

Expedited Remote Learning Plans Process

Beginning Spring 2021

To help districts expand their capacity to provide remote and hybrid learning for their students, the Smart Schools Review Board has created a streamlined review process for plans containing exclusively remote learning devices. Districts will now have an opportunity to submit expedited **Remote Learning Plans** under the Smart Schools Bond Act. These plans will be reviewed on a prioritized basis beginning March 15, 2021, and continuing through December 31, 2021.

While these plans will still need to go through the same review processes and be approved by the Smart Schools Review Board, the review of these plans will be prioritized ahead of plans with other types of needs in the queue. Districts submitting a Remote Learning Plan will not be required to complete all stakeholder engagement requirements prior to submission of the plan in the portal. Further information on these changes may be found in the program's updated Smart Schools Bond Act guidance.

If a district has an immediate need for remote learning devices such as laptops and/or tablet computers, the district should do the following:

1. Review the updated Smart Schools Bond Act guidance with information on the expedited process including reduced stakeholder engagement requirements for the district.
2. Complete a Smart Schools Investment Plan in the existing portal, with funds exclusively allocated for eligible devices (i.e. laptops, tablets and associated accessories including, but not limited to, licenses, covers/cases, etc.) following directions in the updated application pertaining to Remote Learning Plans. Please note, some questions in Classroom Learning Technology have streamlined requirements.
3. Upon submission of the Investment Plan in the portal, post such plan to the district's website.
4. If applicable, submit a separate Smart Schools Investment Plan for items not eligible to be included in a Remote Learning Plan, including other devices in the Classroom Learning Technology category and/or other categories. These plans will not be prioritized for expedited review and must meet all stakeholder engagement requirements.

Districts are strongly encouraged to respond to questions and requests for information from NYSED staff as quickly as possible to ensure that such plans can be reviewed and forwarded to the Smart Schools Review Board as soon as possible.

Information, including updated guidance may be found on the Smart Schools [webpage](#).

Questions can be emailed to smartschools@nysed.gov.