

WILLIAM FLOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT



SMART SCHOOL INVESTMENT PLAN

PHASE 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WIRELESS
NETWORK

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MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951

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SMART SCHOOL INVESTMENT PLAN

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OVERVIEW

The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014 was passed in the 2014-15 New York State enacted budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election on Tuesday, November 4. This bond act authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State.

William Floyd's portion of this funding is \$10,398,033. The Smart School Bond has designated four areas of allowable focus for these funds:

1. Install high-speed broadband or wireless Internet connectivity for schools and communities
2. Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities
3. Pre-kindergarten programs and/or replace classroom trailers
4. Install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses

In collaboration with teachers, administrators, parents and community members, our district has chosen to concentrate on 1, 2, and 4; increasing Internet connectivity, acquiring additional learning technology equipment and installing high-tech security features. This document provides the district's phase three recommendation for use of these funds to complete our wireless network upgrade. As required, all districts' Smart School Investment Plans (SSIP) will be posted for a 30-day public review and comment period. A public hearing will follow then the plan will be formally approval by the Board of Education. Once Board approved, we will submit it to the New York State Education

Department for final acceptance. SSIPs must meet the requirements of demonstrating a rationale for students' needs, preparing for minimal speed requirements for connectivity, providing professional development, appropriate technical support and long-term sustainability.

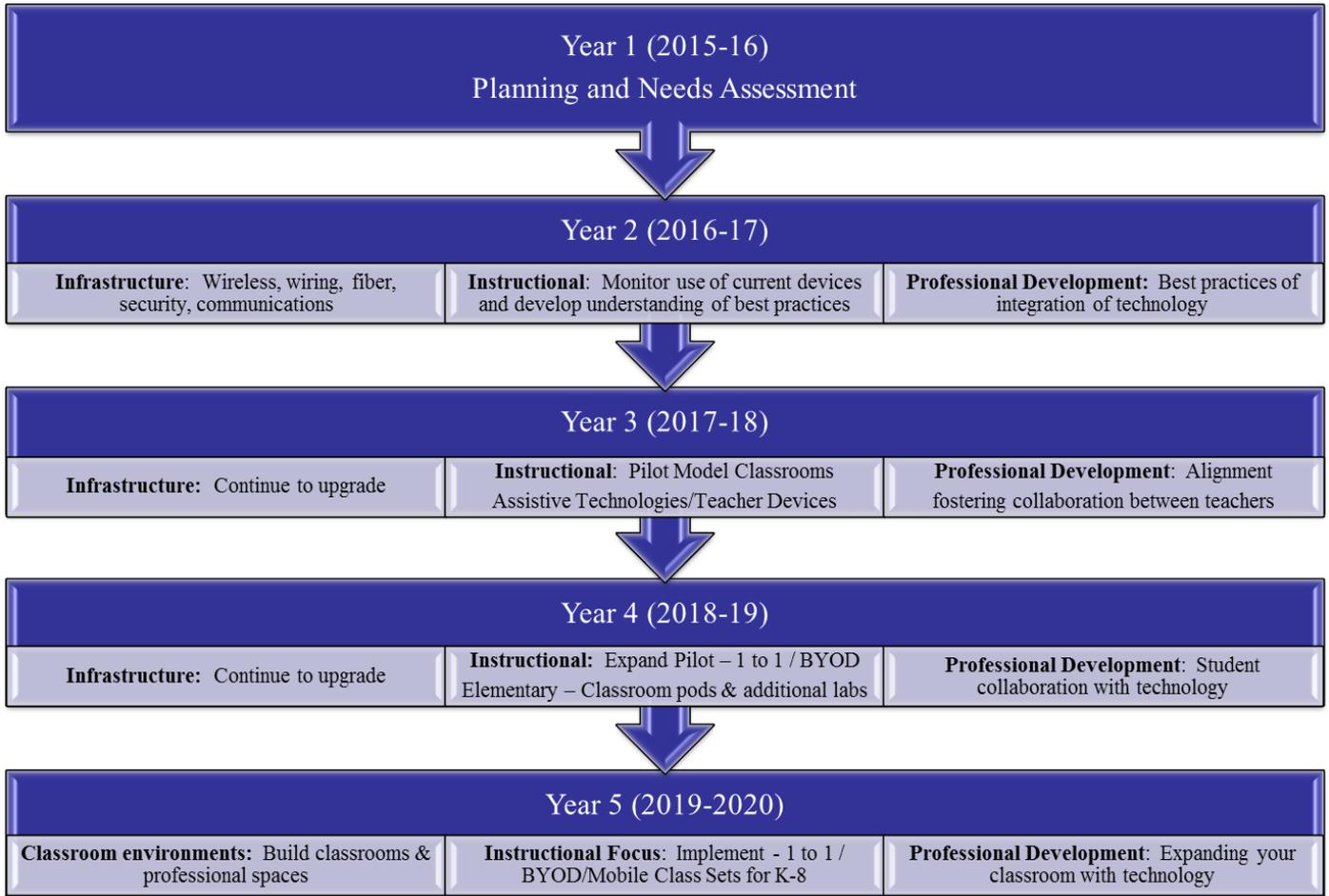
RATIONALE

The William Floyd School District is committed to providing all of our students with a high-quality education. It is our mission to achieve a learner-centered, nurturing, safe environment that empowers students and teachers with the ability and desire to thrive as life-long learners. To achieve this requires a commitment to and investment in the technologies essential to create safer and more productive schools. We intend to take full advantage of this incredible opportunity of Smart Schools to reinvest in long-term infrastructure improvements and reinvent our approach to instruction.

Our long-term strategy to this goal is multifaceted:

- Rebuild our technology infrastructure and network capacity to be robust enough to handle future needs.
- Improve and integrate our security and communication systems to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Increase our teacher aptitude for the integration of technology to improve student engagement and achievement.
- Improve our students' access to technology providing them with expansive opportunities and preparing them for their future.
- Develop classroom spaces that foster collaboration and critical thinking to build life-long learners, passionate about the quest for knowledge.

We will be developing these plans simultaneously over the next 5 years.



In continuing to accomplish these long term goals, we need to upgrade our wireless network across the district. Our existing wireless network is due for replacement and refresh, as the majority of these devices were installed as early as 2007. The network equipment is nearing obsolescence and is no longer supported by warranty and service. We are unable to update our current wireless access points, leading to the inability to connect newer devices and the inconsistency of connection with current devices. Our current capacity for wireless connection is inadequate for the number of devices we currently deploy. In addition, we have connection speed inconsistency across schools and classrooms in our district that needs to be addressed. As a result, this causes slower

application response times and the current access points are not able to accommodate the Internet traffic or the use of digital content.

This upgrade to our network will provide the wireless backbone needed to provide quicker access to resources as well as increase the number of simultaneous wireless devices accessing the network, at the same time providing us with an anytime, anywhere learning environment.

PROJECT OUTLINE

This phase will include the procurement of the 64 network switches that are needed to complete the installation of the new wireless network to accommodate over 800 WAPS (wireless access points) district wide. The procurement of the WAPS and the cabling needed will be funded through pre-approved eRate monies and configuration will be done by the William Floyd Network Administrator. Upon approval from the state, the required equipment will be purchased in accordance with New York State guidelines and district-purchasing policies. The work will be scheduled at a time that will not disrupt the educational process. The goal will be to have the new wireless network up and running in the 2017-2018 school year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The William Floyd School District is committed to ongoing professional development for teachers, administrators and staff in the use and integration of technology. This phase of our Smart School Bond is refreshing and updating our wireless network. This work is critical to support our current and future instructional technology initiatives, as well as support necessary improvements in our administration and staff productivity. While no

direct teacher professional development will be required for this portion of our SSIP, we will fully support our technical staff with the required training and preparation to ensure they are fully equipped to support all district technology initiatives. This improvement in our wireless network supports the expansion of our wireless capacity. All district innovations will be fully outlined in our district's professional development plan and supported in our district's general budget.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The William Floyd technology department is made up of a coordinator of technology, webmaster, network administrator/programmer, professional developer and four contracted technical support personnel. They are a high-functioning team that is well equipped to support these initial phases of our network refresh and upgrade. However, as part of our long-term planning, they will be surveying staff and students this year to understand areas of strength and challenges as a department. From this baseline, we will address needs and look for efficiencies to ensure our technical support is of the highest quality. As we expand our student and teacher access to digital technologies and incorporate more devices, we will be very mindful of technical support needed and will address needs with creative, cost-effective solutions. Our Board of Education has provided ongoing support of technology innovations in our schools. Their support has always come with the understanding of the importance of quality technical expertise to ensure the successful deployment of any innovation.

BUDGET

The district’s plan to fund these projects is to use multiple funding sources, eRate (Universal Service Schools and Library Aid funds), general budget funds and Smart Schools Bond funding will all be used to accomplish our goals.

	Smart School Bond
Total WFSD Allocation	\$ 10,398,033
Phase 1 - Infrastructure & Core Network	\$ 2,000,000
Phase 2 - Network Equipment for Wireless Upgrade	\$ 230,016
	\$ 8,168,017

SUSTAINABILITY

The Board of Education of the William Floyd School District has demonstrated consistent financial support for the use of technology throughout our schools. In preparation for our SSIP, our district consulted with teachers, administrators, students, and parents to determine needs and long-term plans for technology. This next phase of updating our wireless network will provide a strong wireless backbone that can adapt to future evolving demands. As a district, we believe the use of the Smart School Bond funds for this purpose will lay a foundation for technology that we can sustain through our general fund going forward. The hardware proposed in this plan integrates into our existing systems and the refresh should decrease our maintenance cost in the short-term; and the ongoing cost will fall within our current budgetary allotment for network support.