

Falconer Central School District Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) Smart Schools Investment Plan

Terry English, District Technology Coordinator
2 East Avenue, North
Falconer, New York 14733
tenglish@falconerschools.org

Plan Overview

In January 2014, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed for New York State to invest \$2 billion to the school districts in the state for educational technology and infrastructure. The initiative was called the Smart Schools Bond Act and was approved by New York State residents in a vote in November 2014.

The Smart Schools Bond Act provides money to school districts in New York to allow students the needed technology and connectivity to succeed and compete in the global economy. The funding is available to be used for the following types of projects.

- Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers.
- Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities.
- Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to accommodate prekindergarten programs and to provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers.
- 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.

The Falconer Central School District was allocated \$1,108,739 for use through the Smart Schools Bond Act to be used for the above project types. All Smart Schools Bond Act projects must be approved by the New York State Education Department and are fully reimbursable, but school districts must spend the money upfront and submit for reimbursement. The Falconer Central School District completed a Smart Schools Bond Act Plan for \$173,584.26 in 2021, leaving the District with a remaining Smart Schools Bond Act allocation of \$935,154.74.

Vision Statement

The Falconer Central School District will purposefully integrate technology throughout teaching and learning. Technology will be incorporated across the New York State Learning Standards to support, enhance, and transform learning. Students will learn to effectively and responsibly use technology to become empowered learners, creative communicators, digital citizens, and global collaborators. Students will use technology as a tool for problem solving, knowledge construction, and innovative design in order to become successful, contributing members of society who are able to meet the changing demands of life and the workplace. Teachers will use technology to facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, design and develop digital age learning experiences and assessments, model digital age work and learning, promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility, and engage in establishing a community of continuous professional growth and leadership.

Plan Process

The first step in the process for applying for Smart Schools Bond Act funding was to have an Instructional Technology Plan approved by the New York State Education Department. Falconer's 2018-2021 Instructional Technology Plan was reviewed and approved by New York State in July 2018. Due to the pandemic, this plan was extended through 2022. Falconer's 2022-2025 Instructional Technology Plan is going through the approval process.

Falconer has solicited input from Administrators, Teachers, Students, Parents, and Community Members to help plan the use of funding from the Smart Schools Bond Act. This input has come from several different methods including meetings of the district Curriculum and Instruction Cabinet, District Technology Committee, technology surveys that included teacher, parent, and student input, and a building condition survey.

Another requirement of the Smart Schools Bond Act states that the Preliminary Investment Plan be posted on the Falconer CSD website for at least 30 days and that a Public Hearing is scheduled. A Public Hearing will occur on August 2, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. in the Board of Education Room on this Preliminary Investment Plan as part of the Board of Education meeting.

The final Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan is being presented for Board of Education approval on Aug 2, 2022.

Plan Goals

Falconer Central School District has the following technology goals as part of its Instructional Technology Plan which align with the goals of the Smart Schools Bond Act.

1. The District will provide updated classroom technologies to support current and future instructional technology needs for both in-person and remote instruction.
2. The District will continue to provide up-to-date technology devices by maintaining a replacement cycle to update devices.
3. The District will foster a community of learning by increasing connections with families and offering professional learning opportunities to improve the ability for teachers to effectively utilize devices and instructional tools.

Purchase Plan

Falconer CSD has reviewed all the input from the stakeholders, our Instructional Technology Plan, and identified needs and gaps to come up with a plan for this Smart Schools Bond Act funding request. The area that has been identified for this portion of the SSBA allocation is hardware.

In order to address this need, the district will upgrade and replace our existing classroom technologies including interactive panels, document cameras and sound fields. The district's existing classroom devices must be updated to allow for better technology access outside the school buildings, online access to curriculum, and support for a wider variety of pedagogies.

Smart Schools Bond Act Category: Hardware

- Interactive Panels
- Portable Stands for Interactive Panels
- Document Cameras
- Soundfields

Allocation: \$609,983.50/\$1,108,739

Total for Hardware: \$609,983.50

Total Request for Smart Schools Bond Act: \$609,983.50

Items for Purchase with Smart Schools Bond Act Funds:

Description	Qty	Unit Rate	Total Rate
SBID-MX075-V3 Smart Interactive Panel	65	\$3,799.00	246,935.00
SBID-6275S Smart Interactive Panel	4	\$4,499.00	17,996.00
FSE-410 Smart Interactive Panel Stands	63	\$1,150.00	72,450.00
TCA-FF-M Topcat (Access) with FlexMike (x2) & Media Connector	100	\$1,474.64	147,464.00
TCA-FF-8P Topcat Access with FlexMike and 8 Pods	7	\$2,959.36	20,715.52
MCA Media Connector with Cables and Power Adapter	7	\$244.14	1,708.98
FM FlexMike with Rechargeable Battery Pack	50	\$244.14	12,207.00
FMCC FlexMike Cradle Charger	50	\$49.14	2,457.00
1385-72 ELMO MA-1 with ELMOcast	75	\$1,174.00	88,050.00
GRAND TOTAL			\$609,983.50

Sustainability

Falconer CSD is committed to sustaining the new hardware and technology purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act. Upgrading and replacing the new equipment will be accomplished by adding it to our existing hardware replacement plan which is included in our regular budgeting process. Estimated life span of this upgraded equipment is approximately ten years. Maintenance and support will be handled by District personnel after the initial warranties expire. The equipment will be added and tracked through Falconer Central School's existing inventory systems.