

Smart Schools Bond Act

Phase 4 Public Hearing

ViewSonic Interactive Whiteboards

Sarah Hornung

Director of Technology & Chief Information Officer

History of SSBA

- The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) was passed in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum held during the 2014 General Election.
- 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.



Allowable Project Categories

Approved categories of expenditures include:

- School Connectivity
- Classroom Technology
- Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms
- High-Tech Security Features



SSBA Phases

Orchard Park Central
School District was
approved for
\$2,333,018

Phase 1 - HS Chromebooks Rollout

- Total Cost: \$ 713,552
- ☐ Complete

Phase 2 - High Tech Security

- Total Cost: \$ 770,353
- ☐ Complete

Phase 3 - Network Storage Hardware

- Total Cost: \$121,000
- ☐ Complete

TOTAL Remaining: \$728,000



Phase 4 Overview

Phase 4 of our SSBA Investment Plan will provide the funding to replace existing classroom displays in all PK-12 classrooms and instructional spaces with a 75 inch ViewSonic interactive whiteboard.

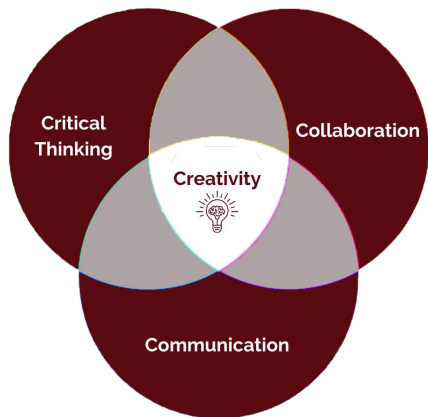
SSBA Phase 4 Investment Plan includes:

- Model: IFP7550-E1 - 75 inch
- Approximately 341 boards
- Cost per board is \$2,132.85
- Installation will be done internally by our Technology and Maintenance Department.
- **Total Investment: \$728,000**



2022-2025 District Technology Plan Goal

Goal: Improve student achievement and support the 4 C's (creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication) through the seamless integration of technology into all teaching and learning spaces.



Action Step: Ensure that all kids have access (all the time, every time) to appropriate devices and hardware to support the K-12 Scope and Sequence and curriculum.



Background

Background

Elementary Schools

- The current classroom interactive displays (SMARTboards) have been in Orchard Park classrooms for almost 30 years.
 - Many of the boards no longer function with touch capabilities, and the hardware and software has become outdated and obsolete.
 - The Smartboard requires a ceiling mounted projector to display the classroom computer.





A current classroom with a Smartboard and ceiling mounted Casio projector.

- This classroom display requires a teacher to be anchored to a computer to teach and does not allow for movement and flexibility in instruction.
- The projectors require replacement bulbs and have an average lifespan of 8 years.
 - This leads to a recurring cost and hardware maintenance.

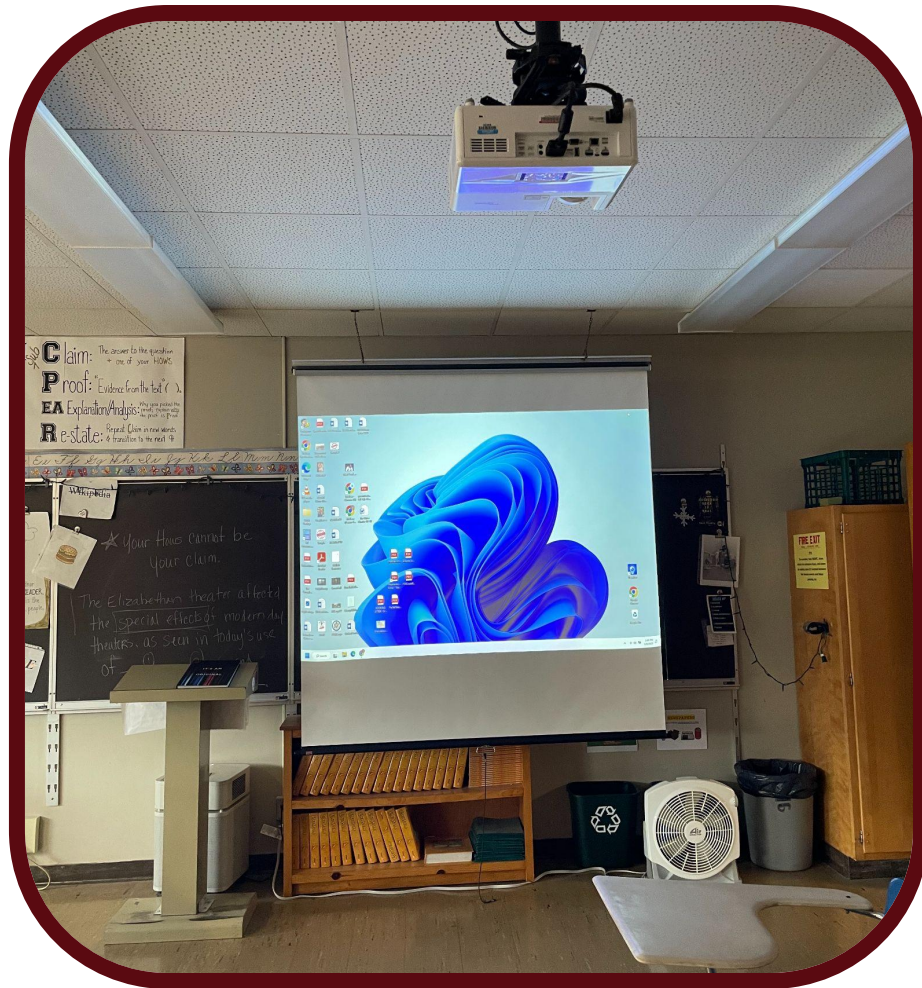


Background

Middle School/High School

- The current classroom displays are ceiling mounted projectors displaying an image on pull down screens. These classrooms lack interactive capabilities and connection to the internet.





A current high school classroom with a pull down screen and ceiling mounted Optoma projector.

- This classroom display requires a teacher to be anchored to a computer to teach and does not allow for movement and flexibility in instruction.



Pilot and Research

Interactive Board Research Pilot (2021-2022)

- The first pilot boards (Newline, ViewSonic, Samsung and SMART) were distributed and rotated among classrooms.
- We continued to rotate them throughout the District during the 2021-2022 school year.
- We were intentional about representing different grade levels, schools, and learning needs (Special Education classrooms and English as a New Language (ENL) classrooms).
- We selected a variety of price points and boards with different features (interactive and non-interactive).



Interactive Board Research Visit

- **January 2022**
- Members of District Technology Committee visited another district who had recently invested in K-12 SMART boards.
- Observed an elementary teacher, middle school teacher and a high school teacher.
- Met with the district's technology department for a Q&A of their experience deploying the boards.
- Also surveyed all Erie 1 and Erie 2 regional Technology Directors to seek recommendations for interactive whiteboards.



Interactive Board Research Survey

- **February 2022**
- Surveyed all teachers asking for feedback on future boards.
- Responses from 198 teachers.
- 97% of teachers felt an interactive digital whiteboard was most appropriate and effective for instruction.



Vendor Demonstrations

- Invited both ViewSonic and SMART to present in person at our District Technology Committee meeting.
- Product demonstration and Q&A from teachers, students and staff.
- Compared features and price.
- Surveyed all 16 pilot teachers.
 - 15 voted ViewSonic
 - 1 voted SMARTboard



2022-2025 District Technology Plan

- Spring 2021: The District Technology Committee began drafting the 2022-2025 District Technology Plan.
- One area of need identified was the goal to replace classroom displays in all PK-12 classrooms and instructional spaces by 2025.
- July 2022: The 3-year District Technology Plan was reviewed and approved by NYSED.



2022-2025 District Technology Plan Goal

Goal: Improve student achievement and support the 4 C's (creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication) through the seamless integration of technology into all teaching and learning spaces.

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Early Adoption in Special Education & English as a New Language Classrooms

Why Interactive Digital Whiteboards?

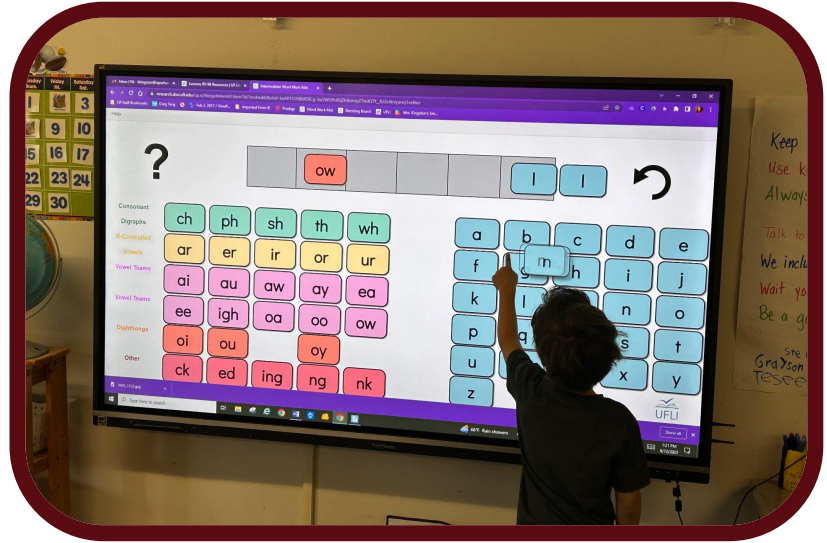


Visual and interactive learning: offer visual aids, multimedia content, and interactive features that engage students with different learning styles, such as visual impairments or learning disabilities, to comprehend and retain information more effectively.



Why Interactive Digital Whiteboards?

Multisensory support: enable teachers to incorporate multiple sensory modalities, such as audio and tactile elements, into lessons. This benefits students with disabilities who may have sensory processing issues or require alternative modes of communication.



Why Interactive Digital Whiteboards?



Differentiation and personalized learning: allow teachers to adapt lessons to accommodate individual student needs. They can modify the content, pace, or difficulty level to meet the requirements of students with disabilities or ELLs.



Why Interactive Digital Whiteboards?

Language development: provide visual cues, vocabulary support, and real-time translations for ELL students. The interactive nature facilitates language practice, pronunciation, and comprehension. ELL students can actively engage with the content and receive immediate feedback, enhancing their language acquisition process.



Why Interactive Digital Whiteboards?



Collaboration and engagement:

encourage collaborative learning experiences through interactive activities, group discussions, and shared problem-solving. This collaborative environment benefits both students with disabilities and ELLs by fostering social interaction, language development, and the exchange of ideas.



Training and Support



- **June 2023**
- Instructional Coaches, Technology Instructional Leaders and the Technology Department were all trained in a 6-hour *ViewSonic Train the Trainer* program with an on-site ViewSonic trainer.
- Two online training courses were added to the District's Frontline Professional Growth catalog.



Next Steps

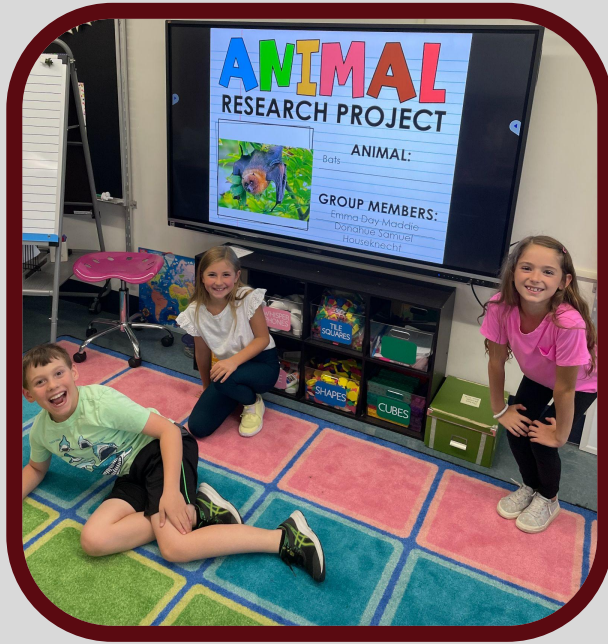
- There are currently 42 ViewSonic boards in the District.
- We need approximately 400 boards to meet the goal of a ViewSonic board in every PK-12 classroom/instructional space.

SSBA Phase 4 Investment Plan includes:

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- 341 boards
- Cost per board is \$2,132.85
- Installation will be done internally by our Technology and Maintenance Department.
- **Total Investment: \$728,000**



Next Steps



- Questions, comments by the Board
- Questions, Comments by the Public during Public Comment;
- 30-day Public Comment period. Comments can be directed to:
 - Sarah Hornung via email at shornung@opschools.org or by phone at 716-209-6330
- Submission of Smart Schools Investment Plan to NYSED by August 1, 2023.
- Review and approval by NYSED

