**From:** Christina Coughlin <Christina.Coughlin@nysed.gov>   
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2019 4:31 PM  
**To:** Smartschools <Smartschools@nysed.gov>

As you may be aware, in the 2017-18 Enacted Budget, the Legislature and Governor amended the procedures used to calculate the dollar value amount (per pupil and in total) of technology to be loaned to religious and independent schools under the Smart Schools Bond Act.  Under the new rules—in addition to Classroom Learning Technology—school districts purchasing certain School Connectivity devices are also required to include those purchases in the loan calculation. There was no change to the maximum loanable amount: $250/student.

In order to accommodate these changes, the Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) application had to be revised. After piloting the new SSIP with four districts, the updated application is now live for all school districts. The SSBA team has transferred all plans in the system that were submitted after the effective date of 4/15/17 into the new SSIP format.

When entering the SSIP, districts will find that there were some changes to the formatting of the plans. The most notable changes are to the School Connectivity category and the addition of a Nonpublic Schools category. All expenditures for nonpublic schools will now be included in this category, instead of as previously included under Classroom Learning Technology.

* **For districts that have a plan that has been held up due to the new requirements (were submitted after 4/15/17, have nonpublic schools and are allocating funds in School Connectivity):** These plans will be our first priority after the new SSIP has opened. Staff have been reviewing the expenditures already included in these SSIPs and determining which School Connectivity items will be subject to the new requirement, and which will not be included in the calculation because they are not considered transportable. A complete list of items in each category is posted on our website (link below) and can be found in the SSIP application itself. An NYSED reviewer will reach out to the stated contact for each plan—in the order of first submittal—to assist with the final process of separating the School Connectivity expenditures into the loanable or non-loanable category.
* **For districts that have a plan that is currently submitted and in the queue for review:**  SSIPs are reviewed in the order that they were initially submitted and will continue to be. Thus, plans will retain their current place in the queue. Once your plan has been reviewed, a reviewer will be in touch with any questions, comments or required revisions to your SSIP. When entering your plan into the new form, the budget on the Overview and School Connectivity pages will be $0. You will need to save each page to have the budgets auto-calculate. Please continue to work on the SSIP, answering all required questions and sending any questions to smartschools@nysed.gov. A PowerPoint describing the changes to the new SSIP is attached.
* **For districts that currently have a plan in the system that was never submitted**: During the changeover from the old form to the revised SSIP, we discovered a programming issue. **We were not able to convert SSIPs that had been started, but never submitted to the new form.**  If your district was working on a plan, but had not yet submitted it, that plan will not be able to be submitted in its present form. You will need to start a new plan in the new system.

We regret this situation and the inconvenience that it may cause.  Any plan that was in this status will still be available in your Inbox, marked as ARCHIVED, so that you will be able to copy and paste any narratives over to the new form. However, due to the changed formatting, expenditures will need to be re-entered individually in the new form. To assist you in this effort, we can provide you with an Excel file listing all of the existing expenditures in these SSIP’s by category and subcategory, upon request.

Please see the attached spreadsheet that lists all of the existing, unsubmitted SSIPs by district.  If you have a plan on this list that you wish to continue to work on, please send an email to [smartschools@nysed.gov](mailto:smartschools@nysed.gov) with the name of any SSIP from which you need the expenditures.  It would also be helpful to indicate if there are any existing plans which you do not expect to use going forward, so that we can delete them from the system.

Districts can find a copy of the updated guidance, list of eligible items by category, and a PowerPoint presentation outlining the changes to the SSIP on our website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/home.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [smartschools@nysed.gov](mailto:smartschools@nysed.gov).

Christina Coughlin, Ph.D.

Assistant Commissioner

School Governance, Policy and

   Religious and Independent Schools

NYS Education Department

EBA 475

89 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12234

518 474 6541