

A top-down view of a meeting table with several people's hands and arms visible. In the center is a large white sheet of paper with a hand-drawn mind map. The mind map has a central node labeled 'imagination' and several surrounding nodes: 'TODAS' (with a group of people icon), 'LaGo' (with a logo icon), 'RESEARCH' (with a magnifying glass icon), 'DISCUSSION' (with a speech bubble icon), 'LAYOUT' (with a document icon), 'PASSION' (with a flame icon), 'GRAPHICS' (with a camera icon), 'INGENUITY' (with a lightbulb icon), 'THE PLANNING' (with a clock icon), 'SPACE' (with a globe icon), and 'NEGATIVE POSITIVE' (with a globe icon). There are also several sticky notes on the table, some with words like 'plan', 'creativity', 'efficiency', and 'investment'. A blue geometric graphic is on the left side of the image.

Smart Schools Bond Investment Plan Application 3

Utica City Schools
BOE Meetings:

September 26, 2023

March 26, 2024



Prioritized Goal

Utica City Schools wishes to offer reliable, seamless and robust technology

NYS Smart Schools Bond Act



Passed by NYS Voters in November 2014

Awarded \$2 Billion to all schools based on enrollment and state aid formula

- UCSD filed an original application in 2017 which was approved.
- During Covid the district filed an amendment to move unexpended Network Connectivity funds to Classroom Devices.
- The district has been purchasing Promethean Boards and Chromebooks over the last three years.
- Seven claims have been filed between 2017 and today, All of them have been paid.



Smart Schools Bond Act Funds

9,678,419

\$104,927 remaining for Interactive White Boards

\$292,079 remaining for Chromebooks

We have to verify if any of those fund balances have been expensed since August of 2022 which need to be claimed

Records reflect that there is \$3,094,674 that has never been applied for to date



Rules for the use of these funds:

Approved for 6 specific categories:

1. **Classroom Connectivity**
2. **Classroom Technology**
3. **Community Connection**
4. **Pre-K Classroom Improvements**
5. **Elimination of Temporary & Trailer Classrooms**
6. **School Security and Safety**



Funding cannot be used to:

- Pay for salaries
- Pay for software
- Pay for professional development

Districts are expected to provide these, but they cannot be funded through the Smart Schools Bond Act.



Successful Plans

Include linkages between the district's long-term educational planning and technology investments;

- Provide learning opportunities beyond the classroom through the use of technology; and
- Address the educational needs of all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners and those who have not succeeded in traditional classroom settings.

The Smart Schools Review Board will review each district plan for alignment with the goals



Phase 1-2 Projects

- **Completion of Smart Board upgrades for all classrooms initiated**
- **Completion of Chromebook purchases to ensure 1:1 computing**



Step 1: Advisory Committee

Re -Establish a Smart Bond Advisory Committee to review new proposals.

Membership must include:

- Students
- Faculty
- Administrators
- Board of Education
- Parents
- Community



Step 2: Advisory Committee

- Administration works with the district's architects and RIC to establish priorities that fall within the approved categories.
- **Consideration to:**
 - District Vision and Mission Statements
 - District Technology Plan
 - Building Condition Survey



Step 3: Survey Staff

Utica City Schools to complete a staff survey to establish priorities for the remaining funds



Please Note:

- **All expenditures for Smart Schools must be recommended by the Advisory Committee.**
- **These proposals represent a third application.**
- **Any future recommendations must be presented to this committee until ALL of the funds are spent.**



Next Steps

- **Proposals presented to Board of Education at the November 13, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.**
- **Board of Education can accept the proposals as the preliminary plan.**
- **Smart Bond Investment Plan is then published on the school district website with an email address for public comments for 30 days.**
- **Public Hearing December 19, 2023**
- **BOE approves the plan**
- **January 2024, Superintendent Submits the plan to SED**

E-Rate



Utica City also has funds remaining in Federal E-rate funds. They have approximately \$2,000,000 at 85% that will expire in 2025.

They will also receive another allocation of about \$2,000,000 for the period 2026 to 2030.

The district did a major network upgrade in 2017 with their previous E-rate allocation. That hardware will be designated as End of Life and require replacement in the near future.

In the past Utica has applied for E-rate through BOCES. The 15% local share is eligible for BOCES aid making these purchases essentially free.

The district shouldn't delay planning for these funds as the application window is only in January and February of each E-rate year and these funds WILL expire rather than "roll over."



Smart School Budget

CATEGORY	Detail	TOTAL
CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY	Interactive Boards	\$104,927
	Chromebooks	\$292,079
SECURITY	Camera, PA Systems & Secured Vestibules Upgrades	\$3,094,674
TOTAL		\$3,491,680



Project Timeline - 3/24-6/25

Planning Phase:

Gather project requirements and objectives

Proposal Development:

- Develop a detailed proposal outlining the project scope
- Estimate the budget for various project components
- Present the proposal to SED for review and approval
- Create a project plan and timeline

Budget approval:

- Submit budget proposal to SED
- SED reviews and provides feedback
- Obtain final budget approval from SED

Procurement:

- Identify and select vendors for the project
- Allocate budgets for procurement

Implementation:

- Execute the project plan based on the approved budget

Reporting:

- Prepare final project reports and financial statements.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE

BOE

Student

Parent/Community Member

Moric

Teacher

Teacher

Teacher

Teacher

Interim Superintendent

Smart Schools Planner