

Preliminary Smart Schools Phase 2 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:

“The Scarsdale School District has a longstanding, continuous commitment to providing our students with an outstanding education. To that end, we seek to achieve and maintain best practices in using technology to support the educational experiences of all students. **The use of technology should be seamlessly integrated into the curriculum, teaching and learning.**”

We believe that all members of the school community should be able to:

- Use appropriate technology as a tool for teaching, learning, and assessment
- Have access to appropriate technology throughout the District buildings and adjacent areas
- Use technology to empower learners by giving them tools for creating, communicating, and collaborating
- Use technology to allow all users to curate information and solve problems
- Recognize the ethical and legal responsibilities and opportunities of learning and working in an increasingly interconnected community

In order to realize this vision, we must continually respond to changes in the technology landscape by maintaining a robust infrastructure, providing technical and financial support for the use of technology in our schools, investing in professional development for all staff, and providing a wide variety of opportunities for all students to use technology to enhance their learning.

This Smart Schools Investment Plan supports this vision of technology and our current and future 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 our oldest classroom SMART Displays, as they are beginning to fail and are increasingly difficult to repair. 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 2019. The plan was approved by the Board and NYSED in that same year. A new Technology Plan was created this year, and will be submitted to New York State by July 1st, 2022. In accordance with NYSED requirements, the District also sent its 2019 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.

Our current plan is to purchase 65”Smart 6000 series displays for the elementary schools and the Middle School. IHM, the largest non-public school in our region, would like to purchase two Smart Displays and iPads, 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 with full redundancy that supports a 4 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 has allowed students to become more engaged in classroom instruction, and for teachers to use them as powerful tools that transform classroom instruction. Teachers will continue to use the displays to annotate information, show presentations and videos, and replicate the functionality of a white board with the benefits of interactivity. 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	\$200,558
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 6000 for elementary schools and the Middle School	52	\$3,749 for the 65" displays	\$194,948
Computer Servers	0			\$0
Desktop Computers	0			\$0
Laptop Computers	0			\$0
Tablet Computers	7 iPads and Misc. hardware			\$2,352
Other Costs	Miscellaneous hardware/adapters		\$3,258 for miscellaneous costs	\$3,258

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 \$1,600,000 in hardware funds for the 2022-23 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

May 2022	Technology update presented to the Board of Education Smart Schools Bond plan is discussed
June 2022	Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan adopted (pending Board approval)
July 2022	Smart Schools Community Hearing If no changes are recommended, Board approves Smart Schools Investment Plan (phase one) and authorizes submission to NYSED

This is the second 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.

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

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

gcrisci@scarsdaleschools.org.