

Smart Schools Investment Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

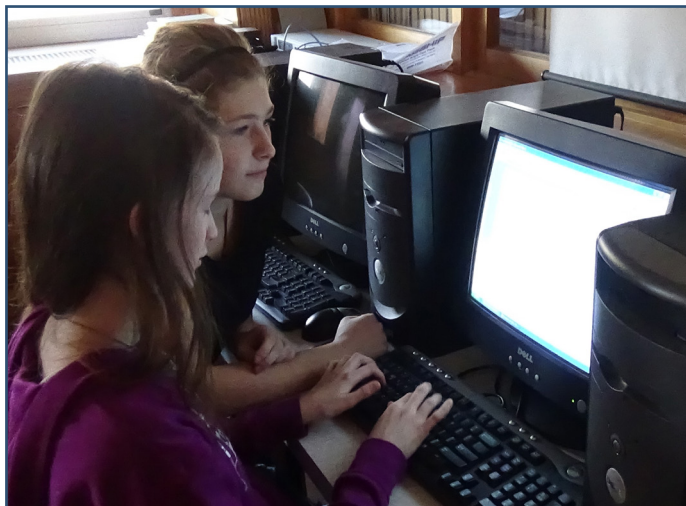


What is the Smart Schools Bond Act?

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed as part of the 2014-15 New York State Budget and approved by voters in a statewide referendum held on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014. The SSBA authorized the issuance of \$2 billion in bonds to finance educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning opportunities for students throughout the state.

How much will Schenevus Central School District get under the plan?

The district was allocated \$429,031 under the SSBA. This will be paid by the state as a 100 percent reimbursement for technology expenses identified under the Schenevus Smart Schools Investment Plan, which targets \$222,000 in classroom technology in its initial application. Smart Schools bond funds remain available until a district has used its entire allocation, and the district plans to apply for more. Because the state limits how schools can spend the funds and the district already has high-speed internet, a WiFi network and other modern technological infrastructure in place, the focus of the plan is on classroom technology. Smart Schools funding can't be used to hire more teachers or cover normal operational costs.



THE SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN WILL MODERNIZE THE DISTRICT'S CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY TO MAXIMIZE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS.

How will the funding be used?

1. The district will purchase iPad tablets for students in grades pre-kindergarten through first and touch-screen Chromebooks for students in grades two through 12. These devices are compatible with the district's current WiFi network and use of Google Apps for Education, which includes: Google Classroom, Gmail, Drive, Calendar, Vault, Docs, Sheets, Slides and Sites. All students, faculty and staff have Google accounts. The goal is to have a device for each Schenevus student.
2. The district will acquire laptop computers for staff use in classroom instruction, lesson planning and student, staff and parent communication and collaboration.
3. The district will install iMac desktop computers for use in the media-communications/yearbook/art/music technology lab.
4. The district will purchase 55-inch LED TVs and document cameras to compliment current district classroom technology for multi-media presentations and electronic collaboration.

Is there any local cost associated with the purchase?

There is no local cost associated with the initial purchase. Because the classroom technology, like all electronic devices, have lifespans, the district is planning to budget \$55,000-a-year for replacement costs.

Is there a public hearing on this plan and where can I go for more information?

Yes. There is a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Jan. 12 before the regular meeting of the Schenevus Central School Board of Education. The plan and related information, which requires a vote by the school board for approval, is posted on the district's website. Information is also available by calling the superintendent's office at 638-5530.