

The Children's Learning Center

New York State Smart Schools Bond Act

Overview and Investment Plan

June 2018

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Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) Description

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in the 2014-15 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 improvements in educational technology, infrastructure and security. The Children's Learning Center has been allocated \$29,693 for this purpose. This will be paid to The Children's Learning Center by New York State as reimbursement for expenses incurred under the plan. The entire text of the Smart Schools Bond Act Implementation Guidance can be found at:

www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/docs/Smart_Schools_Bond_Act_Guidance_04.27.15_Final.pdf

Working with school building administrators, teachers, staff and input from parents, our Instructional Technology Plan contains the main goal for use of technology in instruction for The Children's Learning Center. This investment plan is in alignment with the goals expressed in our NYSED Instructional Technology Plan.

Plan Overview

The Children's Learning Center Technology Vision Statement

Technology facilitates purposeful learning of subjects, skills, and IEP goals, throughout the day, and across the school in order to individualize learning and allow for student choice. A shared vision prioritizes administrator, teacher, and parent professional development opportunities, curriculum development, and student engagement activities. Through training and regular use of technology, staff become experts in ensuring that the appropriate technology tool is used to provide our students with opportunities to learn and share knowledge inside and outside the classroom

Technology Guiding Principles

Technology use needs to be grounded in teaching and learning. The Children's Learning Center envisions an environment that provides appropriate access and security, while supporting teaching and learning. The Children's Learning Center also assures that the school environment offers all students and teachers opportunities to support the priorities of 21st century learning, to become increasingly digitally literate:

- Learning environments that are equipped with technology tools to support all students
- Students take ownership and develop independence in determining the right technology tool for each activity
- Technology is purposefully integrated to support clear learning goals
- Technology Specialists propel staff and student use of technology in innovative and purposeful ways
- Technology is the vehicle used to provide enhanced opportunities for rich multimedia collaboration
- Teachers and administrators actively explore and implement emerging trends in the effective use of technology for their potential to improve student learning
- Inspire student self-directed inquiry and creativity
- Promote and model digital citizenship and responsibilities
- Utilize technology to better access curriculum and develop functional communication

In order to realize this vision, technology must be infused into the daily functions of our classrooms and instructional programs. This requires that infrastructure, hardware, and software make electronic and non-print resources accessible to students and teachers at the classroom level.

The Smart Schools Investment Plan supports the vision of our Instructional Technology Plan. After examining the district's technology needs and reviewing our Smart Schools Bond allocation, it was determined to use the money to fund the following:

1. Upgrade classroom and clinical technology

The preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan information was reviewed by the administration team on Wednesday, December 6, 2018. The administration team is made up of school administrators, clinical supervisors, classroom teachers, and special area teachers.

Technology Infrastructure Preconditions

In order for students and faculty to receive the maximum benefit from the technology made available under the Smart Schools Bond Act, their school buildings must possess sufficient connectivity infrastructure to ensure that devices can be used during the school day. Smart Schools Investment Plans must demonstrate that sufficient infrastructure that meets the Federal Communications Commission's 100 Mbps per 1,000 student's standard currently exists in the buildings where new devices will be deployed, or is a planned use of a portion of Smart Schools Bond Act funds, or is under development through another funding source.

The Children's Learning Center's current network infrastructure meets these requirements

Smart Schools Investment Plan Goals

1. **Goal:** New Classroom and Clinical Technology

Rational: All of our current classroom computers and many of our interactive white boards have reached the end of their classroom effectiveness. We are consistently repairing computers in order to meet minimum requirements for use by classroom and clinical staff. All computers are unable to support contemporary software and hardware specifications due to their advanced age (all computers are at the minimum 8 years old). We would like to replace these old computers with current models in order to support teaching and learning in the classroom, therapy rooms, and instructional spaces.

Allocation of Funds – Purchase Plan

The Children's Learning Center - \$29,693

Computers

Proposed: As 100% of classroom computers and computers in instructional spaces along with therapy computers are over 8 years old CLC is proposing a replacement of all computers in classrooms, therapy offices, and instructional spaces. New computers will support teaching and learning as new technology will meet the current requirements for current software that increases access, individual program development, adaptations, and variety in order to meet the individual needs of CLC students.

Cost: The expected total cost of the new computers is \$29,693, funded by the Smart Schools Bond Act.

Sustainability

To ensure the sustainability of technology purchases made with Smart Schools funds, districts must demonstrate a long-term plan to maintain and replace technology purchases supported by Smart Schools Bond Act funds. This sustainability plan shall demonstrate a district's capacity to support recurring costs of use that are ineligible for Smart Schools Bond Act funding such as device maintenance, technical support, Internet and wireless fees, maintenance of hotspots, staff professional development, building maintenance and the replacement of incidental items. Further, such a sustainability plan shall include a long-term plan for the replacement of purchased devices and equipment at the end of their useful life with other funding sources.

The Children's Learning Center @ CP Nassau currently employs an IT staff and computer teacher for ongoing technical support for all school IT Infrastructure hardware, software, and instructional devices. The Children's Learning Center will ensure sustainability of all technology infrastructure hardware and software through staff personnel.

The Children's Learning Center Instructional Technology Plan is supported by the annual budget and allocates funds for technology purchases via the capital purchases budget.

Future Technology budgets will support the replacement and maintenance detailed in this Smart Schools Investment Plan, as well as maintenance and support for all of the school's hardware and technology infrastructure, through the existing school's equipment replacement cycle. Each year the district allocates funds for the normal repair cost of the learning devices and infrastructure throughout the school.

Feedback

This document will be posted on The Children's Learning Center website:

www.thechildrenslearningcenter.org

If you have any questions regarding the District's technology plan and/or utilization of Smart School bond funding, please contact:

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