

Chatham CSD Smart Schools Initiative 2026



Smart Schools Bond Act

- Passed by New York voters in November of 2014.
- Awarded \$2 billion to all NYS public schools based on enrollment & state aid formula.
- Finances educational technology & infrastructure

Chatham CSD's allocation:

\$624,158



Phase 1

2018: Upgraded district telephone system – **\$173,444**

2020: Implemented Informacast for Emergency Communication & Mass Notification – **\$63,884**



6 Categories

- *School Networking*
- Classroom Technology
- Community Connection
- Pre-K Classroom Improvements
- Elimination of Temporary/Trailer Classrooms
- School Security and Safety



Rules

- Cannot pay salaries
- Cannot pay BOCES and receive aid
- Cannot purchase software



Step 1

- Administration consults with district technology leadership to establish possible priorities in the approved categories.
- Consideration was given to:
 - Chatham's Technology Plan



Step 2

Establish Smart Schools Planning Committee

Membership Must Include:

Student(s), Staff, Administrator(s), Board of Education
Parent(s), Community Member(s)



Committee Responsibilities

Consider the preliminary proposals from the district administration and make a recommendation to the Board of Education.



Phase 2 Proposal

Upgrade district network infrastructure to support student instruction, emergency communication, and security infrastructure.

Max Smart Schools Expenditure: \$386,830



Funding Strategy

- The district has submitted an E-Rate Category 2 application to further discount this hardware purchase. Smart Schools funds will be used to cover the remaining district share.
- Current NYS audit of E-Rate holding up approvals



Leftover Funds

- Money remains until last \$ spent
- Smart Schools Planning Committee exists until all funds are used
- All recommendations for expenditures must pass through this committee.



Next Steps

Step 1: Board of Education reviews committee recommendations and votes on the preliminary plan.

Step 2: The Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan is published on the district website for a mandatory 30-day public comment period.

Step 3: After 30 days, the Board of Education conducts a public hearing to review any community feedback.



Next Steps (Cont'd)

Step 4: Board of Education votes on final approval for submission to the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Step 5: Final NYSED submission/review



Comments/Questions?

Community questions may be submitted to:

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