SSBA - Special Education Schools - Special Ed SSIP - Draft1

SSIP Overview

1. Please enter the name of the person to contact regarding this submission.

Kathryn Nastri

1a. Please enter a phone number for follow up questions.

5169224060

1b. Please enter their e-mail address for follow up contact.

Kathy.Nastri@harmonyheights.org

2. Please indicate below whether this is the first submission or an amended submission of an already approved Smart Schools Investment Plan.

First submission

3. Pursuant to the requirements of the Smart Schools funding, the planning process must include consultation with parents, teachers and students.
By checking the boxes below, you are certifying that you have engaged with those required stakeholders. Each box must be checked prior to submitting your Smart Schools Investment Plan.

- ☑ Parents
- ☑ Teachers
- ☑ Students

4. Certify that the following required steps have taken place by checking the boxes below: Each box must be checked prior to submitting your Smart Schools Investment Plan.

- ☑ The Smart Schools Investment Plan was posted on the school website for at least two weeks. The school included an address to which any written comments on the plan should be sent.
- ☑ The school board/trustees conducted a hearing that enabled stakeholders to respond to the Plan. This hearing may have occured as part of a normal Board meeting, but adequate notice of the event must have been provided through the school website for at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- ☑ The final proposed plan that has been submitted has been posted on the school's website.and will remain for the duration of the related projects.

4a. Enter the webpage address where the final Smart Schools Investment Plan is posted. The Plan should remain posted for the life of the included projects.

http://www.harmonyheights.org/whats-new

5. Your school's Smart Schools funding appropriation is:

$20,075

6. Enter the budget sub-allocations by category that you are submitting for approval at this time. If you are not budgeting Smart Schools funds for a category, please enter 0 (zero.) If the value entered is $0, you will not be required to complete that survey question.

	Sub-Allocations
School Connectivity	7,570
Classroom Technology	12,505
Replacement of Transportable Classroom Units	0
High-Tech Security	0
Totals:	**20,075**

School Connectivity

1. Describe how you intend to use Smart Schools funds for high-speed broadband and/or wireless connectivity projects in school buildings.

Harmony Heights plans to use a portion of our Smart Schools funds to re-wire our student-use computer lab space to create an environment more conducive to the classroom setting and to update the computer lab's outdated internet/network switching infrastructure. The current legacy internet/network switching infrastucture is more than five years old, and is in great need of an upgrade. We plan to replace this existing switching infrastucture with two Juniper EX2300 48-Port Switches and remove columns housing existing wiring.
As there is a $2,838 gap between the total amount of our allotted Smart Schools funding and the combined costs of our two projects, Harmony Heights will therefore be paying $2,838 of the network installation labor costs from our own fundraising monies. The portion of network installation costs we are requesting in our SSIP will be $3,412, comprised of 25 hours of professional services at $136.48 per hour.

2. Describe how the school plans to use digital connectivity and technology to improve teaching and learning.

Our present classroom space consists of high-speed broadband-wired PCs set up in rows throughout the classroom, with several columns for wiring in order to facilitate this classroom layout. This current setup is not ideal, as teachers are unable to monitor the computer use of all students at the same time, thus making sure that students are staying on task. Additionally, the columns take up valuable floor space that could be better utilized.

We propose to rewire the computer lab so that all desktop PCs will be arranged in an outward-facing perimeter, allowing for greater ease of class supervision for teachers. Additionally, the rewiring will allow for the removal of the existing columns, which will free up floor space for additional use and result in a more open feel and more easily-navigable computer lab space.
Harmony Heights plans to use digital connectivity and technology to enhance and improve both teaching as well as learning in our school. Students today communicate with their friends and family members predominantly through technology--using texts, email, and social media. They consume the majority of their media content, be it music, television, books, news, or movies--via a digital device. Utilizing similar technology in education helps teachers capture students' attention in a manner that appeals and speaks to their daily life experience. Learning becomes more accessible and even fun.
Digital connectivity and technology also facilitate learning by offering new and exciting ways for students to absorb information. This is particularly important when it comes to adapting to a given student's particular learning style and their individual strengths and weaknesses. A student who is a visual learner, for example, may gain more from watching an educational YouTube video than from merely listening to a lecture. Another student may struggle to keep up with the classroom lesson, and therefore would benefit significantly from more individualized instruction through an app that allows them to follow at their own pace. Many of the students at Harmony Heights suffer from anxiety, particularly social anxiety. They may struggle to ask a question or to speak up if they are struggling with a subject. Through the use of technology, a student may choose to email the teacher their question, choosing a form of interaction that brings them less anxiety, or they may even research the answer themselves.
Additionally, the use of technology enables the students at Harmony Heights to collaborate on projects and classwork in spite of physical distance. As a residential and day school comprised of students from throughout New York State, many of our students do not live in close proximity to one another, which makes it impossible to collaborate on projects after school hours. Utilizing an application such as Google Docs allows students to work on a research paper or project in spite of the distance between them. This provides our students the important experience of learning how to brainstorm, cooperate, and share responsibility with another student or students independent of the classroom setting, an opportunity that would be much more difficult for our students without such technology.
We also recognize that upgraded technology not only benefits our students now, but aids them in the future as well. Updated technology is important for successful transition-planning for our 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. Teachers are also able to assist students in finding volunteer, internship and scholarship opportunities. Furthermore, skills such as typing, using email, and utilizing the Internet and its databases to perform research are vital life skills that will be required of our students as they enter the workforce or continue with their educational goals.

3. Does your School Connectivity project require new construction or substantially altered space and result in capitalized cost in excess of $100,000?

No

4. If you are submitting an allocation for School Connectivity complete this table.
Note that the calculated Total at the bottom of the table must equal the Total allocation for this category that you entered in the SSIP Overview overall budget.

	Sub-Allocation
Network/Access Costs	0

	Sub-Allocation
Outside Plant Costs	0
School Internal Connections and Components	4,158
Professional Services	3,412
Testing	0
Other Upfront Costs	0
Other Costs	0
Totals:	**7,570**

5. Please detail the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible items under each sub-category. This is especially important for any expenditures listed under the "Other" category. All expenditures must be eligible for tax-exempt financing to be reimbursed with Smart Schools funds. Sufficient detail must be provided so that we can verify this is the case. If you have any questions, please contact us directly through smartschools@nysed.gov. Add rows under each sub-category for additional items, as needed.

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Professional Services	Labor for Network & Computer Installation/Upgrade/Setup & Rewiring	25	136	3,412
Connections/Components	Juniper EX2300 48-Port Switch	2	2,079	4,158

Classroom Learning Technology Equipment (Devices)

1. Describe the devices you intend to purchase and their compatibility with existing or planned platforms or systems.

Harmony Heights plans to use a portion of our Smart Schools funding to purchase 14 new Dell Optiplex 3070 SFF desktop computers with 24-inch monitors to replace the existing desktop PCs in our student-use computer lab. At present, our existing computer lab is comprised of desktop PCs more than five years old. Unfortunately, due to their age, these devices are starting to fail and maintenance has become an issue. They are no longer cost-effective. We no longer have enough computers for the use of all students in a class. Furthermore, due to the age of the computers, those that are still in working order are often unable to run the programs our teachers wish to install, or are incompatible with security, application, and program updates.

The new upgraded Dell desktop computers we propose to purchase will replace the existing desktop PCs within the current network environment and allow for more powerful computing which will better accommodate the needs of all students.

2. Describe how the proposed technology purchases will improve teaching and learning inside or outside of the classroom.

The purchase of the proposed desktop computers will improve the teaching abilities of our instructors and also facilitate learning for our students. To begin with, due to the outdated computers we currently use and the frequency with which they malfunction or break down, our teachers have been hampered in providing students with access to up-to-date, secure software and applications due to a lack of compatibility and insufficient computer processing power. At present, our teachers have shared that they spend a good portion of their time in the computer lab assisting the students when their computers freeze or unexpectedly shut down, thus losing out of valuable instruction time and making it difficult for students to remain focused. With the purchase of these new desktop computers, our teachers will no longer be impeded by these frustrating limitations, and will be able to devote the entirety of their classroom time to instruction. And without the constant disruptions of malfunctioning computers, it will be easier for our students (particularly those with attentional issues) to stay on task and focus on the lessons at hand.
Harmony Heights is eager to offer new learning opportunities to our students in the STEAM subjects, and these new computers would be a tremendous boon to that goal. We are working to introduce concepts such as coding and robotics to our students, and this would be impossible with the computers currently in use in our computer lab.
These updated, more powerful computers will also enable us to run programs requiring high computing power and graphics capabilities. Our existing computers lack the capabilities to reliably run many programs, particularly those newly-updated or recently released. This severely limits our ability to offer our students instruction in areas such as graphic design, desktop publishing, video editing, and photography. With new computers, however, we will be able to offer our students the opportunity to gain experience not only in new areas that interest them, but in subjects that could potentially lead to careers or educational paths after graduation.

3. To ensure the sustainability of technology purchases made with Smart Schools funds, schools must have a plan to maintain and support technology purchases reimbursed with Smart Schools funds. This sustainability plan should support recurring costs of use that are ineligible for Smart Schools 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.

☑ By checking this box, you certify that the school has a sustainability plan as described above.

4. Schools must ensure that devices purchased with Smart Schools funds will be distributed, prepared for use, maintained and supported appropriately. Schools must maintain detailed device inventories in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

☑ By checking this box, you certify that the school has a distribution and inventory management plan and system in place.

5. Schools must contact the SUNY/CUNY teacher preparation program that supplies the largest number of its new teachers to request advice on innovative uses and best practices at the intersection of pedagogy and educational technology.

☑ By checking this box, you certify that you have contacted the SUNY/CUNY teacher preparation program that supplies the largest number of your new teachers to request advice on these issues.

5a. Please enter the name of the SUNY or CUNY Institution that you contacted.

SUNY Old Westbury

5b. Enter the primary Institution phone number.

516-876-3275

5c. Enter the name of the contact person with whom you consulted and/or will be collaborating with on innovative uses of technology and best practices.

Dr. Diana Sukhram

6. If you are submitting an allocation for Classroom Educational Technology, complete this table.
Note that the calculated Total at the bottom of the table must equal the Total allocation for this category that you entered in the SSIP Overview overall budget.

	Sub-Allocation
Interactive Whiteboards	0
Computer Servers	0
Desktop Computers	12,505
Laptop Computers	0
Tablet Computers	0
Other Costs	0
Totals:	**12,505**

7. Please detail the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible items under each sub-category. This is especially important for any expenditures listed under the "Other" category. All expenditures must be capital bond eligible to be reimbursed with Smart Schools funds. If you have any questions, please contact us directly through smartschools@nysed.gov.
Add rows under each sub-category for additional items, as needed.

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Desktop Computers	DELL Optiplex 3070 SFF computers	14	791	11,070
Other Costs	Dell 24-Inch Monitor	14	103	1,435

Replace/Modernize Transportable Classrooms

1. Describe the school's plan to construct, enhance or modernize education facilities to provide high-quality instructional space by replacing transportable classrooms.

(No Response)

2. Does your Classroom Trailer project require new construction or substantially altered space and result in capitalized cost in excess of $100,000?

(No Response)

3. If you have made an allocation for Replace Transportable Classrooms, complete this table.
Note that the calculated Total at the bottom of the table must equal the Total allocation for this category that you entered in the SSIP Overview overall budget.

	Sub-Allocation
Construct New Instructional Space	(No Response)
Enhance/Modernize Existing Instructional Space	(No Response)
Other Costs	(No Response)
Totals:	**0**

4. Please detail the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible items under each sub-category. This is especially important for any expenditures listed under the "Other" category. All expenditures must be capital bond eligible to be reimbursed with Smart Schools funds. If you have any questions, please contact us directly through smartschools@nysed.gov.
Add rows under each sub-category for additional items, as needed.

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)

High-Tech Security Features

1. Describe how you intend to use Smart Schools funds to install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses.

(No Response)

2. Does your High-Tech Security project require new construction or substantially altered space and result in capitalized cost in excess of $100,000?

(No Response)

3. If you have made an allocation for High-Tech Security Features, complete this table.
Note that the calculated Total at the bottom of the table must equal the Total allocation for this category that you entered in the SSIP Overview overall budget.

	Sub-Allocation
Electronic Security System	0
Entry Control System	0
Approved Door Hardening Project	0
Other Costs	0
Totals:	**0**

4. Please detail the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible items under each sub-category. This is especially important for any expenditures listed under the "Other" category. All expenditures must be capital bond eligible to be reimbursed with Smart Schools funds. If you have any questions, please contact us directly through smartschools@nysed.gov.
Add rows under each sub-category for additional items, as needed.

Select the allowable expenditure type. Repeat to add another item under each type.	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)	(No Response)