

Smart Schools Investment Plan

Our total Smart Schools Bond allocation is **\$752,525**. The Smart Schools Investment Plan Application 1 proposal is **\$371,206.15**.

Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA)

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in the 2014-2015 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the New York State 2014 General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the state. The Thousand Islands Central School District has been allocated \$752,525 for this purpose. This will be paid to the District by New York State as reimbursement for technology expenses under the plan.

Smart Schools Investment Plan Committee

Pursuant to the requirements for the Smart Schools Bond Act, the planning process for developing and submitting the Smart Schools Investment Plan to the State Education Department must include consultation with parents, teachers, students and community members. The following people served on the Thousand Islands Central School District Smart Schools Investment Plan Committee: Michael Bashaw (Superintendent of Schools), Jon Benner (Network Administrator), Angela Picunas (Business Manager), Sally Switzer (retired Business Manager), Melissa Balk (School Librarian), Andrea Lomber (Principal), Joe Gilfus (Principal), Brenda Leddy (Principal), Lisa Freitag (Principal), Brian Lantier (Community, Parent, and BOE member), and Zane Henderson (Student).

Members of the group met at regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year which included Building Planning Team, District Leadership Team, administrative, and as needed.

Smart Schools Investment Plan Timeline

- 10/5/2017: DRAFT Smart Schools Investment Plan posted on District web site.
- 11/14/2017: Public Hearing to present Draft Smart Schools Investment Plan
- 11/14/2017: Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan approved by the Board of Education
- 11/17/2017: Smart Schools Investment Plan submitted to the State Education Department

Category	Sub-Allocation
School Connectivity	371206.15
Connectivity Projects for Communities	0
Classroom Technology	0
Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms	0
Replace Transportable Classrooms	0
Hi-Tech Security Features	0

Total	371206.15
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School Connectivity

Planned Purchases

Thousand Islands CSD will purchase the necessary networking components to upgrade existing infrastructure to accommodate additional wireless capacity Districtwide. Additional hardware to increase redundancy will further bolster the efficiency of the network. Wireless equipment to cover all areas of the District will be purchased and deployed.

School Internal Connections and Components:

Item	Total Cost
Network switching components	\$214,698.75
Wireless access components	\$91,799.30
Network cabling and patch cords	\$2,588.72
Installation and services	\$62,119.38
Subtotal	\$371,206.15

Sustainability Plan

We expect network communication equipment to last for approximately 8 years before needing replacement. Thousand Islands CSD will use a combination of general fund, annual budget, CoSer, and capital project funds to plan for and finance these replacements.

School Connectivity Narrative:

As a precondition to any purchase of technology infrastructure or classroom technology using Smart Schools allocation, a district must increase the number of school buildings that meet or exceed the Federal Communications Commission minimum speed standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students. Please describe how your district already meets or is planning to meet this standard within 12 months of plan submission.

Our District currently exceeds the Federal Communications Commission minimum speed standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students with 10 Gbps (1,0000 Mbps) for a student population of 950.

Briefly describe how you plan to use Smart School Bond Act funds for high-speed broadband and/or wireless connectivity projects in school buildings:

Thousand Islands CSD has implemented a 1 to 1 Chromebook program in grades five through twelve. Chromebooks are also used extensively at the kindergarten through fourth grades. Through past capital

projects and yearly spending the network infrastructure has been upgraded over time to support this. Additional coverage areas such as playgrounds, athletic venues, bus drop off zones, and concession areas will be added to our current coverage which will allow our staff and students greater access. Using funds provided through SMART, our intent is to further expand on the capabilities of our network and wireless infrastructure. Once complete all old access points will be replaced with new, faster units. All classrooms will have dedicated access points, and the supporting infrastructure will have redundancy built in to ensure uptime for students and faculty. Upon completion of this SMART bond project all buildings will have robust wireless access and we will have eliminated as many dead zones in coverage as possible.

Briefly describe the linkage between the district's District Instructional Technology Plan and the proposed projects. (There should be a link between your response to this question and your response to Question 1 in Part E. Curriculum and Instruction "What are the district's plans to use digital connectivity and technology to improve teaching and learning?")

This infrastructure upgrade will strengthen and expand our wired and wireless networks which will enhance and support all the other instructional components. The WiFi upgrade will allow us to increase the number of mobile devices available for student research, collaboration, and instruction by providing an "always on" access to technology. This will expand the options our students have for taking online courses and Distant Learning by providing us greater opportunities for learning, preparing them for similar learning experiences post-secondary, and better preparing them for college and career readiness. This will also allow our District to be fully prepared for computer based testing as expected by the New York State Education Department.

With our current 1 to 1 initiative and wireless infrastructure we experience some intermittent connection problems in areas of highest use, mostly in the high school and middle school, consequently the students cannot utilize their Chromebooks for school and homework. The auditorium and lunch rooms have problems as well when utilized for large group instruction and testing. Through this upgrade we will eliminate these congestion problems and minimize dead zones in our coverage Districtwide. As we extend our 1 to 1 initiative to more grade levels the increased number of devices will place a greater demand on our network therefore upgrading the system is critical to the success of our 21st Century Learners.

Describe the district's plan to provide professional development to ensure that administrators, teachers and staff can employ the technology purchased to enhance instruction successfully.

The following platforms will be used to conduct professional development sessions:

- Workshops and Mini-Classes: We offer professional development during the summer and throughout the school year. Shared decision making teams will assess data and recommend implementing professional development which also includes technology integration (Trainers are in-district professionals, BOCES, RIC, Model Schools, or others). Trainings provided as necessary based on our Professional Development Plan.
- Train the Trainer: We find that professional development is most effective when there are a variety of individuals that can provide "on the spot" professional development.

To achieve this, we encourage teachers to become experts at various systems in the District and then provide assistance to staff when needed. As we integrate new technologies into the District through this plan, faculty and staff technology leaders will be trained so they can in turn provide support to their colleagues.

- New Faculty/Staff: Either the technology director or one of the staff “Train the Trainer” experts will provide professional development to the new staff on the use of the basics as well as new equipment introduced through this plan.
- Google Apps for Education: Faculty and staff will be trained in the use of Google Apps for Education for sharing and collaboration. Through this medium, documents can be shared with the staff related to IT Professional Development and they will also be able to collaborate with each other with “Best Practices.”
- Outside Conferences and Workshops: Faculty and staff will be encouraged to participate in content specific professional development related to Technology Integration

Timeline

Upon approval by NYS Education Department, Thousand Islands CSD will initiate purchasing of all equipment proposed. Our vendor will then schedule installation of all equipment across the District during times that will allow for the least amount of student and faculty interruption.

Final Comment

In conclusion, we believe that our Smart Schools Investment Plan will support our continued initiatives to increase student achievement, engagement, and success.