

There will be a Public Hearing on Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) Funding for the School at Northeast at the next Northern Rivers Board of Directors meeting:

Tuesday, October 1, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Administrative Building H, Hudson Room
60 Academy Road
Albany, NY 12208

We encourage our school community to submit written feedback on the School at Northeast Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP). Please email Paul.Stamas@northernrivers.org by Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

To learn more about the Smart Bond Act Guidelines go to:
http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/documents/SSBAGuidancefordayandresidentialschools_final.pdf

Background to the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA)

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. 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. The \$5 million in 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.

Introducing Our Smart Schools Bond Act Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP)

The School at Northeast has been allocated \$42,990 from the Smart Schools Bond Act to finance educational technology capital projects to improve learning and opportunity for students with disabilities.

The School at Northeast Day Education Program is a coed special education program for up to 150 students in grades 6–12 and is certified as a special education facility by the NYS Department of Education. Students served may be residential or day treatment program participants and typically cope with multiple issues including educational disabilities, family instability, emotional trauma, delinquency, mental illness, truancy, and substance abuse. The school offers a full curriculum in a structured and supportive learning environment, providing students with a variety of academic, recreational, and vocational opportunities.

A computer is a crucial component of student academic success and offers a unique platform to gain the most up-to-date information and to analyze the use of that information for school projects. Funds will be used to purchase personal computers for students and staff. Existing personal computers in the library, classrooms, and administrative areas are more than five years old and are experiencing performance and reliability issues. The purchased personal computers will support the deployment of Microsoft Office 365 for students and staff as well as other education-related applications. With this funding we anticipate purchasing 60 personal computers. Because expenditures for this project will be through an existing New York state contract, we are not required to secure competitive bid. Project execution is planned for first quarter of 2020, contingent on state approval of the release of funds.

Budget: \$42,990

Purchase 60 personal computers at \$716.50 each = \$42,990