

Smart Schools Investment Plan  
Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville School District  
Supplemental (2025)



## Smart Schools Investment Plan Overview

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in 2014 by a state wide referendum. The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) 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 guidelines for the use of the money focuses on seven (7) main areas of funds

- **School Connectivity** - Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools
- **Connectivity Projects for Communities** - Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for communities
- **Classroom Technology** - Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities, including but not limited to interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers
- **Pre-kindergarten Classrooms** - Construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs
- **Replace Transportable Classrooms** - Provide instructional space to replace classroom trailers
- **High-Tech Security Features** - 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
- **Nonpublic Loan**

Our district's plan for the use of these funds needs to be approved by the school board and submitted to the New York State Education Department. The plan must meet the required elements including demonstrating students' needs, minimal speed requirements for internet connectivity, professional development, technical support, and sustainability.

As part of the process, districts are required to submit a District Instructional Technology Plan survey in compliance with the Education Law and Commissioner's Regulation. The Technology Plan survey outlines the current and future plans of the district as it relates to infrastructure, devices, staffing, and professional development to improve teaching and learning. The Technology plan for OESJ was approved by New York State Education Department in July 2018.

Over the course of several months a draft preliminary plan was developed by the Smart Schools Bond Investment Committee / District Technology Committee which is comprised of parents, teachers, students, and community members.

The draft was initially presented to the Board of Education and a public hearing was held on January 6, 2021. The preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) was approved with a 6-0 vote. The SSIP was then posted to the district's website and public comment was accepted through February 3, 2021 to enable stakeholders to respond to the preliminary plan. On February 3, 2021 the Plan in its entirety was presented to the Board of Education and approved unanimously with a 7-0 vote. The approved plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department and was posted on the district website. The planning process included consultation with parents, teachers, students, community members, any non-public schools located in the district, and other stakeholders.

The district was initially allocated \$1,194,883. The district currently has allocated a total of \$861,616.44 leaving a balance of \$333,266.56 in unallocated funds.

At this time the district is seeking approval of \$324,732.64 of unallocated funds in the categories outlined below.

Budget Category	Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Sub-Allocation	Non-Public School Sub-Allocations
School Connectivity	\$0	\$0
Connectivity Projects for Communities	\$0	\$0
Classroom technology	324,732.64	\$0
Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms	\$0	\$0
Replace Transportable Classrooms	\$0	\$0
High-Tech Security Features		\$0

## Instructional Technology Vision and Goals

The purchases proposed in this plan are aligned with the district's technology plan and the District's Plan for Excellence, our strategic plan. Some of the key elements from this technology plan are listed below which clearly demonstrate this link.

### **District Mission Statement**

The OESJ School District seeks to provide the best possible education for every student. We strive to maintain an excellent learning environment to ensure every student graduates from high school prepared for college and career success.

### **District Vision Statement**

The mission of the OESJ Central School District is for every student to experience an enriching environment where they will master the skills necessary for 21st century learning and reach their full potential for applying knowledge. All OESJ students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful and authentic learning through teachers' use of research based, innovative instructional practices. We will educate our students to become life-long learners, cooperative workers, quality producers and outstanding citizens.

### **Technology Vision/Mission Statement**

Our mission is to empower all Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville students for the choices and challenges of life in the 21st century and to be capable of accessing and effectively using any information needed to function as productive members of society. This is accomplished by providing a safe and orderly environment where learning is valued and by providing and using technology to improve motivation and student learning. Instruction will emphasize the use of technology in order to accommodate a student's individual learning style and strengths. Instruction will be all inclusive of students from minority cultures, male, female, students from homes where English is not spoken, students with handicapping conditions, and gifted and talented

students. District goals will also focus on supporting and training teachers to be able to use state-of-the-art technologies to prepare and deliver their lessons. OESJCSD overall goal is to prepare students to be self-motivated lifelong learners and ethical users of today's technology.

## **Technology Purposes and Goals**

The possibilities of using technology as tools for learning continue to grow at a rate that makes it almost, if not, impossible for school districts to keep pace. As our children are exposed more and more to the technology that society makes available, the classroom teacher is left to compete with this technology. There is a fine line between education and entertainment. We need to stimulate the senses if we are to capture the interest of the students and keep them involved with their learning. Not all students come to school anxious to learn. They are here because they are told they have to be and not because they see a benefit to learning. Schools need to be transformed into places of learning through technological innovation. Well planned and executed technology integration makes it possible to entertain, educate and inform all at the same time. Students need to be more involved and active when it comes to learning and computers, by themselves, are not the answer. A holistic approach to learning is the answer and computers are just one of the tools used to accomplish this goal.

### **Technology at OESJ School District will:**

- Enable graduating students to have the necessary technology skills and proficiencies to be successful in the workforce and/or higher education.
- Be integrated into all areas of the curriculum to meet the needs of all learners.
- Support ongoing staff development opportunities.
- Be current, available and accessible to all students, faculty, staff and administration.
- Improve the effectiveness of administrative tasks.
- Be used to collect, assess, and share performance information.

- Provide access to global information resources.
- Will be periodically re-evaluated to ensure that we are providing the most effective teaching and learning tools to our students and staff within the districts means.
- Will include technology training to all students, faculty, staff and administration in an effective, systematic, and on-going manner.
- Be secure, stable, reliable, inventoried, and well-maintained, including the use of appropriate back-up systems.
- Provide differentiated technology-based learning options to meet individual needs of students; explore alternative delivery of distance learning options for students, and; provide students with anytime/anywhere access to electronic content to support classroom instruction.
- Support communication, collaboration, and effective sharing of resources.
- Enable active communication between the school and community by providing a means of access to program descriptions, school activities, and student information.
- Provide opportunities for staff to utilize new and emerging technologies that enhance teaching and learning.
- Be used in a way to understand, practice and encourage the legal and ethical use of technology to maintain the highest level of security possible for confidential information.

### **Supporting Student Achievement through Devices**

The district has worked hard to use technology tools and resources to transform our teaching and learning environments across the district. The district believes that technology included in this plan can be a powerful vehicle to actively engage all students in learning. Using technology tools and resources such as Chromebooks and Laptops utilizing Google Apps and Google Classroom learning management system, teachers are able to personalize learning, differentiating both the content and the pedagogical approaches depending on the needs of students. Teachers can extend learning beyond the hours of the day and the confines of the classroom. They can also create authentic learning experiences and connect students to resources that will greatly enhance their learning. These resources can include content, study tools, collaborative tools, tools for

assessment, and also connections to experts in the field, as well as to teachers and other students. Technology can help transform learning largely from the inclusion of 21st century life and career skills including digital creation and innovation, group collaboration, effective navigation of information and media, and digital citizenship skills. Technology is a beneficial tool for Students with Disabilities and English as a New Language students. Integration of technology allows them to participate, interact and work independently using a wide range of assistive tools and devices. The district's Special Education Department works directly with the District Technology Director to insure that assistive technologies are available for all students who require their use, and both departments collaborate to make sure that the technology requirements of each student's IEP are met.

## PRECONDITIONS AND CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

### **Smart Schools Investment Plan Committee**

As a requirement for the Smart Schools Bond Act, the planning process for developing and submitting a Smart Schools Investment Plan to the State Education Department must include consultation with parents, teachers, students, and community members.

The following people served on the OESJ School District Smart Schools Investment Committee / Technology Committee:

Gregg Roth – *Director of Information Technology(Chair)*

Adam Heroth - *Superintendent*

Kyle O'Brien – *Elementary School Principal*

Timothy Barnes – *High School Principal*

Jessica Derwin – *Director of Student Services*

The Committee met on January 8, 2025, to review the elements of the Smart Schools Bond Act and the required parameters of the Smart Schools Investment Plan, to identify district instructional technology strengths and needs, and to create the Smart Schools Investment Plan.



## PRECONDITIONS AND CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

### **Adequate Technological Infrastructure**

The district currently exceeds the Federal Communications Commission minimum speed standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students with 1 Gbps for a student population of about 800. Every classroom and instructional space has both wired and WiFi network access compatible with the devices included in this plan. Listed below are the current speeds of the district infrastructure.

- Internet access to district – 1 Gb
- Bandwidth between buildings – 10 Gb
- Inter-Building Bandwidth (wireless) – 1 Gb
- Bandwidth to workstations – 1 Gb
- WIFI standard implemented is 802.11n

### **Professional Development**

On-going professional development is a critical component of the district's Instructional Technology Plan. The district provides a wide range of professional development each year for our teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, and other staff. Some of these training topics include interactive white boards and smart notebook, Google Apps for Education, SchoolTool, and Microsoft products and Chromebooks.

There are sessions offered during and after school and on Superintendent Conference days throughout the year addressing district supported applications that can be integrated into curriculum and instruction. The district strongly believes that the instructional and

leadership staff, along with the technical support staff need higher-level professional development in order to continue in their roles. There is currently one staff member dedicated to instructional technology integration across the district. The district is committed and will continue to provide professional development on an on-going basis to the staff to allow them to utilize the technology tools and resources in the most effective manner possible. No additional technology personnel will be needed to support the integration of the new initiatives supported by the Smart Schools Bond. These positions are already in place and included in the district's operating budget.

## **Technical Support**

The district is prepared to provide on-going tech support to ensure that the technology purchased with funds from the Smart Schools Bond Act will be distributed, prepared for use, maintained, and supported appropriately. The district currently employs three computer professionals who maintain both the district's classroom technology and supporting infrastructure. The current staff will maintain the proposed Smart Schools funded technology proposed in this plan. We will constantly monitor the technical support requirements and adjust staff through the district's budget process when needed.

## **Sustainability**

The district is committed to the sustainability of infrastructure and devices purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act. The district will include the Smart Schools Bond purchases into the district equipment inventory, update schedule, and replacement cycle. Each year the district allocates funds for the normal repair and/or replacement cost based on a percentage of the total learning devices in the district. The district and the Board of Education will make every effort to provide sustainability of the investment in technology for instruction including increases to the technology budget. The district's replacement cycle for the items listed in this plan are as follows:

- Laptop – 3 Years
- Chromebook – 3 years
- Desktop – 5 years

- Servers – 5 to 7 years
- Interactive Display Panel - 10 Years
- Building Access System - 20 years
- Building Camera System – 10 years
- Building PA System – 20 years
- District Network – 7 years

The deployment of the student and staff assigned Chromebooks, Laptops and Desktop computers will occur over the next three school years. This phased deployment of roughly one-third each year allows the district to keep the budget needed for the replacement of the devices relatively constant considering the 3 to 5-year life cycle of these devices. Future funding resources to support the ongoing replacement cycle of these devices will have to come from the IT department operating budget or another financial source.

## PROPOSED CLASSROOM LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

The Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville School District Smart Schools Investment Plan is to provide the following devices over a 3/year period. The outline below shows the purchases that will be made for each plan year.

### Year 1 (2025/2026)

- Chromebook for each (7-9) Middle School student. (approx. 167)
- Graphing Calculators (20) replacement for 20 High School calculators

### Year 2 (2026/2027)

- Chromebook for each (10-12) High School student. (approx. 178)
- Desktop Computers (5) replacement for 5 classroom desktops
- Laptop Computers (5) replacement for faculty laptops
- Graphing Calculators (20) replacement for 20 High School calculators

### Year 3 (2027/2028)

- Chromebook for each (1-6) Elementary School student. (approx. 360)
- Desktop Computers (5) replacement for 5 classroom desktops
- Graphing Calculators (20) replacement for 20 High School calculators

## PROPOSED CLASSROOM LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Building	Description	Estimated Cost
OESJ District Wide	Dell Chromebook 3100 (708)	\$219,00
	Dell Desktop Computers (10)	\$15,000

	Dell Laptops (5)	\$7,500
	Graphing Calculators (60)	\$9600
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$251,000</b>

Table 1-1 OESJ District Wide Classroom Technology Estimated Replacement Costs

## **PROPOSED SERVER TECHNOLOGY**

The Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville School District Smart Schools Investment Plan is to provide the outline for the vision with regards to the replacement of the OESJ District server and data storage environment. This vision shall identify the locations affected by this vision, and identify the equipment along with replacement cost for the new equipment.

The OESJ server and data storage environment is nearing 10 years of service. Typical server and data storage environment upgrades should occur every 5 to 7 years to keep up with growing technology trends (i.e. advancements in server and data storage technologies).

The goal of replacing the current OESJ server and data storage environment is to introduce high powered CPU technology along with increasing the environments storage and RAM (Random Access Memory) capacity. The proposed changes in combination with current Virtual Server technology will provide the district with enough capacity for the next 5 to 7 years of service.

The OESJ server and storage environment has two (2) building locations, the OESJ Junior Senior High School and the OESJ Elementary school. The following estimated breakdown of the replacement plan is shown in the table below.

## **PROPOSED SERVER TECHNOLOGY**

Building	Description	Estimated Cost
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OESJ District Wide	Server Technology Upgrade	\$73,000
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$73,000</b>

Table 1-2 District Wide Classroom Technology Estimated Replacement Costs

To learn more about the Smart Bond Act including FAQs and Guidelines go to:

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart\\_schools/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/)

Please direct any questions or comments to:

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Final SSIP BOE Approved: February 2, 2021

Amendment to SSIP Approved: