



Smart Schools Investment Plan

The Kevin G. Langan School at the Center for Disability Services
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An Overview of the Smart Schools Investment Plan and how it can Benefit Students with Disabilities at the Kevin G. Langan School.

The Smart Schools Investment Plan was made possible by the 2014 Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA), to enable public schools and private schools like the Langan School, to secure needed educational technology, facility enhancements and other improvements to the learning environment. Although the Smart Schools Investment Plan had made available funding in four areas - School Connectivity, the purchase of Classroom Technology, the Replacement of Transportable Classroom Units, and the installation of High-Tech Security - the Center for Disability Services will utilize its entire allocation, \$54,407.00, for the purchase of needed classroom technology.

This Smart Schools Investment Plan was developed by the Deputy Executive Director of Children's Services at the Center for Disability Services and the faculty of the Center's Kevin G. Langan School, with the assistance of the Center's Director of Assistive Technology and Assistive Technology Specialist between January 1, 2016 and May 31, 2016. During this period, students and parents were also alerted to the development process and their input was incorporated. This process culminated in the finished Plan's approval by the Executive Leadership Committee of the Center for Disability Services and its Governing Board of Directors. This plan was posted on the Center for Disability Services' website, www.cfdsny.org, on the Children's Services page, to elicit further stakeholders response, and will remain there until full implementation of the activities proposed in the plan are complete.

Justification

For the past decade, the Center for Disability Services has invested significant resources in the development of an infrastructure within its Kevin G. Langan School, and throughout its entire organization, that supports the use of the latest in computer hardware and software, wireless systems, tablet devices, SMART Boards, and other technology tools and resources. This project has entailed the implementation of technology and technology-based curricula to educate and facilitate improvements in communication, motor control, socialization and academics for young people with physical and intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, visual impairments and other disabilities at both the Kevin G. Langan School in Albany as well as the Center for Disability Services' CloverPatch Preschool. The ultimate purpose of this project is the implementation of technology to allow the 150 students at the Langan School students to better engage with and demonstrate their knowledge of individualized curricula toward meeting National Core Curriculum Standards and Performance Standards identified in the New York State Education Department's Alternative Assessments (for students with disabilities and other Special Needs and enable the Center's preschool and school to be more effective from an educational, therapeutic and individual standpoint, and operate more

efficient classrooms through the integration of contemporary technology, software and apps that are significantly less expensive than traditional assistive, communication and other devices for children with disabilities.

Among all student populations, the Center believes that young people with disabilities can realize the greatest benefit from such technology, and its ability to mitigate or even overcome physical, cognitive, socialization, and other deficits. The number of relevant peripherals to existing PCs, tablet devices and SMART Boards – adaptive switches, educational apps, multi-media literacy packages, etc. – continues to increase, and with it the effectiveness of this technology in enhancing the mission of educating students with disabilities. Therefore, it is imperative that the Langan School take advantage of the funding provided through the Smart Schools Bond Act to acquire needed equipment that can accommodate these resources for the benefit of all students.

The Kevin G. Langan School's Smart Schools Investment Plan

As stated, the Center for Disability Services will utilize its entire allocation of \$54,407.00 from the Smart Schools Bond Act to purchase classroom technology that complements the existing technology base at its Kevin G. Langan School. The Langan School currently consists of classrooms at three sites: the main school at 314 South Manning Boulevard in the city of Albany; a large classroom at the St. Margaret's Center Pediatric Nursing facility, also in Albany, for students too ill or frail to leave their residential setting; and the Prospect School in Queensbury (Warren County). The Center's current connectivity infrastructure can accommodate, during a typical school day, all of the devices proposed for acquisition in this Plan; the Center acknowledges the Federal Communications Commission's standard of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students, which will be met, as the School has enrolled significantly fewer students than this number.

The Center has targeted the following areas for upgrades, and will utilize Smart Schools funds to secure the following devices:

1] Interactive Whiteboards: The Center will purchase and install three SMART Board Interactive Flat Panels with 55" Touchscreens in the Kevin G. Langan School.

2] Desktop Computers: The Center will purchase and install four HP 251 Desktop PCs with 21.5" Monitors, one HP Desktop PC with Monitor, and three HP EliteDesk 705 Desktop Computers with Windows 7 Professional, additional RAM, High-Gain Wireless USB Adapter, and a Touchscreen Monitor.

3] Laptop Computers: The Center will purchase two Dell XPS 13 Non-Touch Laptop Computers.

4] Tablet Computers: The Center will purchase 17 iPad Pros with 9.7" screen and 32 G Wi-Fi.

5] Related Costs: The Center will purchase the following peripheral items that support the learning of students with disabilities:

A] Two Hitachi 3LCD Projectors.

B] One REHAdapt Mount

- C] Two Ablenet Friction Knobs UMS, for table mounting.
- D] Three Epson Bright Link [595 -WI]) Projectors.
- E] Six Gum Drop Cases.
- F] One Luxor LCD locked cart.
- G] One Elo Interactive 55" Clear Touch TV.
- H] One SMARTFIT Trainer Mini.
- I] One REHAdapt Floor Mount.
- J] One Step-by-Step with Levels.

Timeline

The Langan School has focused its use of technology on those areas where it can serve to overcome a student's physical disability, cognitive or intellectual gaps, socialization deficits, or other issue resulting in significant learning gaps. Since its inception, this project has consisted of the following phases:

Phase 1 (2000-2010): Acquisition of a base of classroom PCs, laptops, printers, etc.). Acquisition of a base of adaptive switches and related devices to increase accessibility. Development of Educational Library of multi-media and other software relating to the English Language Arts and Math. Duplicate development of a smaller technology base at a specialized classroom at St. Margaret's Center Pediatric Skilled Nursing Facility in Albany.

Phase 2 (2010-2015): Continued acquisition of up-to-date hardware and software. Initiative toward a greater use of Ipads and educational apps and an introduction of SMART Board technology. Duplicate development of Phase 1 and 2 at Prospect School in Queensbury (Warren County).

Phase 3 (2015-Present): Continued acquisition of PC-based hardware and software, tablets and related apps, and SMART Boards, at all school sites.

Development of technology to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education in the Kevin G. Langan School, toward meeting National Core Curriculum Standards and Performance Standards and the New York State Education Department's Alternative Assessments for students with disabilities and other Special Needs. Upgrade of Wi-Fi at 314 and Prospect School sites.

Phase 4 (2017 and ongoing): Continued acquisition of PC-based hardware, tablets, peripheral devices and related apps, SMART Board technology, and STEM devices, at all school sites. Implementation of MakerSpaces Program to create spaces students can gather to learn collaboratively outside the classroom, and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills during STEM activities. This model is being implemented because the Langan School has limited physical space; classrooms are occupied by bulky wheelchairs, therapy mats, IVs and other medical equipment, adaptive equipment and other items necessary for a school serving students with disabilities and medical needs. This model will utilize, e.g., a Mobile MakerSpace cart, equipped with laptops and other learning devices, housed in a Curriculum Resource Room that can be signed out to teachers, clinicians and consultants during scheduled classroom, clinical, and library periods.

Sustainability Plan

As a school for students with disabilities that is one component of a larger organization providing residential, health care, adult vocational and other programs and services for individuals with disabilities, the Kevin G. Langan School is already positioned to maintain and support any PC-, tablet- and SMART Board-based enhancements to its existing technology. The parent Center for Disability Services currently has an Information Technology Department of 15 staff that supports hardware, software, over 1,200 end users, and a network infrastructure connecting over 80 locations across the Northeastern New York region. The Children's Services Division at the Center for Disability Services, which includes the Kevin G. Langan School, also employs a Director of Assistive Technology and an Assistant Assistive Technology Specialist who are specifically tasked with the acquisition, installation, set-up and maintenance of all school-based technology components, as well as the full integration of these items into the curricula of the school's classrooms.

Management and Maintenance of Technology Inventory

The purchase, distribution, setup and maintenance of all technology used in the Kevin G. Langan School is the responsibility of the Director of Assistive Technology and the Assistive Technology Specialist at the School. These individuals maintain an inventory of all hardware, devices and related items, which includes all new items that will be

purchased through these Smart School funds, in accordance with accepted accounting standards used by the Center for Disability Services' Finance Department.

The Director of Assistive Technology and Assistive Technology Specialist at the Kevin G. School, and the Information Technology at the Center for Disability Services as a whole, will integrate the purchased technology made through the Smart Schools Bond Act into the School's overall technology inventory, and insure that each device remains in working order. Recurring costs, e.g. device maintenance/maintenance plans, internet and WiFi fees, etc. will be assumed by the Center for Disability Services.