

SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT

Final Investment Plan

2015-2016

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PLAN OVERVIEW

In November of 2014, New York State voters approved the Smart School Blind Act (SSBA). The Blind Brook – Rye Union Free School District was allocated \$195,893.00 as part of this act. After reviewing the District’s needs, it was determined that these funds would be used to replace some of the District’s outdated networking components as well as purchase wireless devices to enhance classroom learning.

PRECONDITIONS

As a precondition to utilizing the SSBA allocations, each District has ensured that there is adequate

Internet bandwidth (equal to or exceeding 100 Mbps per 1000 students) to sustain computer-based initiatives.

The District’s current internet bandwidth does not meet the SSBA requirements. The ability to increase district bandwidth to required levels is limited by the firewall that the District currently owns. This firewall is unable to handle internet speeds greater than what the District currently employs. The District will remedy this issue by purchasing a new firewall as part of the SSBA funding purchases.

PLAN GOALS

The goals for the SSBA allocation closely align to the District’s 2015-2020 Technology Plan. The Technology Plan goals include:

- Update the network infrastructure to support the demands of current use
- Establish and maintain a one-to-one device program to support student learning initiatives
- Review new technologies that will assist the move to student-centered learning

The SSBA allocation will specifically focus on

- Updating the 15 year old firewall and network switches
- Expanding the one-to-one Chromebook initiative by purchasing Chromebooks for 7th grade and 10th grade students
- Providing iPads for all kindergarten to 2nd grade classrooms.

PURCHASE PLAN AND ALLOCATIONS

In alignment with the approved 2015-2020 District Technology Plan, the District plans to utilize SSBA allocations as described below in Table 1 for the SSBA allowable expenditure Budget Category areas.

Table 1. Summary of Allowable SSBA Expenditures

SSBA Budget Category	Allocations
School Connectivity	\$90,200
Classroom Technology	\$105,600
TOTAL	\$195,800

School Connectivity

In order to meet the increased need for online access and to meet the bandwidth requirements for the SSBA, the District will be replacing its existing firewall with more updated equipment. Additionally, six of the switches that support the District's network will be replaced with newer switches which will be capable of supporting higher throughput and will have PoE functionality.

Table 2. School Connectivity Sub-Allocation

SSBA Connectivity Projects for Schools	Sub-Allocations
Network/Access Costs	\$0
Outside Plant Costs	\$0
School Internal Connections and Components	\$90,200
Professional Services	\$0
Testing	\$0
Other Upfront Costs	\$0
Other Costs	\$0
TOTAL	\$90,200

Classroom Technology

The District plans to increase the number of wireless devices in several areas.

To support the ongoing one-to-one Chromebook initiative, the District plans to purchase Acer C740 (or the equivalent model) Chromebooks. These units will have 4 GB of RAM and

16 GB solid state hard drives. They will support the AC wireless standard and have 11” screens. They will be purchased with the Chrome OS Management license so that they can be added to the District’s existing Google Apps for Education (GAfE) domain. They will be purchased with cases to ensure the units are well protected.

At the elementary school, wireless devices will be purchased to increase student accessibility to web-based resources. A set of Chromebooks will be purchased for the 5th grade team. The specifications for these devices are the same as the Chromebooks listed above. A secure cart will be available for storage of these devices in the 5th grade classrooms. iPads will also be purchased for Kindergarten through 2nd grade classrooms. The District is planning on purchasing the Apple iPad Air Wi-Fi tablet. These devices will have a 16 GB hard drive and a 9.7” screen. Each device will be kept in a high-impact case.

For the high school, a set of Apple MacBook Air laptops will be purchased to supplement the Macs available in the High School Mac Lab. The Mac Lab is used by various teachers in the high school to have students create dynamic and engaging learning projects. Use of this room has been limited as there are fourteen computers currently located in this room but class size for most classes ranges from twenty to thirty students. The MacBook Air laptops would enable larger classes to use this space. The District plans on purchasing the MacBook Air laptops with an 11.6” screen, an Intel Core I5 processor and 4 GB of RAM. The laptops will support the AC wireless standard. They will be stored in a secure locked cart.

Table 3. Classroom Technology Sub-Allocation

SSBA Classroom Technology for Schools	Sub-Allocations
Interactive Whiteboards	\$0
Computer Servers	\$0
Desktop Computers	\$0
Laptop Computers	\$87,600
Tablet Computers	\$18,000
Other Costs	\$0
TOTAL	\$105,600

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The District recognizes the need to provide targeted, rigorous and sustained professional development for staff and students to effectively support technology. In order to support the use of technology in the district, including the projects outlined in the SSBA plan, the District employs a technology staff developer who works with teachers and students to assist with effective technology integration. The technology staff developer is a fully certified teacher

who provides a variety of professional development opportunities including one-on-one sessions with teachers on use of technology in the classroom as well as group trainings on Chromebook use as well as online resources.

For the Chromebook initiative, teachers of students who will be receiving Chromebooks in the following year receive a year's worth of training workshops prior to their students receiving devices. These training sessions continue on through subsequent years to help support teachers in the use of these devices in the classroom.

SUSTAINABILITY

The District is committed to the expansion of use of mobile devices in the classroom, particularly in the area of Chromebook use at the middle school and high school levels. Money has been allocated in the technology budget for the past two years for the purchase of Chromebooks as part of a one-to-one initiative. The District made a commitment this year to continue allocating money in the budget to continue to support this initiative over the next several years. The District is also committed to integrating the mobile devices purchased into the regular equipment upkeep/replacement cycle.

PROVISIONING AND DISTRIBUTION TIMELINE

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. Based on the proposed quantities, equipment should be in place and operational within 30 days of its arrival.

The district will include this new equipment in its existing inventory database and monitor it to ensure equipment is securely maintained in its designated locations. The District's comprehensive asset insurance policy will be updated to reflect the additional equipment as well.