

Updated SSBA Hardware, Software, License and Fees Policy

The following costs are NOT eligible for Smart Schools: subscription fees, product or equipment leases, professional development, software or applications (other than those necessary to operate SSBA-funded hardware optimally,) fees or other administrative costs. These items are considered operational costs, not capital expenditures, which makes them ineligible for Smart Schools funding. SSBA funds cannot be utilized for soft (or operational) costs as they would not meet requirements for tax-exempt financing. Districts will be required to have such costs funded through other sources, such as local funding, the state's software aid program or the federal E-Rate program.

Smart Schools funds may only reimburse the cost of an actual device or hardware and the licenses, integrated core operating software (or that required to integrate the SSBA hardware into an enterprise system) or extended replacement warranties needed to enable the hardware to operate and to directly support the intended educational purpose(s) of the SSBA plan. This would mean that Smart Schools could reimburse the cost of network upgrades required for the new SSBA hardware, not all network software.

Eligible licenses, software and warranties that are purchased on an annual basis may be initially purchased with SSBA funds along with the hardware, provided such bundling of costs is reasonable and customary; however, any future renewals or riders must be funded with other resources.

Multi-year extended repair and/or replacement warranties, with included on-line service, diagnostic, support and software upgrade plans for the same term, may be purchased with SSBA funds at the same time as the initial hardware purchase, if they are required to enable the hardware to operate optimally over that period and to directly support the intended educational purpose(s) of the SSBA plan. Please indicate the length in years of the warranties, support and software upgrade agreement clearly in the appropriate narratives.