SMART SCHOOLS INVESTMENT PLAN

The Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 was passed in New York State's 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 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. This Smart Schools funding will support students enrolled in these schools by funding capital projects including:

1. **Classroom Technology:** Acquire learning technology equipment, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers;
2. **High-Tech Security:** 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;
3. **School Connectivity:** Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools; and/or
4. **Classroom Trailer Replacement:** Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers.

Hillside Children's Center received an appropriation of $142,067. Our draft plan for utilizing the funds is outlined below.

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

Through guidance from the Hillside Family of Agencies Technology Department as well as input from the Hillside education community, which includes teachers, students and parents, the Hillside Children's Center has identified the following technology equipment for purchase with Smart Schools Bond Act funds:

School Site	Classroom Equipment	Total Cost
Finger Lakes Campus 7432 County House Road Auburn, NY 13021	• (2) Laptop Carts with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050	$11,050

School Site	Classroom Equipment	Total Cost
Snell Farm Campus 7320 Snell Hill Rd Bath, NY 14810	• (2) Laptop Carts with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • (1) iPad Cart with 10 iPads in each cart $9,500 • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050	$20,550
Halpern Campus 695 Bay Rd Webster, NY 14580	• (2) Laptop Carts with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • (4) Extra laptops for an existing cart $600 each • (4) Projectors $600 each • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050 • Wireless Connectivity $24,500 (Access Point $10,500, License $4,500, wiring $7,500, Switches $2,000)	$40,350
Crestwood Campus 2075 Scottsville Road Rochester, NY 14623	• (1) Laptop Cart with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050	$6,050
Monroe Ave Campus 1183 Monroe Ave Rochester, NY 14620	• (4) Laptop Carts with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • iPad Cart with 10 iPads in each cart $9,500. • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050	$30,550
Varick Campus 4887 State Route 96A Varick, NY 14541	• (6) Laptop Carts with 6 Laptops in each cart, $5,000 each. • (4) Projectors $600 each • (1) Camcorder, Tripod $1,050	$33,450

School Site	Classroom Equipment	Total Cost
GRAND TOTAL		$142,000

We have also increased bandwidth to ensure adequate speed to support the proposed classroom technology additions. All ongoing technical and instructional support, distribution, preparation and maintenance and will be provided through the Hillside Family of Agencies (HFA) Technology Department. This support is funded through the HFA annual budget and will not be paid for with Smart Schools funding. We will also provide ongoing professional development activities for teachers that focus on successfully integrating technology into lesson plans.

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

Our proposed technology investments are closely aligned with the *Hillside Children's Education Center's (HCEC) 2014-17 Strategic Planning Goals*, specifically goals dedicated to improving student engagement, participation, and academic progress and to increasing the infusion of technology into curriculum and courses by 25% percent. The HCEC's mission is to strategically and effectively educate students in partnership with families and youth who have experienced significant challenges that interfere with their participation in school and/or the community. Our proposed Smart Schools Investment Plan focuses on *increasing the academic engagement and progress* of our significantly challenged students; supporting a *professional development strategy* for all staff to ensure their effectiveness with students we serve; and designing classrooms and school environments, which *effectively address the individual levels and learning differences* of students. The specific investments we have identified are:

1. Mobile Computer Labs. The introduction and/or expansion of *Mobile Computer Labs* will enable teachers and students to access a wealth of educational information in the classroom on an as-needed basis and ensure that each child will have access to the new technology by sharing resources among classes. Mobile laptop or tablet carts provide multiple benefits over the traditional computer lab, including: school-wide access to Mobile Computer Lab on an as-needed basis; lower cost versus equipping each classroom with its own computers; provides computers to each child in the class, eliminating the need to share limited number of computers; opportunities to develop critical computer skills; interactive, multimedia learning opportunities; access to unlimited learning materials on the Internet; ability to integrate computer time into home classroom without need to move behaviorally challenged students to another space; and secure storage of technology equipment when not in use. Incorporating Mobile Computer Labs into classroom lessons will help to increase student engagement by providing hands-on learning experiences that can be customized based on individual needs. For programs serving younger students, the labs will be equipped with tablets which are easier to use. Labs for older students will have laptop computers.

2. Camcorders for Teacher Recording/Evaluation. Hillside's district-wide strategic plan includes the identification and implementation of evidence-based practices and effective trauma-informed instructional strategies. One aspect of our strategic professional development plan is to record and critique our teachers in order to improve and share best practices among Hillside colleagues. To support this endeavor, we will purchase a camcorder/tripod for each school so that teacher performance can be recorded and evaluated. This process will help to drive continuous improvement in instructional quality across our district. The use of camcorders to record and evaluate teacher performance helps to standardize the evaluation process, as opposed to in-person observance. It also enables teachers to view and critique their own performance and creates a recording of effective teaching practices to use in professional development activities.

3. Projectors. Two of our programs (Halpern and Varick) are in need of multimedia projectors. Projectors benefit classrooms in many ways, including visual aid, greater versatility, enhanced lessons, heightened student awareness and customized curriculum applications. Multimedia projectors allow teachers to provide diverse content to all students in the classroom at once, allowing students to have a visual and colorful learning experience during a given lesson. These projectors are highly effective for this generation's visually oriented youth because they help make abstract concepts easier to understand. Projectors also free teachers from being limited to chalk and dry-erase boards to present information to their students. With the use of projectors, teachers can now use films, slides, and images to teach students about a variety of subjects. Teachers will also find that incorporating the Internet in lessons is much easier because projectors can display web content to an entire class at once.

4. Wireless Capability for Day Treatment. Lastly, we will add wireless capability to our Day Treatment program at Halpern. Our Day Treatment program has unique needs due to its focus on transitioning youth back to their community's home school district. We have an obligation to provide students technology exposure as a tool for research, composing, calculation and communication. Without quality technology, our students return to their home districts behind their peers. Wireless connectivity is essential as we work to create a quality, flexible learning environment for students by providing the use of a variety of classroom technology tools. Funds that support the purchase and installation of expensive wiring are currently not included in our SED rates, which is why the Smart Schools Bond funding is so critical.

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.
As an affiliate of our host agency, Hillside Family of Agencies, we have access to human and financial resources to support technology, purchased with Smart Schools funds. Through the Hillside Family of

Agencies foundation, targeted fund-raising to support our schools and technology can take place as well. The executive director of education has made a commitment to coordinate needed professional development to ensure that all pertinent staff members have the skills and competencies required to effectively utilize all technology that is purchased. Consultants will be engaged. We will also provide more knowledgeable staff regarding how to leverage teaching and learning with technology opportunities to partner with less skilled staff members as well. Finally, the education department's strategic plan, developed in concert with Information Technology will include these strategies as well as others. She has also committed to align the strategic plan to the budget, to the extent possible.

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.

We certify that the Hillside Children's School System has a distribution and inventory management plan and system in place. The distribution plan and system will be managed by our IT department, in concert with school leaders. Detailed inventory systems, including vending numbers and the funding source will be maintained electronically and shared between our Information Technology system and schools. In addition, processes are in place in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, managed by certified members of our finance department.

5. 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.

Category	Sub-allocation
Interactive Whiteboards	-
Computer Servers	-
Desktop Computers	-
Laptop Computers	$87,400
Tablet Computers	$19,000
Other Costs	$35,600

6. To the extent possible, please detail the type, quantity, per unit cost and total cost of the eligible items under each sub-category.

	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Interactive whiteboards	-	-	-	-
Computer Servers	-	-	-	-

	Item to be purchased	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Cost
Desktop Computers	-	-	-	-
Laptop Computers	Laptop Carts	17	$5,000	$85,000
	Additional Laptops	4	$600	$2,400
Tablet Computers	iPad Carts	2	$9,500	$19,000
Other Costs	Camcorder and Tripod	6	$1,050	$6,300
	Projectors	8	$600	$4,800
	Wireless Connectivity	1	$24,500	$24,500