

Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District



SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT PRELIMINARY INVESTMENT PLAN PHASE 2

Board of Education

Anne Lawless, President
Ned Kopald, Vice President
Faith Aprilante, Trustee
Aaron Falk, Trustee
Gus Koutsourades, Trustee
Gabe O'Connell, Trustee
James DiSalvo, Trustee
Cecil Marson, West Point Liaison

District Administration

Dr. Frank Sheboy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Andrea Tejedor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Technology
Denise Cedeira, Assistant Superintendent for Business

PUBLIC HEARING ON SMART SCHOOLS BOND FUNDING

There will be a Public Hearing on Smart Schools Bond Act Fund on:

June 10, 2021

Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District

YouTube Livestream found at <http://www.hffmcsd.org>

If our HFFCSD Community would like to submit written feedback on the HFFMCSD NYS Smart Schools Bond Act Preliminary Proposed Plan, please email: smartschools@hffmcsd.org

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

NYSED SSBA FAQs 12/27/16

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/documents/SSBAFAQs_Final2.pdf

NYSED SSBA Guidelines

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/documents/SSBAGuidancerev_10_24_18_Final.pdf

NYSED SSBA Website

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/

PLAN OVERVIEW

The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) was passed in November 2014 by a state-wide referendum to invest \$2.0 billion in New York State schools and the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District (HFFMCS D) is allocated to receive \$848,982. The Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD Smart Schools Investment Plan designed to:

- Upgrade classroom learning technologies. [Phase 1]
- Enhance district-wide security and communication systems. [Phase 2]

Working with the HFFMCS D Districtwide Technology Committee, and aligned with the District Technology Plan, this investment plan has been drafted to focus this allocation on the Smart Schools Bond Act allowable expenditures.

PRECONDITIONS

As a precondition to utilizing the SSBA allocations, the district must ensure that there is adequate bandwidth to further expand wireless connectivity for classrooms and additional technology devices for teachers and students. The Federal Communications Commission requires a minimum speed standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students. The HFFMCS D has approximately 1,000 students, which based on the standard, means a 100 Mb connection speed is required ($100\text{Mb} \times 1.0 = 100\text{ Mb}$). At this time our connection speed is 15 MB. We have the infrastructure to support the mandated bandwidth and will purchase additional Mb in order to be in compliance.

The HFFMCS D has managed fiber between buildings on the school wide area network (WAN) that can support up to 10 Gb of connectivity. Currently HFFMCS D has one Gb between sites for district interconnectivity but with the proposed SSBA allocations for upgrades to the HFFMCS D local area network (LAN) infrastructure, the WAN could then be increased as needed to 10 Gb between schools. The funding for this will come from the SSBA supported additionally through eRate reimbursement.

All district plans approved by the school board and submitted to the New York State Education Department must meet the required elements, including demonstrating students' needs, minimal speed requirements for internet connectivity, professional development, technical support, and sustainability. As part of the process, districts are required to submit a District Instructional Technology Plan Survey in compliance with the Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations. The Instructional Technology Plan Survey outlines the current and future plans of the district as it relates to infrastructure, devices, staffing, and professional development to improve teaching and learning. The Instructional Technology Plan Survey was approved by the New York State Education Department in January of 2019.

PLAN GOALS

The HFFMCS D Smart Schools Investment Plan goals align with the district’s Technology Plan. The district will:

- Continue to provide technical support, infrastructure upgrades, and network maintenance for all users of the network.
- Configure and expand Wi-Fi infrastructure for Wi-Fi access points for all classrooms in grades K-12.
- Continue to develop and integrate K-12 students’ technical competencies and learning strategies that seamlessly integrate International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards, National Common Core Standards and College and Career Readiness.
- Continue to implement ISTE Administrator and Teacher technology standards to ensure that curriculum, instructional strategies, and learning environments integrate appropriate technologies.
- Establish and maintain a one-to-one device program to support student learning initiatives.

Specifically, the District’s Smart Schools Bond Act allocation will focus on:

- Acquiring learning technology equipment, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and supporting classroom technologies
- Maintaining state-of-the art infrastructure that supports Security Projects in school buildings and on campuses including but not limited to video surveillance, emergency notification systems, enhanced communication systems and physical access controls.

PURCHASE PLAN & ALLOCATIONS

To prepare for the transformative changes called for by HFFMCS D’s 2020 Vision, it is critical to first address the technological needs to support the classroom learning environment and the security and communication systems in our schools. Over the course of several months, a draft preliminary plan was developed and was presented at the regular public Board of Education meeting on February 2, 2016. An initial public hearing was conducted on March 2, 2017 to enable stakeholders to respond to the preliminary plan. After the hearing, the district prepared and submitted the final plan for School Board approval. The approved plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department and posted on the district website. The planning process included consultation with parents, teachers, students, community members, any non-public schools located in the district, and other stakeholders.

The following steps must be completed to fulfill the requirement of the New York State Education Department and thus allow access to the allocated funds:

1. BoE approval of a preliminary SSIP (2.2.17)
2. Community sharing of draft SSIP to allow for community feedback (2.2.17)
3. A public hearing allowing the District stakeholders to respond to the draft plan (3.21.17)
4. Final SSIP approval by the BoE (4.6.17)
5. Submission of the SSIP to the New York State Department of Education (4.7.17)

6. Public hearing for revised plan (6.10.21)
7. Final SSIP approval by the BoE (7.8.2021)
8. Submission of the SSIP to the New York State Department of Education (7.9.2021)

The BoE has historically and currently operates on using one-time funds sparingly, and if so, the dollars will be directed to long-term investments. While the actual Smart School Bond legislation allows for the use of the funds on what the District would consider to be more consumable type expenditures (ex. tablets that last three years), these funds would be used to support the needs of the current HFFMCS D technology structure and forwarding thinking learning environments. The Smart Schools Bond funds will be expended with the utmost fiduciary responsibility to provide updated technology infrastructure with a life span of at least seven years. The HFFMCS D intends to use this first allocation of SSBA funds for classroom learning technology. The central goal is to provide an environment capable of supporting seamless integration of instructional technology.

Phase 1-Classroom Learning Technology: Approximately 35% of the SSBA funds will be used to update classroom learning technologies, including interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and supporting classroom technologies. The district's SSBA fund allocation will support the upgrade of these tools in order to accommodate 21st century learning environments and students' learning styles.

Phase 2-Enhanced Security Upgrade: The remaining 65% of the SSBA funding allotment will be used to acquire and install an enhanced security systems for interior and exterior door access in all three schools.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On-going professional development is a critical component of both the District's Instructional Technology Plan and the Smart Schools Investment Plan. The district provides myriad professional development opportunities each year for teachers, teaching assistants, and administrators. The training addresses use of the SmartBoard and Smart Notebook software, instructional software applications, Google Apps for Education, and more. The District strongly believes that both the instructional leadership staff and the technical support staff need higher-level professional development, which will continue on an on-going basis to facilitate the utilization of technology tools and resources in the most effective manner possible. Additional technology personnel will be needed to support the integration of the new initiatives supported by the Smart Schools Bond.

INVESTMENT PLAN TIMELINE [PHASE 2]

Once the Investment Plan is approved by the state, equipment will be purchased in accord with the District's purchasing policies. Once equipment arrives, the IT staff will prioritize the unboxing, inventorying and provisioning of the equipment. The district will include this new equipment in its existing inventory database. The District's comprehensive asset insurance policy will be updated to reflect the additional equipment as well.

Based on proposed quantities, equipment should be in place and operational within 60-90 days after it arrives.