



FEBRUARY 10, 2020

# *Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan*

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# *Tonight's Presentation*

## **MAIN TOPICS**

About the Smart Schools Bond Act

Available Funding

School Connectivity Plan & Benefits

Educational Technology Plan & Benefits

Sustainability Plan

Grant Process & Timeline

Stakeholder Comments & Feedback

# *What is the Smart Schools Bond Act?*

## **The Act**

Proposed by Governor Cuomo, the SSBA was passed in 2014 and was intended to support educational technology capital projects to improve learning and opportunity for students with disabilities throughout New York State.

## **The Funds**

The Act authorized the issuance of a one-time \$5 million bond to finance these educational technology capital projects.

## **The Allocation**

Funds were allocated to districts and schools based on average full-time student enrollment over a 3-year period.

# *How May the Funds be Spent?*

## **Classroom Technology**

Schools may acquire learning technology equipment, such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers.

## **High-Tech Security**

Schools may install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses, such as video surveillance, emergency notification systems, and physical access controls.

## **School Connectivity**

Schools may install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity.

## **Classroom Trailer Replacement**

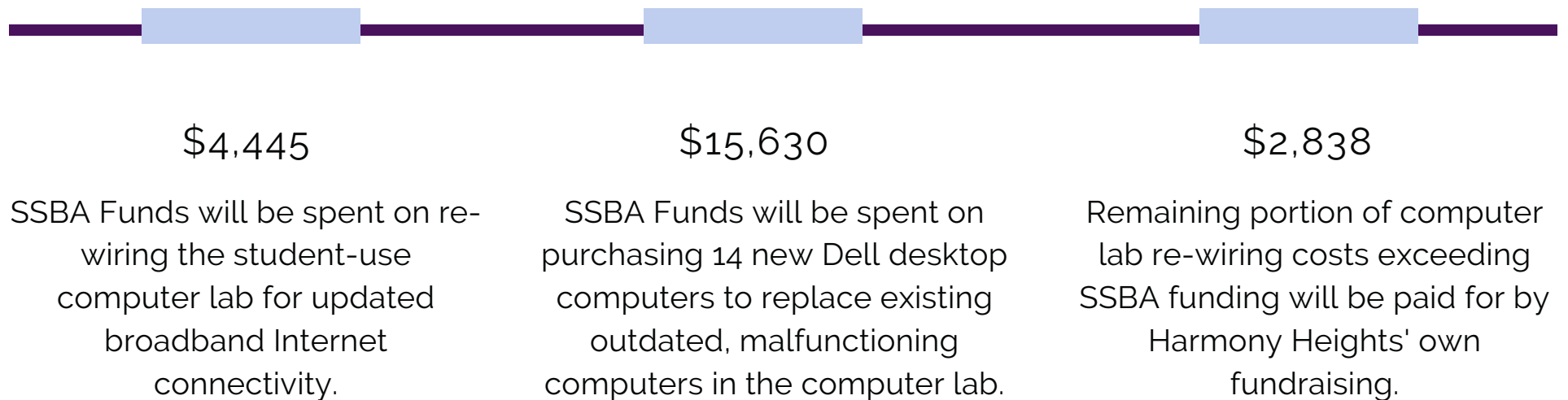
Schools may construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers.



## *Funding Allowance for Harmony Heights*

Harmony Heights was allocated a total of \$20,075 in funding for which it can apply.

# *How Will Harmony Heights Spent its Funding?*



# *School Connectivity Funding Proposal*



## **RE-WIRE**

Update the computer lab's outmoded internet/network switching infrastructure.



## **REPLACE**

Install two new Juniper EX2300 48-Port Switches to replace old (5+years), outdated switches.



## **REMOVE**

Eliminate several columns housing existing wiring, thus freeing up valuable classroom floor space.



## **REARRANGE**

Rewiring & column elimination will allow for restructuring of lab layout to provide teachers easier classroom monitoring.

# *Benefits of Proposed School Connectivity Plan*

## **Easier Classroom Management**

Re-wiring will allow for a shift from desktop PCs laid out in rows to a classroom setup in which PCs will be arranged in an outward-facing perimeter. This will facilitate monitoring of all students at the same time, ensuring they stay on task.

## **More Reliable Internet Connection**

The current high-speed Internet switches are old, sluggish, and unreliable. New switches and re-wiring will ensure reliable, high-speed broadband Internet access.

## **Improved Educational Experience**

Digital connectivity and technology facilitate learning by offering new and exciting ways for students to absorb information and makes it possible for students to collaborate.



# *Educational Technology Funding Proposal*



## **REPLACE**

Purchase 14 new Dell Optiplex 3070 SFF desktop computers with 24-inch monitors to replace existing desktop computers which are in excess of five years old and frequently malfunction or break down.

# *Benefits of Proposed Educational Technology Plan*

## **Better Utilization of Classroom time**

Teachers presently spend a good portion of their time assisting students with malfunctioning PCs, losing instruction time and making it difficult for students to remain focused. New PCs will eliminate these limitations, and allow teachers to devote the entirety of their classroom time to instruction. It will be easier for students (particularly those with attentional issues) to stay on task and focus on lessons.

## **Ability to Run New Programs**

These updated, more powerful PCs will be able to run programs requiring higher computing power and graphics capabilities, beyond those of the current lab PCs. This will enable instruction in areas such as graphic design, desktop publishing, video editing, and photography utilizing the current programs and applications in these fields.

# *Benefits of Proposed Educational Technology Plan*

## **Enhanced STEAM Educational Opportunities**

Harmony Heights is eager to offer new learning opportunities to its students in the STEAM subjects, and new PCs would be a tremendous boon to that goal. Harmony Heights is working to introduce concepts such as coding and robotics to its students, and this would be impossible with the PCs currently in use in the computer lab.

## **Greater Access to Transition-Planning Assistance**

Updated educational technology is important for successful transition-planning for students as they prepare to enter the working world or further their education after graduation. It allows teachers and students to access online programs that support vocational goals and interests, as well as to search for and apply to colleges and vocational training programs.

# *Harmony Heights' Technology Sustainability Plan*

## **Yearly Desktop Computer Upgrades**

- To make certain that the students and teachers at Harmony Heights are not faced with outdated and malfunctioning computers in future, Harmony Heights plans to purchase one new desktop computer every year.
- This will ensure that as the 14 new Dell computers age, there will be a steady influx of new technology to replace those computers as they begin to fail or become obsolete.
- As the older models become less desirable for use in the student-use lab, they can be put to use for administrative purposes, where computing power and graphics capabilities are less vital.
- Purchasing one desktop computer per year is much more manageable a prospect than having to replace all the computers in the lab at one time; thus, Harmony Heights is confident that it will be able to make these annual purchases using monies raised through its own fundraising events held every year.

# *SSBA Grant Process & Timeline*

## **Initial Proposal**

Harmony Heights posts its Smart Schools Investment Plan on its website.

## **Stakeholder Meeting**

A meeting is held Feb. 10, 2020 presenting SSIP to parents, teachers, and students in order to receive feedback.

## **Adjustments & Adoption**

Feedback is considered and SSIP adjustments are made as necessary; Harmony Heights Board formally adopts final SSIP.

## **Submit to NYSED**

The final SSIP is posted to Harmony Heights' website and the plan is sent to NYSED for approval.

## **Spend Funding**

Once the SSIP is approved by NYSED, purchases may be made and work on computer lab begun.

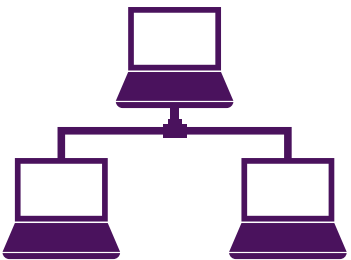
## **Reimbursement**

Harmony Heights submits receipts and canceled checks to NYSED for reimbursement. Entire grant process must be complete by Apr. 7, 2021.



*Stakeholder Comments,*

*Questions, & Feedback*



# *Share Your Feedback*

## **CONTACT US**

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