

Sweet Home CSD Smart Schools Investment Plan 2024-2025

Overview

The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT 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.

Sweet Home's initial allocation of this funding was \$1,891,997. The bond has four areas of focus:

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, in this 2024-2025 investment plan, to utilize a portion of the funding to concentrate on increasing the internal security of our High School and/or Middle School by implementing door-hardening on the interior doors.

This targeted document provides the district's recommendations for use of these funds for the expansion of the existing door access system and the installation of wireless interior door locks and supporting equipment throughout the High School and/or Middle School.

As required, all district plans will be presented in a public hearing followed by a 30-Day public review and comment, and ultimately, approval by the Board of Education. The plan will then be submitted to the New York State Education Department for final acceptance. School Investment Plans must meet the requirements of demonstrating a rationale for needs of the district population (staff and students), preparing for minimal speed requirements for connectivity, providing professional development and appropriate technical support, and long-term sustainability.

Project Budget - High-Tech Security Features

Allocation for Interior Door Hardening Project: \$551,415.00

Rationale

The district has had an existing door access system in place for over 20 years. This system has been used to secure the external doors of all of the buildings in the district and has been expanded over the years as more doors have been secured.

This project addresses the need to better secure the interior doors, specifically classrooms and offices. The addition of access control to the interior doors provides several advantages including:

- Elimination of the creation, tracking, and control of individual door keys
- Control over who is allowed to enter these areas
- Tracking and reporting of entry into these areas
- Increased visibility into the state of secured doors - whether they are open or closed

Specifics

- Interior and classroom doors will be hardened with card access based locks.
- Communication to the doors will be accomplished via the use of dedicated wireless hubs.
- These new locks will be registered to and managed via the existing door access system, which will be upgraded to the latest software version and to accommodate the increase in the number of doors monitored.

Anticipated Timeline

- February 4, 2025 - Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan presented to BOE
- February 12, 2025 - Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan approved by BOE
- February 12- March 13, 2025 - Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan posted for review on the district website for 30 days
- March 18, 2025 - BOE/Public Meeting & Hearing
- March 18, 2025 - BOE Approval of Final Plan, submission to SED by April 1st, 2025
- April - June 2025 - SED Approval
- July 2025-September 2025 - Procurement / Completion of Work

For any questions related to our Smart Schools Investment Plan, please contact the Superintendent of Schools, Michael Ginestre (mginestre@sweethomeschools.org) or Robert Ehlenfield, Systems Engineer (rehlenfield@sweethomeschools.org.)