SMART SCHOOL BOND ACT – Summary & Expected Process[1]

The 2014-15 State Budget[2] included a $2 billion general obligation bond act to be placed before the voters in November 2014. If approved by voters, the Bond proceeds would fund enhanced education technology in schools for such projects as high speed broadband. In addition, proceeds will invest in the construction of new prekindergarten classroom space, general classroom space, replace classroom trailers with permanent classroom space and make investments in high-tech school safety projects. [i]

New York voters approved the Smart Schools Bond Act on Election Day 2014 (November 4, 2014).

Next Steps - The next steps in implementing the Smart Schools Bond Act – which will likely take several months to complete - will include the following:

- Issuance of $2 billion in general obligation bonds, to create the pool of funds to be made available for allowed projects.

- The establishment of a *Smart Schools Review Board*, to be comprised of the chancellor of the State University of New York, the Director of the Division of the Budget, and the Commissioner of Education, or their respective designees.

- The Smart Schools Review Board will issue guidelines setting forth required components and eligibility criteria for "*Smart Schools Investment Plans*" to be submitted by school districts.

- School districts will prepare and submit Smart Schools Investment Plans to the Smart Schools Review Board, for review and approval. In developing such investment plan, school districts shall consult with parents, teachers, students, community members and other stakeholders.

    - A smart schools project included in a school district's smart schools investment plan shall not require separate approval of the Commissioner unless it is part of a school construction project otherwise required to be submitted for approval.

- School districts would receive allocations to implement their Smart Schools Investment Plan upon approval by the Smart Schools Investment Board, and based on a "selected school aid" calculation derived from a formula set forth in the legislation.

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[1] As of November 5, 2014.
[2] Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2014; Parts B & C

- **School District Allocations** - See how much funding for which a school district will be eligible: http://www.governor.ny.gov/smart-schools-ny

The New York State School Facilities Association (NYS SFA) is monitoring this effort closely, in order that our member school districts can participate fully in this initiative and achieve real benefits for our schools. We will continue to provide updates and information to our members as events warrant.

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[i] Allowable expenditures for Smart Schools Investments, pursuant to Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2014:

?S 4. Use of moneys received. The moneys received by the state from the
40 sale of bonds sold pursuant to this act shall be expended pursuant to
41 appropriations for capital projects related to design, planning, site
42 acquisition, demolition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation,
43 or acquisition and/or installation of equipment for the following types
44 of projects: capital projects related to educational technology equip-
45 ment or facilities including but not limited to interactive whiteboards;
46 computer servers; desktop and laptop computers, and tablets; high-speed
47 broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities;
48 capital projects to construct, enhance or modernize educational facili-
49 ties to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs and provide instructional
50 space to replace transportable classroom units; and capital projects to
51 install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school
52 campuses."