

Greene Central School District

To: Greene Central School District Board of Education

From: Mr. Timothy Calice, Superintendent

Date: March 10, 2020

Re: Smart Schools Bond Act District Plan

Introduction:

The Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 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.

The purpose of the Smart School Bond Act is to improve learning and opportunity for public and nonpublic school students by finding projects as listed below:

1. Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities;
2. Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities, including but not limited to interactive panels, computer servers, laptops, mobile devices and other technologies to support district curricular.
3. Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to accommodate prekindergarten programs and provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers; and/or
4. Install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses, including but not limited to video surveillance, emergency notification systems, and physical access controls.

All districts are required to submit a Smart Schools Improvement Plan to demonstrate how Smart Schools Bond Act funds provide the educational tools and opportunities students throughout New York State will need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Greene Central School District's Plan

Greene Central School District was given an allocation of \$1,425,689 through the Smart Schools Bond Act. We used **\$802,109** on high-tech security features in 2017 with a plan of spending the remainder [**\$623,580**] on classroom learning technology.

All projects using Smart School's funding need to be approved by the State Education Department. If approved, our classroom learning technology project will be fully reimbursed, but districts need to spend the money upfront before being reimbursed.

The Smart Schools Investment Plan will be available on the district website for 30 days until it goes to the BOE for final approval (April 14, 2021). During the 30 days, please feel free to email Mr. Timothy Calice (tcalice@greenecsd.org) Superintendent of Schools if you have any questions or comments.

The public hearing will take place before the BOE meeting on April 14, 2021.

Classroom Learning Technology

Based on our Greene Central School District Blueprint for Excellence, our staff is committed to providing flexible opportunities to all students to discover and apply 21 century skills to reach their highest potential. These displays will allow teachers to easily access online curriculum while annotating, adding notes, taking screenshots and recording their lessons. In addition, the displays will allow teachers to create an inclusive learning environment that supports and encourages innovation and collaboration with Promethean’s Activities Player. Learners will have access to use of screen sharing which allows them to present work and receive immediate feedback.

Technology access is a critical component of connecting students and staff to resources within and outside of the school district. This access gives teachers the ability to effectively provide a quality learning experience to students that otherwise would not be available. A quality learning environment is a top priority and this will meet the districts need of providing it.

The Greene technology requirements will continue to be reviewed annually and generally addressed through a 5-year replacement plan. In addition to this Smart Bond funding, future technology expenditures can continue to be met through an annual BT BOCES IPA.

- Update teacher presentation equipment (panels & presentation carts)

The district proposes to replace existing SMART Boards and Epson projector systems with Promethean ActivPanel Titanium 75” 4K LCD Interactive Displays. These new interactive displays require less maintenance due to not having to replace projector bulbs. In addition, the district proposes to add three presentation carts to the Intermediate and Middle/High School Cafeterias to allow staff to place their devices on the cart while using the displays. Each cart will be outfitted with a surge protector to increase flexibility and safety. Talk about the safety of equipment by including surge protectors?

Estimated Project Costs:

High-Technology Features.....\$802,109 (spent in 2017)
Classroom Learning Technology..... \$339,689.94 (not a final figure, missing installation)

Technology Goals:

The Greene Central School District is committed to preparing students to lead and innovate in a 21st century global society. Our vision is to plant seeds of greatness. Through empowerment, encouragement and high expectations, students will be challenged to utilize various aspects of educational technology in order to develop critical thinking, problem solving, and ethical awareness necessary to be leaders and innovators.

- Provide curriculum, intervention, support and enhancement programs and services that increase student achievement

- Differentiated instruction
- Curriculum intervention programs and services
- Special projects and enrichment programs
- Offer technological professional development
 - Small group PD
 - Coaching: Peer to peer, Technology Innovators to peers, Learning Technology Coordinator to peers
 - Specific PD programs arranged
 - Virtual PD- webinars and conference days
- Advance communication: Employ/maintain a system so all staff, students, community members and officials can communicate efficiently.
 - Social media
 - School/Teacher websites
 - Web-based student information system
 - Video conferencing and chat
- Utilize student data to elevate instructional practices
 - Web based data systems
 - Scientific research based on data driven instruction
 - Access and track student performance
 - Access to student demographics, attendance, discipline, IEPs, and other data to drive student instruction
 - Monitor student progress to inform teaching practices

Rationale:

All students will benefit from the integration of Interactive displays in the classroom.

- The new interactive displays will allow teachers to deliver visual and audio content that motivates all learners. The more in-depth presentations will engage even the most reluctant learners.
- Many students require extended time to learn. Teachers will be able to easily record lessons then share them with students for review later in the day, that night or prior to an assessment.
- The displays allow for continued flexibility of learning for students. In the past, flexible learning was limited to a single designated classroom. Scheduling was complicated and seating was limited. With these displays flexible learning is enhanced. These experiences can be shared with multiple students or even multiple classrooms via the integration of these large displays on video conferencing platforms.
- Students with disabilities will benefit from the new interactive displays that will simplify differentiating instruction for teachers. The teachers will be able to model the learning goals visually rather than just describing and the student can refer back to the model as he or she completes the assignment.
- Teachers will be able to interact with students via live online lessons and create assignments, playlists, quizzes and activities to keep students connected to their learning. These tools will allow teachers to collect student progress data while giving students feedback.

Professional Development

Training Plan:

Initial training:

Promethean provides an ActivPanel Titanium Orientation Online Course (<https://learn.prometheanworld.com/us>). In this course, teachers will learn the elements of the ActivPanel Titanium, how to maximize the tools from the Unified Menu and add apps to the locker to increase content connections with students. There will be a short, five-question quiz to assess their knowledge at the end of this course. Teachers will need to receive an 80% or higher on this quiz in order to officially be deemed complete.

Hybrid/Remote Learning with the Promethean Online Course Promethean also provides a hybrid/remote training session. (<https://learn.prometheanworld.com/us/>). This session teaches how to integrate the Promethean suite of tools into any in-person, remote, hybrid, or virtual classroom to keep students engaged, connected and learning. Teachers prove their proficiency by taking the exam and score 80% or higher in order to officially be deemed complete.

Follow-Up Training

The District Technology Innovators and Instructional Technology Coordinator will develop lesson examples for focus group teachers. Example of lessons that meet the priorities of our state standards and our Blueprint for Excellence.

The District Technology Innovator and Learning Technology Coordinator will conduct coaching cycles amongst focus group teachers. They will also schedule planned visits to be aware of the teacher's goals in regards to use of the Promethean for teaching and learning. Additional visits to the teachers' classroom to provide feedback will personalize learning and drive future training. Finally, meeting with the teacher to discuss adjustments to the usage of the Promethean will enhance the learning experience for students.

Sustainability

When purchasing interactive displays it is understood that there is limited lifespan for each. For example, the district owns a number of Smart Interactive boards that need to be replaced. Smart Schools money would be used to replace the Smart Interactive boards and to buy additional ones. There is a replacement cycle in place for all our technology that uses the district hardware budget and the IPA replacement cycle. The money for replacement purchases will come from adjusted budget numbers and the continuing search for additional funding paths.

Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities

The displays will allow for increased teacher modeling and student interaction with content through the 75" display screen, graphics and audio-visual tools.