

# **SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT**

FINAL INVESTMENT PLAN

2015-2016



**Malone Central School District**

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Malone's Schools • Malone's Future

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## PLAN OVERVIEW

The Malone Central School District was issued an initial allocation of \$2,822,926 by the state of NY after residents voted affirmatively in November of 2014 to allow the state to borrow up to two (2) billion dollars to help schools create 21st Century learning centers with state of the art technology opportunities for students.

## PRECONDITIONS

The District submitted its Instructional Technology plan via portal to the NYS Education Department and the plan was approved on September 22, 2015. The District also held stakeholder meetings with community members, parent representatives, teachers, students and private school representatives to receive input on particular technology, security and instructional needs for students.

It has been verified that the Malone CSD has met the Federal Communications Commission's 100 Mbps per 1,000 students standard in the buildings where new devices will be deployed.

## PLAN GOALS

The District has identified and developed five main themes in its purchase plan based on technology needs, stakeholder feedback and early childhood education goals in the community.

### Ensuring All Students Have Access to Early Childhood Educational Opportunities

Currently the district operates five (5) Pre-Kindergarten classrooms in three separate buildings, serving approximately ninety (90) students. There are also twelve (12) students being served in a Pre-Kindergarten setting by an additional community placement program. Incoming Kindergarten class enrollment is estimated to continue to be between 175 and 185 over the next five years. Approximately half of the current Malone CSD community does not have an opportunity to attend Pre-Kindergarten if desired. Additionally, two of the District's current Pre-Kindergarten classrooms are undersized based on the recommended square footage by NYS Facilities Planning.

### Providing Students With Creative and Collaborative Learning Opportunities

The majority of learning spaces within the District are designed based on 20th Century technology and instructional practices. The significant advances in technology, coupled with the economical and interactive world in which we live has dramatically shifted the way instruction is delivered to and consumed by students. To that end, there are spaces within various school buildings that can be transformed with technology equipment that can lead to interactive learning environments that spur creativity and foster collaboration amongst students.



### Safeguarding the Welfare of Students, Staff and Visitors

Due to violent events that have taken place in schools over the last decade, improvements to building security has been a priority for Districts all over the country. Malone CSD has taken affirmative steps to ensure students, faculty and visitors are as safe as possible while they occupy school buildings each day. Additional measures, including updating and providing for additional security cameras is a funding priority based on feedback from student groups and building administrators.

### Universal Community Access to Broadband or Wireless Internet Service

There are many locations within the Malone District where access to high-speed internet is not available due to limited infrastructure. Students who live in remote parts of the surrounding communities struggle to complete instructional feedback as part of their lesson assignments. The opportunities lost for this population of students has negative academic consequences as compared to similar students and families where internet access is readily available. The District may be able to assist in the development of additional internet access capabilities through a partnership with local service providers.

### Developing an Internal Wireless Internet System That Can Support Future 1:1 Student to Device Computing

The District has invested heavily in providing total wireless coverage in all school buildings. However, additional wireless investments would be necessary to facilitate a future 1:1 student to device ratio. As pricing for devices continue to improve and instructional techniques trend towards mobile learning, having a strong wireless infrastructure will enable the District to move in this direction.

## PURCHASE PLAN

The district's purchase plan includes funding for the following goals:

- Construction of Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms
- Development of Interactive Technology Areas to Promote Collaborative Learning
- Safety Upgrades Including Security Cameras and Entrance Improvements
- Investment in Community Access to High-Speed Internet Service
- Providing Additional Wireless Access Points in Each Classroom to Facilitate 1:1 Computing



## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Sub-allocation</u>
School Connectivity	\$ 122,926
Classroom Technology	\$ 125,000
Connectivity Projects for Communities	\$ 300,000
Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms	\$2,000,000
High-Tech Security Features	\$ 275,000
Unallocated Funds	\$ -

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The District will develop professional development opportunities for teachers on how best to implement Interactive Learning Centers and Maker Space instructional environments for students. The Instructional Technology Coordinator will work collaboratively with Administrators, as well as The Adirondack Teacher Center, on methods to enhance the particular technology skills of teachers and other staff for the specific purpose of delivering 21st Century learning opportunities to students.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The District recognizes the implications of one-time revenue streams and the need to proceed cautiously with the development of any plan that includes hardware that has a useful life. The investment plan here takes into consideration classroom technology, such as 3-D printers, computer equipment and security devices as items that will need to be replaced down the road. The district has a funding process every three years where technology equipment and consumable infrastructure can be upgraded with the utilization of an installment purchase (IP) agreement with the Northeast Regional Information Center (NERIC).

Other investment funding priorities located within this plan are one-time expenditures that involve permanent infrastructure initiatives. If the District decides to implement additional Pre-K classrooms in the future there will be on-going expenses relating to instructional teaching and support costs.

