

# NYS Assembly Education Committee Hearing on School Infrastructure and Facilities

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# Smart Schools Bond Act Status Update: Overview

The Smart Schools Bond Act program consist of:

- \$2 billion in program for traditional public school districts;
- \$5 million in program for special education schools; and
- \$25 million in funding to support additional loans to nonpublic schools.
  - This \$25 million in funding was approved in the 2017-18 Enacted Budget to provide additional funding for school districts to support the incremental cost of including certain portable School Connectivity educational technology expenditures previously excluded from the calculation of the loanable share.
  - These funds will be available to those school districts that submitted a Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) prior to April 15, 2017, whether approved by the SSBA Review Board or still in process.
  - School districts that have SSIP's submitted after April 15, 2017, similarly, will adjust their nonpublic sharing calculation to include the same portable School Connectivity items. The additional loan amount will be funded through their existing SSBA allocation.

# Smart Schools Bond Act

## Status Update: Overview

**Smart Schools Investment Plans submitted include spending in the following areas:**

- **School Connectivity:** Many districts are simply replacing or adding additional access points throughout their schools to prepare for investments in 1:1 devices and Computer-Based Testing (CBT), while others are doing complete connectivity cabling projects on school property.
- **Community Connectivity:** Budgeting funds to upgrade or install connectivity and/or device-related equipment in local libraries or other public spaces.
- **Classroom Learning Technology:** Districts have developed different approaches to implement 1:1 device to student programs within their schools, typically through a phase-in approach, to ensure that every student has access to technology on a daily basis. In addition, many districts are investing in STEAM programs through the purchase of robotics kits, milling machines, 3d printers and virtual reality computers, for instance.
- **PreK:** Offering or expanding the availability of Pre-Kindergarten through support of the costs of construction necessary to expand programs to meet the needs of current or expanding enrollment.
- **Transportable Classroom Units:** Removal of transportable classroom units and construction of new classroom space to relocate displaced students.
- **High-Tech Security:** Installation of security cameras, entry control systems, door hardening and VOIP systems. Many districts are also reconfiguring access to the buildings through the construction of secure vestibules.

# Smart Schools Bond Act

## Status Update: Approved Plans

During the six Review Board meetings held to date there have been 367 plans approved for 285 school districts and 8 Special Education schools, with budgets totaling \$320,906,785, including:

- Over \$108 million in School Connectivity
- Over \$41,000 in Community Connectivity
- Almost \$165 million in Classroom Learning Technology
- Over \$8 million in Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms
- Almost \$549,000 in Transportable Classroom Units
- Over \$38 million in High-Tech Security

# Smart Schools Bond Act

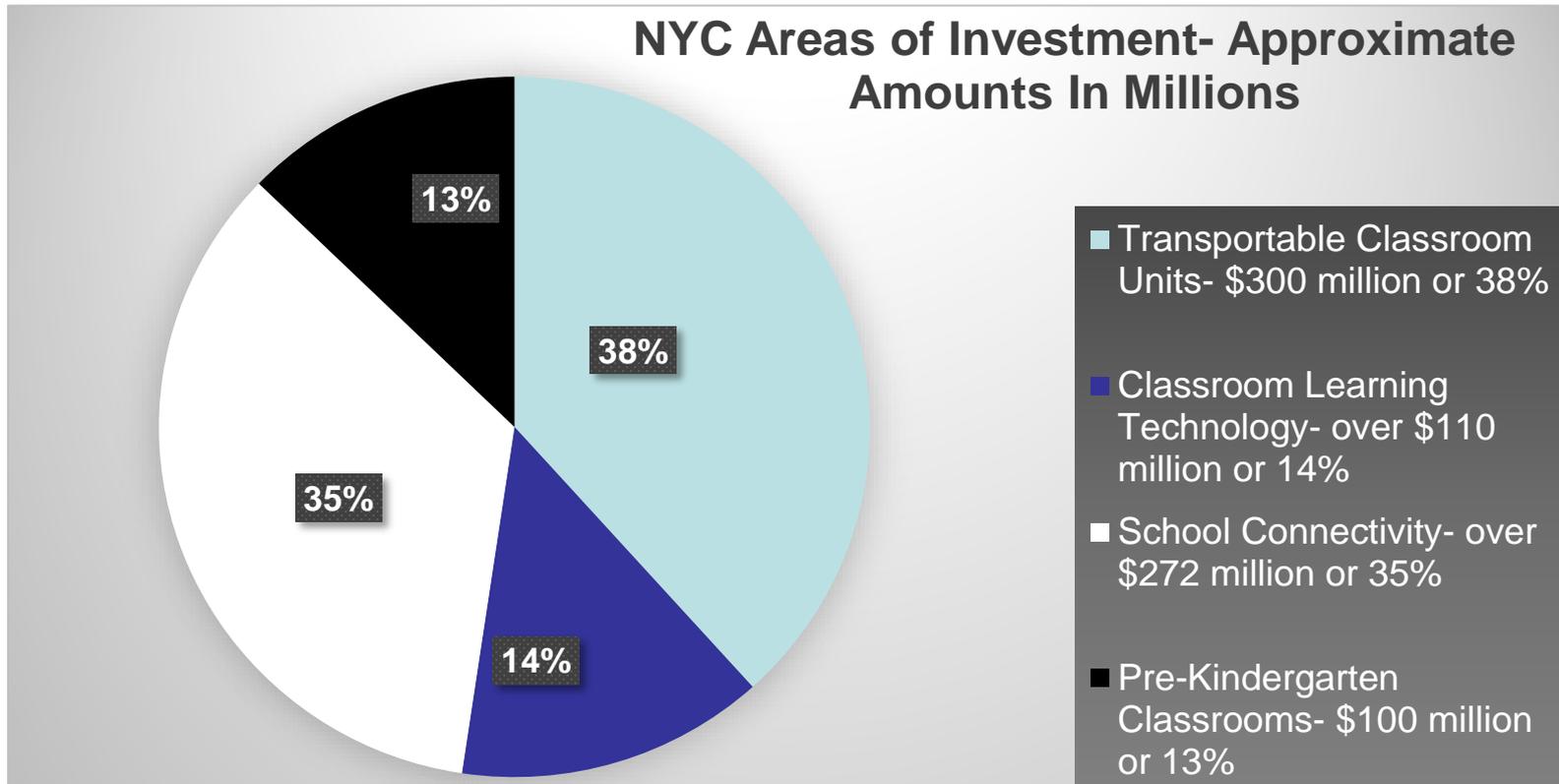
## Status Update: Approved Plans

- School districts with approved Smart Schools Plans have made a total of about 223 reimbursement claims submitted to date for \$96.8 million.
- Approximately \$90 million in claims have been paid.
- Reimbursements are taking an average of a little more than two weeks to be paid from the initial claim date.

# Smart Schools Bond Act

## Status Update: Plans Ready for Review

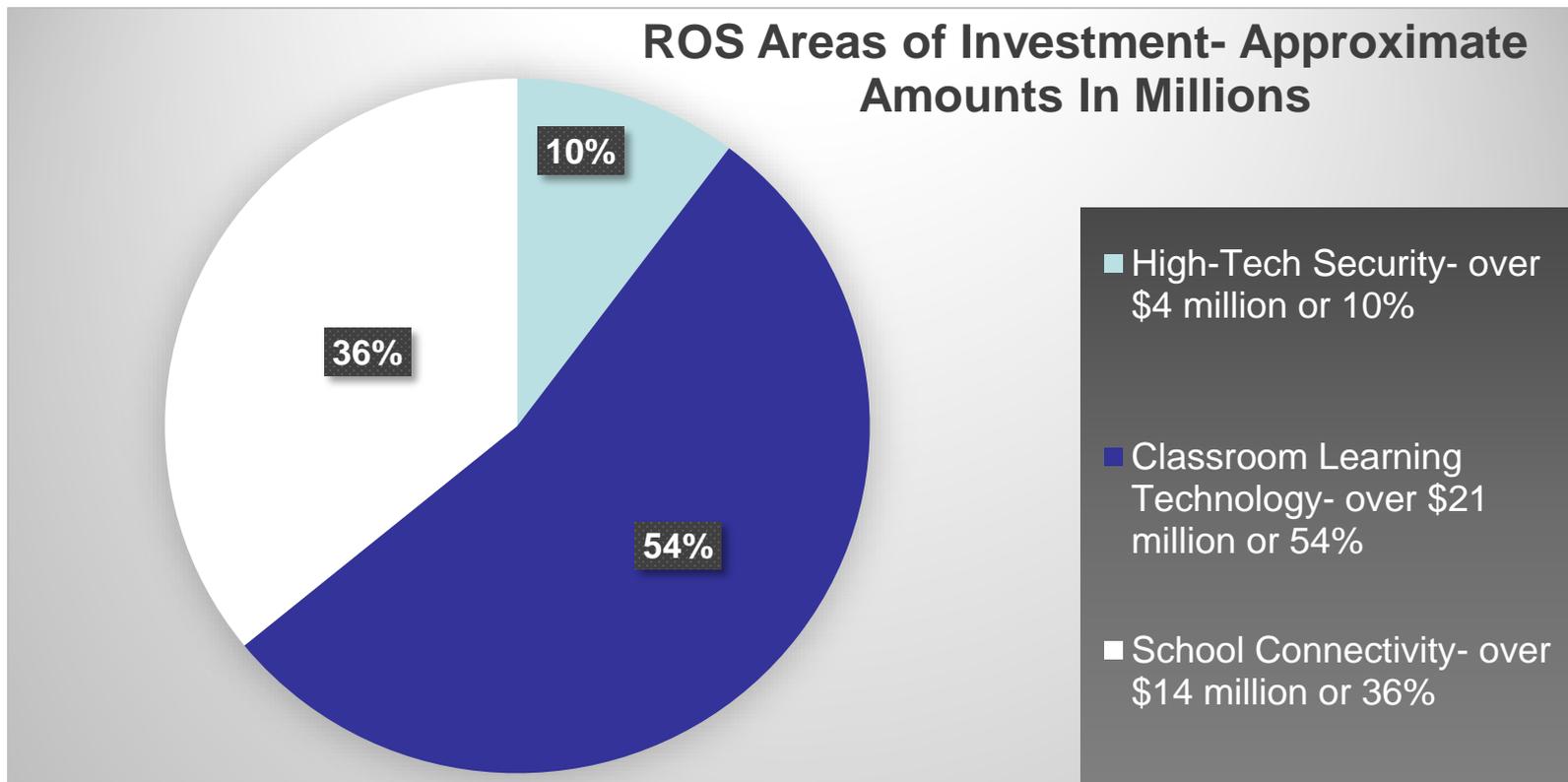
Over \$783 million in proposed investments are from two NYC Smart Schools Investment Plans (SSIP's) accounting for its entire allocation. The pending NYC plans include:



# Smart Schools Bond Act

## Status Update: Plans Ready for Review

There are currently 48 plans in Districts outside of NYC (Rest of State or ROS) that have been initially reviewed by SED staff that are ready for the review of the Review Board.



# Smart Schools Bond Act

## Status Update: Plans In Review

There are an additional 250 SSIP's in various stages of the review process, including:

- 69 plans unsubmitted by SED, requesting revisions
- 43 plans in Initial Review
- 20 plans in Program Area Review
- 118 plans in Expenditure Review

# Where to find Smart Schools Investment Plans Information on SED's Website

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart\\_schools/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/)

Included within this link are:

- An Excel chart with the most recent Smart Schools Invest Plan status updates for your district(s);
- A document that explains what each different status mean; as well as
- Guidance, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) and other related information.

# Facilities Status Update:

## Overview

### Process for New or Renovated Buildings

- Department staff review any proposed plans for building construction, additions or renovations to:
  - Determine the amount of building aid for which a proposed project will be eligible, pursuant to a manual that is available to districts and their design professionals
  - Review the plans for fire and structural code compliance as well
- In an era of declining enrollment, new school construction projects are rare, addition and renovation projects are much more common.

# Facilities Status Update: Overview

## How do we know the status of buildings?

- Every five years, statute requires districts to do a survey of their buildings to determine their facility needs. This is called a Building Condition Survey. Architects and engineers do the reviews.
- For each building, the data includes ratings of major building systems as well as environmental conditions that could affect student safety or learning (e.g., ventilation, space adequacy, lighting and pest management practices). Districts use the information for capital planning. The most recent round of these was in 2015.
- Typically only new buildings receive an overall rating of “excellent,” and very few receive an overall rating of “poor.” Most building are in a middle range.
- It is not the age of the building itself that is key to determining status, it is the condition. A recently renovated 75 year old building is likely to be a far better environment than a poorly maintained 25 year old one.

# Facilities Status Update: Overview

The 2015 building condition survey data suggests that school districts made substantial improvements to their facilities over the five year period. In 2010, nearly a third of buildings (32 percent) had an overall rating of “unsatisfactory” or “poor.” By 2015, that figure had dropped by more than half to just 14 percent. All regions had a substantial drop in the percentage of buildings rated below satisfactory.

## Percentages of Buildings Rated Poor or Unsatisfactory Dropped Dramatically

Region	2010	2015
Capital District	27	11
Central NY	47	21
Finger Lakes	22	4
Long Island	18	2
Mid-Hudson	38	25
Mohawk Valley	43	11
North Country	37	6
Southern Tier	27	7
Western NY	47	33
State Averages	32	14

# Facilities Status Update: Backlog

Office of Facilities Project Review Queue as of 10/17/17:

- **690 projects currently in queue**
- **Architectural Review: Average time for final architectural review will be about 12-14 weeks.**
- **Engineering Review: Average time for final engineering review will be about 26-28 weeks.**

**Your appropriation of \$800,000 has been used to hire additional staff, but challenges remain in staffing, especially on the engineering side, since state paygrades significantly lag behind those found in the private sector. Although we have openings and postings, we currently have only three licensed professional engineers on staff.**

# Facilities Status Update: SED Systems Investments

The Enacted Budget included \$2 million for the initial stages of development and improvement of our State Aid Modeling, Facilities Planning and Special Education and Related Services Data Systems. **Thank You!**

We believe investments in these systems will enhance customer service and make application processing more efficient. It will reduce the staff time required to track projects, as well as improving our ability to analyze the data we collect to understand how construction project work is changing throughout the state.

State Aid Modeling	Facilities Planning	Special Education and Related Services
<p>The Department oversees the statistical data modeling of nearly \$24 billion in state aid to public school districts annually. The current system is highly accurate and effective but was developed over 30 years ago. The program, written in COBOL, currently runs on a dated Unisys mainframe reaching the limits of its useful life.</p>	<p>The software is used to review, approve, and issue building permits and assist in the calculation of building aid for public school district capital construction projects. The system runs on an obsolete DOS-based platform which is no longer supported by the company that designed it and there is a substantial risk that SED will be unable to run it in the near future or that the maximum number of records supported by the software will be exceeded.</p>	<p>Although the Department has various data systems, they are not consolidated or coordinated into one database that can be shared among the multiple program offices which have oversight responsibilities in ensuring that the State is in compliance with federal requirements under IDEA. Additionally, there is no platform to publicly report educational and cost data for the benefit of external stakeholders.</p>

# Joint Schools Construction Boards Status Update

<b>Syracuse</b>	Phase 1 is complete. This was approximately \$136.5 million in work.	Currently Syracuse is in Phase II Tranche I of the Syracuse JSCB – Approximate project cost: \$136.3 million. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 of the 7 proposed projects were approved in September, 1 is under review, and 1 is on hold</li> </ul>		
<b>Rochester</b>	Phase I involves \$325m, in 14 projects (2 district wide and 12 school buildings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 have been completed</li> <li>• 8 are underway</li> </ul>	Phase II involves \$435M. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 projects submitted and approved \$174m.</li> <li>• Several projects under review, including 1 districtwide project submitted in late September</li> <li>• 5 School Building and 1 Districtwide project have not yet been received</li> <li>• 8 of the buildings will have double MCAs.</li> </ul>		
<b>Yonkers</b>	Phase 1 \$524M (\$348M in new construction). Not yet started.	Phase 2 \$539M	Phase 3 \$502M	Phase 4 \$586M
<b>Buffalo</b>	All the projects in all 5 Phases appear to have been completed. Staff is working to determine whether Final Cost Reports or other information is still required from the district.			

**Thank  
You**