

Stanley G. Falk School



Smart Schools Investment Plan

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Smart Schools Bond Act - Overview

The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) 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. In conjunction with the Smart Schools Bond Act, the 2014 Budget in Chapter 54 and 55 of the Laws of 2014, authorized the issuance of a one-time \$5 million bond to finance educational technology capital projects to improve learning and opportunity for students with disabilities in Special Act School Districts, State-Supported Schools and approved private special education day and residential schools (also known as 853 Schools) throughout the State.

Smart Schools Appropriation

The Smart Schools appropriation for the Falk School is:

140600999087	800000052357	STANLEY G. FALK SCHOOL	\$150,158
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The appropriation was calculated as a per pupil allocation using 10-month FTE enrollment data from each school as a three-year average of the 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 school years.

Smart Schools funding will not be treated as offsetting revenue or non-direct care costs. Use of these funds will have no impact on our tuition rate.

Schools will be required to submit a Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) to demonstrate how Smart Schools funding will be used to provide the educational tools and opportunities students with disabilities throughout New York State will need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

The Smart Schools Review Board will review each school's plan. Elements of a successful plan will include:

1. Adequate Technological Infrastructure
2. Technical and Educational Support
3. Sustainability

State Review Process for Smart Schools Investment Plans (SSIP)

Chapter 54 of the Laws of 2014 requires that schools develop and receive approval of a SSIP from the Smart Schools Review Board. SSIPs must include the proposed expenditures to be supported by this funding. The plan is submitted through an application on the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Business Portal.

NYSED will review the SSIP for completeness and adherence to the guidance. If accepted, the application will be submitted for consideration by the Smart Schools Review Board.

Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP): Rationale

It is the mission of the Stanley G. Falk School to provide a traditional school experience with educational supports to students with special learning and behavioral needs; and, using technology as an instructional support has played a critical role in our school's success. Currently, our school has 200 MB of bandwidth to support Internet/connectivity in each of our classrooms, technology labs, and offices. In 2007, the school introduced Smartboard technology making it possible for special education teachers to present dynamic lessons that captured students' attention while appealing to multiple modalities of learning. Smartboards and touchscreens captivated the learner and kept students engaged in meaningful learning experiences. Video segments and YouTube clips clarified abstract concepts. Complicated curricula had begun to make sense to the learner, and information could be practiced, linked to prior knowledge, and then applied to new concepts.

In September of 2014, after collaborating with our IT Director, the school put iPads into the hands of every student, teacher, and counselor. These devices awakened an enthusiasm for teaching and learning. The school invested financial resources to ensure that all faculty members were properly trained on how to use iPad technology. The school also provides annual professional development training to keep educators familiar with latest updates and trends. In September of 2015, all high school and junior high students received Chromebooks. Again, the school invested in professional development training to promote proper implementation of these devices. The decision to purchase Chromebooks was based in part to prepare for Computer-Based Testing (CBT).

In April of 2016, the school began to phase out outdated Smartboard technology and introduce Sharpboard touchscreens into the classrooms. Sharp technology has been well received by educators who report that the new technology integrates well with all devices (iPads, Chromebooks, and Smart technology software).

The school is planning to purchase Sharp 70" LCD interactive touch monitor and wall mounts. They were chosen because they work with our existing computers and wiring. These devices will allow the teachers to use existing Smartboard software or use the new Sharp software. The school has previously purchased ten (10) units, and tested the functionality of the product in a variety of grade levels. Principals have received positive responses from the teachers.

Technology is as revolutionary to our world as the automobile was to our past. It is our responsibility as educators to remain current in this field so that our students are prepared to meet the demands of the 21st Century. The school is grateful to then New York State Education Department for the opportunity to acquire this additional funding to support our students.

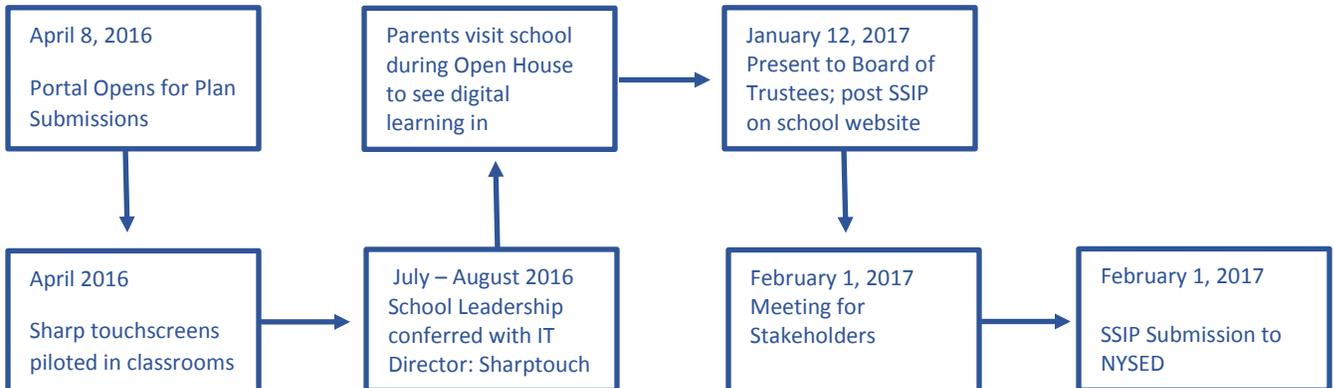
Classroom Learning Technology Equipment

Interactive Whiteboards ▾	Sharp-PN-C703B 70	50	2,949	147,450
Other Costs ▾	Mounts for Sharp Boards	19	142	2,698

Sustainability Plan

Each year, the Falk School allocates a portion of its budget for the repair and the replacement of aging equipment. The equipment purchased through the Smart Schools Bond will be spread out over several years. As this equipment ages, it will be cycled into the school's update/replacement schedule. The Falk School will continue to invest funds toward technology upgrades and professional development to ensure that children with special learning needs have access to first-rate instruction.

Application Process



Open House Events

On October 19, October 26, and November 2, 2016, the Falk School held Open House events for parents/guardians, students, and caregivers. During those sessions, teachers demonstrated how technology is used in the classroom to fortify instruction. Students demonstrated their fluency with digital learning as they maneuvered their digital devices to prepare reports, projects, and media presentations to their parents.

These Open House events were well attended and gave teachers the opportunity to solicit questions from parents as teachers demonstrated pedagogical approaches tailored to the needs of each child. Feedback from stakeholders including principals, teachers, counselors, parents, and students, was positive.

Meeting for Stakeholders

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 to provide stakeholders with an overview of our Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP). On display will be a Sharp 70" LCD interactive touch monitor. If you wish to attend this meeting, please RSVP via email at Info@falkschool.com. The meeting will be held at the location and time listed below.

Stanley G. Falk School
One Cambridge Street
Buffalo, New York 14223
4:00PM
Cambridge Cafeteria

Submission of Plan

Wednesday, February 1, 2017