnkey training program, where they will be trained by a certified Smart trainer, allowing them to deliver enhanced training to their building's teaching staff.
2. The Scarsdale Teachers Institute (STI) offers a variety of courses that support the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.
3. Computer teachers also offer workshops on the use of technology to support classroom instruction.
4. Scarsdale teachers are required to participate in annual technology professional development workshops, and some of our workshop offerings will include sessions on the effective use of interactive classroom displays.

## **VII. SUSTAINABILITY**

*To ensure the sustainability of technology purchases made with Smart Schools funds, districts must demonstrate a long-term plan to maintain and replace technology purchases supported by Smart Schools Bond Act funds. This sustainability plan shall demonstrate a district's capacity to support recurring costs of use that are ineligible for Smart Schools Bond Act funding such as device maintenance, technical support, Internet and wireless fees, maintenance of hotspots, staff professional development, building maintenance and the replacement of incidental items. Further, such a sustainability plan shall include a long-term plan for the replacement of purchased devices and equipment at the end of their useful life with other funding sources.*

The Scarsdale Schools Technology Plan allocated funds for technology purchases via a lease/purchase finance program. The current Board-approved technology plan anticipates a need for \$1,550,000 in hardware funds for the 2017-18 school year; a portion this will provide additional interactive displays to classrooms that will not receive the equipment specified in this investment plan. Future technology budgets will support the replacement and maintenance of the equipment detailed in this request, as well maintenance and support for all of the District's hardware and technology infrastructure.

## **VIII. INVESTMENT PLAN TIMELINE**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| January 2017   | Technology update presented to the Board of Education<br>Smart Schools Bond plan is discussed  |
| September 2017 | Board of Education presentation and discussion of Smart Schools<br>Finance Plan goals, budget plans, and timeline  |
| October 2017   | Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan adopted (pending Board<br>approval)  |
| November 2017  | Smart Schools Community Hearing<br><br>If no changes are recommended, Board approves Smart Schools<br>Investment Plan (phase one) and authorizes submission to NYSED |

This is the first phase of our Smart Schools Bond implementation. After this plan is approved by the State, items will be purchased in a manner that is consistent with our District's purchasing policy. Equipment will be inventoried, installed, and configured, and training will be provided to teachers. The District anticipates that the second phase of this project will use all of the remaining funds that have been allocated to us by the Smart Schools Bond Act.

### **Feedback:**

This plan will be posted on our website for 30 days. Additional information will be posted and updated on our Smart Schools website: [www.scarsdaleschools.org/smartschools](http://www.scarsdaleschools.org/smartschools)

We welcome community comments on this preliminary investment plan. Community members who wish to provide feedback should send their comments to:

[smartschools@scarsdaleschools.org](mailto:smartschools@scarsdaleschools.org).