

# Gouverneur Central School

## SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT INVESTMENT PLAN

**Student enrollment: 1510 students**

**Teaching staff: 73 full-time and part-time members**

**Questions, comments, or  
feedback about this plan  
should be sent to:**

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# Smart Schools Bond Act Overview

The Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 was passed in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The Smart Schools 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.

**Funds are allocated on a per pupil basis and do not come out of local funds.**

The purpose of the Smart Schools Bond Act is to improve learning and opportunity for public and nonpublic school students by funding capital projects. We're seeking community input on the appropriate prioritization of our needs.

## Examples of eligible Smart Schools projects

School Connectivity

Connectivity Projects for Communities

Classroom technology

Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms

Replace Portable Classrooms

High-Tech Security Features

## **Gouverneur Central School District plans to use SSBA funds to:**

- Update servers
- Install high-tech security features in school buildings and on campus
- Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools  
Install wiring/construction required to support devices

**GCSD was allotted \$2,291,848.00  
Preliminary Investment Plan Costs:**

**School Connectivity \$586,300**

**High-Tech Security Features \$931,500**

# SSIP Allocations

<b>Connectivity Projects for Schools</b>	<b>Sub-Allocation</b>
Network/Access Costs	\$346,300
School Internal	\$180,000
Professional Services	\$30,000
Testing	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$586,300</b>

<b>High Tech Security Features</b>	<b>Sub-Allocation</b>
Electronic Security System	\$731,500
Entry Control System	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$931,500</b>

# School Connectivity

Gouverneur Central School will utilize SSBA fund to upgrade our current wireless network to accommodate a 1:1 initiative and to ensure that all instructional spaces have adequate and reliable access. This will require a new wireless controller, backup wireless controller, addition of and replacement of switches, and additional wireless access points.

The GCSD has contracted with NERIC (Capital Region BOCES) to supply the minimum speed standard for all instructional buildings. The total contracted Internet Access bandwidth for GCSD is currently 100 Mbps, but the district has the ability to increase the bandwidth at anytime, should we need to do so. The bandwidth usage is monitored and reevaluated as we near our allotment.

At the current time, we have approximately 1,200 wired and 480 wireless devices which access our network and the Internet on a daily basis. The proposed infrastructure upgrades will support additional devices, which will support our goal of a 1:1 learning environment.

## Tech Plan Connection

The Technology Committee recommends an infrastructure design that is capable of handling the throughput (both wired and wireless) of all terminal devices accessing the network simultaneously without any appreciable slowdown. Our proposed school connectivity and classroom learning technology projects will help the GCSD meet the following goals listed in our Instructional Technology Plan:

- Build an infrastructure that will support and enhance current and future technology needs.
- Provide students with equitable opportunities to have learning experiences with integrated technologies.
- Equip students and instructional staff with technologies that enhance student engagement.
- Set the expectation that all students, teachers and administrators will strive to exceed ISTE standards.
- Provide systematic training opportunities for effective use of technologies to enhance teaching and learning.
- Require all Gouverneur Central School District technology users to demonstrate Digital Citizenship.

## Student Needs

Our proposed technology projects will:

- ▶ enhance differentiation by providing users with the capability to simultaneously access a variety of instructional and learning tools. Having updated servers will allow all students and teachers to access the Internet at the same time, which will foster an individualized, self-paced environment.
- ▶ expand student learning inside and outside of the classroom by providing students and teachers with continual access to “Flipped” and Blended instructional strategies, digital resources, and collaborative and productivity tools, such as Google Apps for Education.
- ▶ benefit students with disabilities and English language learners by providing them with the ability to access assistive technology tools recommended on their IEPs to ensure access to the general curriculum. Having quick access to assistive tools will allow students to fully participate in the learning environment.

# Communication

The district plans to continue its use of communication technologies to reach out to students, staff, parents and community members. Teachers, administrators, and district office personnel routinely create publications for the community showcasing student/employee work or accomplishments, upcoming events, district initiatives, and announcements. Information may be found through the following resources:

- District Website
- District Bulletins
- Classroom Newsletters
- Technology Plan
- Building Announcements
- Events Calendar
- Video Streaming of Events
- Social Media

The expanded wireless capability and server updates will allow for improved staff-to-parent communications. Expanded connectivity across the district and to the internet will also support the parent portal for student learning. Student access to web-based applications will enhance student learning.

The District promotes networking with outside entities to research and explore new ways of using technology to improve education. This can include entities such as BOCES, NERIC, other districts, colleges and universities, and other sources (consultants, trainers, etc.).

## Professional Development

Professional development is a critical component of the District's Instructional Technology Plan and Smart Schools Investment Plan. A wide range of professional development opportunities are available throughout the year for teachers, teaching assistants, and administrators. We will continue to offer these opportunities with the help of our Professional Development Committee, our Technology Committee, and our Instructional Technology Integration Specialist.

The Gouverneur Central School District has a Professional Development Committee that, among its many duties, conducts a survey of instructional staff annually on professional development needs. Helping students to achieve the New York Learning Standards is the goal for all staff development. The Technology Committee coordinates with and through the Professional Development Committee when recommending any specific technology training. The district has hired an Instructional Technology Integration Specialist to assist instructional staff to evaluate, select, and implement technology to improve instructional effectiveness for students. This is a more hands-on approach to providing technology training to instructional staff in a variety of settings (group sessions, one-on-one, etc.).

Our Technology Integration Specialist has offered many sessions throughout the school year. These sessions have focused on Chromebooks, Google Apps for Education, assistive technology, Google Classroom, iPad integration, collaborative technology resources, and formative assessments using technology, just to name a few. These professional development opportunities were open to all teachers, administrators, and staff. Most of the professional development occurred through face-to-face workshops, or in one-on-one meetings, but some has taken place through instructional videos.

Our Technology Integration Specialist is also available on a daily basis to meet one-on-one with teachers and staff. A Google Calendar has been created for individuals who would like to schedule a time to meet with her.

Our Technology Integration Specialist is also offering several summer sessions that focus on Google Apps for Education, Chromebooks, iPads, and Google Classroom.