



SOUTHWESTERN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan- Fourth Submission

November 2022

Updating interactive panels and student devices will enhance experiences for all Southwestern
Students

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SOUTHWESTERN CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Smart Schools Bond Act Proposal – Updating interactive panels & student devices

OVERVIEW

The Southwestern school district desires all students to be active and capable 21st century learners. Along with a strong academic knowledge base, we understand that today's students also need to be able to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and be creative ("the four C's"). To facilitate the growth of these skills, we need to continue with an appropriate replacement cycle for interactive panels and student devices, including Apple products (iPads) for our kindergarten programs.

GOALS

- Allow for student intrinsic motivation and self-directed learning
- Support students in a natural connection toward the facilitation of the 4 C's
- Engage students in significant content by allowing for connections to curriculum
- Engage students in relevance and connections through an authentic learning experience
- Provide students an opportunity to connect with college and career opportunities

PRECONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT

Currently, Southwestern Central School has a Gigabit connection to the Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC). The internal District network is comprised of (4) buildings (Bus Garage in Lakewood, Elementary School, Middle School and High School). The HS, MS, and ES are connected via a fiber connection. Network closets in each building connect the classrooms to the internal network. All network equipment was replaced summer/fall 2015. This upgrade has increased our network capacity significantly district wide. Servers are kept up to date and whenever possible either are housed at Erie 1 BOCES or virtualized.

Southwestern meets the minimum speed standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students and staff. We utilize a contracted 24/7 service through Erie 1 BOCES.

Southwestern has worked closely with the Erie 1 BOCES Technology, Information and Infrastructure department to update our wireless connections at the elementary, middle and high school level. Our wireless connections were updated in the summer of 2016 to meet the demands of our students and staff. Southwestern has a wireless access point in every classroom that is capable of over 500 mbs, well above the minimal requirement through Smart School Bond Act.

Southwestern has a state-approved Instructional Technology Plan effective 2022-2025, which can be located on our website at swcsk12.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Southwestern's current infrastructure will support all purchases in this proposal.

STUDENT LEARNING

Southwestern intends to purchase *Smartboards* with a rail system. Most of these interactive panels will go to elementary teachers to replace end of life projectors they currently have in classrooms. A few panels will be allocated to our high school classrooms. Teachers participated in a collaboration session with our technology department and had the opportunity to attend an informational session about the differences between interactive panels and projectors. Teachers had the choice to upgrade to an interactive panel or keep a projector based on their instructional needs and styles. With these purchases, all elementary teachers that wish to have an interactive panel will have access to one in their classroom.

Southwestern plans to purchase a cohort set of student iPads (80 total) as part of a replacement cycle for our kindergarten classes. Teacher and stakeholder feedback has indicated the strong preference for a tablet instead of a laptop for kindergarten students. Therefore, we intend to use this set as part of the district's replacement cycle plan. These iPads will be used to replace out-of-date tablets.

Finally, Southwestern intends to purchase one set of student devices for a replacement cycle of student laptops that are used for grades 5-12.

In our special education classrooms, teachers utilize *Smartboards* and specialized applications to engage students in interactive lessons. The use of the *Smartboard* promotes social and academic interactions with students' peers and increases engagement for our students with Autism. Offering updated *Smartboards* in our general education classrooms will promote integrated education for our students with disabilities. ELL teachers will also have access to translating technology when needed on the *Smartboards*.

The 1:1 student device program at Southwestern can offer additional supports for students with disabilities, such as testing and program modifications. For example, some students need access to a calculator while taking an assessment. In addition to the physical calculator, the school also provides a licensed online calculator for students with that accommodation. Other examples of technology used for testing accommodations include typing assessments or using text-to-speech or speech-to-text.

COMMUNITY AND PARENT COMMUNICATION

Smartboards can be used to provide distance learning opportunities. In older grade levels, a 1:1 device allows students access to distance learning opportunities, as well as access to educational resources at home and outside of school.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Part of Southwestern's professional development plan is to continue to provide support for teachers at varying levels on how to utilize instructional technology. Teachers that receive a *Smartboard* through this project will receive continuous, individualized professional development support. One of the teachers on special assignment has been assigned to be an Instructional Technology coach; he is prepared to provide training and support for teachers using *Smartboards*. The district is committed to allocating professional development funds to instructional technology improvements, including the use of *Smartboards* as an instructional tool.

PLAN

The District is committed to working new equipment purchased through the Smart Schools bond into the equipment replacement cycle already in place. Each year, a maintenance allotment will be included in the district's budget to allow for proper care and part replacement as necessary.

Once the Investment Plan is approved by the state, equipment will be purchased in accordance with the District's purchasing policy. Once equipment arrives the IT staff will prioritize inventorying, asset tagging and provisioning of the equipment. Equipment will be in place and operational as soon as the equipment is properly installed, and teachers and staff are appropriately trained.

The district will include all new equipment in its current inventory database and monitor it to ensure it is used safely and appropriately. The district's comprehensive asset insurance policy will be updated to reflect the additional equipment as well.

LOANING HARDWARE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Smart Schools Bond Act provides that any district hardware purchases made using Smart Schools Bond Act funds shall be lent, upon request, to non-public schools in the district. All students attending non-public schools are eligible to receive loans of classroom technology equal on a per pupil basis to the per pupil amounts spent on classroom technology for public school students (up to \$250 per pupil). Southwestern has collaborated with Chautauqua Christian Academy, located at 200 County Touring Rte. 32, Jamestown, NY 14701 (Phone: (716) 484-7420). Based on Chautauqua Christian Academy's 2014-15 school year enrollment (61 students), they are entitled to borrow up to \$8,174 worth of equipment on an annual basis purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act. The Southwestern Central School

District school board has developed and adopted regulations and policies, including a procedure for notifying Chautauqua Christian Academy about the option to borrow hardware and equipment purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act in the future. In future school years, Chautauqua Christian Academy will have until June 1st of the previous school year to notify the district of its requests for borrowing equipment.

ITEMS FOR PURCHASE WITH SSBA FUNDS

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Extended Price
Interactive Whiteboards (<i>Smartboards</i>) with Rail Systems	50	\$4,065	\$203,250
Tablet Computers (iPads)	80	\$444	\$35,520
Laptop Computers (Student devices)	120	\$694	\$83,280
Total			\$322,050