

Canajoharie Central School District
Preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. 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 SSBA requires that a Review Board review and approve districts' Smart Schools Investment Plans before any funds may be made available for the program.

Canajoharie Central School qualifies for \$1,017,758 from the Smart Schools Bond Act. This funding can be used for instructional technology and school safety upgrades. The first step in applying for this funding was to submit our Instructional Technology Plan to New York State for review. Canajoharie's Instructional Tech Plan was submitted and approved by New York State on February 12, 2016. The 2016-2017 plan has been submitted for approval.

The preliminary Smart Schools Investment plan was presented to the Board of Education on July 14, 2016. The preliminary plan will be posted September 1, 2016 for 30 days. Information for the plan was gathered from staff and students through meetings and dialogue, and the community through our annual budget survey. The board will hold a public hearing on October 13, 2016 for the public to comment and respond to the preliminary plan. The final plan will be approved by the Board of Education and submitted to the State Education Department for final approval.

All projects that will be funded using Smart Schools funds need to be approved by the State Education Department. If approved, all projects will be fully reimbursable, but districts need to spend the money upfront before being reimbursed. Here are some of the projects that our school is planning using the Smart Schools funding for:

- 1 Increasing the amount of portable technology available for classroom use** – Our students, staff and community indicated the need for additional portable technology for classroom and learning use. Laptop/tablet carts will be purchased for each grade level or department for shared use. The plan also designates funds for a pilot one-to-one computing program.
- 2 Addition of a distance learning classroom** – Adding a distance learning classroom will provide our students with opportunities to take advantage of courses that we may not be able to offer. It will also offer our teachers an opportunity to provide instruction to a small number of in-district students, and increase course participation by partnering with other interested schools.
- 3 Upgrade to wireless infrastructure** - To provide students with additional learning time, we propose adding wireless capacity to our busses. Students traveling on our busses will have the wireless access to work on course assignments or other learning activities.

Please submit any questions or comments with regard to the plan to the district office. Attn: Deborah Grimshaw, Superintendent of Schools or via e-mail at deborah.grimshaw@canjo.org or phone at 673-6302 no later than October 11, 2016.