**Smart Schools Supplemental $25 Million Appropriation FAQs**

**What is the $25M supplemental program?**

A: As part of the 2017-2018 Budget, there was a supplemental $25 million appropriation for districts which have plans that were submitted or approved prior to 4/15/17, have nonpublic schools and budgeted money in the School Connectivity category. These plans were reviewed and the newly eligible loanable expenditures under School Connectivity were identified by staff of the Review Board members. The supplemental per-pupil and total nonpublic loan amount under the $25 million was then calculated by district. These totals are posted on the Smart Schools website.

**How much money does my district receive?**

A: There is a document on the Smart Schools website called “[Eligible districts’ additional per-pupil and total allocation amount for the $25M supplemental nonpublic loan program](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/documents/Updated25mFile_Post_9_13_18.pdf)”, which details the per-pupil and total nonpublic loan for each district that meets the criteria to fall under the $25 million with an approved plan.

**What if my plan was submitted before 4/15/17, has nonpublic schools and is budgeting money in School Connectivity, but hasn’t been approved yet?**

A: There are a few plans that meet the criteria but have not had their SSIP approved yet. When these plans are approved by the Smart Schools Review Board, the per-pupil and total amount of the Supplemental Nonpublic Loan will be calculated. The funds will then be available for the district to start making additional purchases for the nonpublic school(s).

**What if I submitted my plan after 4/15/17?**

A: Districts that submit an SSIP on or after 4/15/2017 will NOT have access to the Supplemental

Loan Program funds. Instead, districts with eligible items budgeted in the School Connectivity

category will now include them in a separate Nonpublic Loan Calculator in that category, in addition to those funds spent in Classroom Learning Technology.

**What if I amend the previously approved plan and decrease or increase the amount spent in School Connectivity?**

A: Districts amending plans can decrease the amount that they spend in certain categories, but cannot reduce the total nonpublic loan amount. If the district is increasing the total spent in School Connectivity, the district will be responsible for including the nonpublic school(s) in the amendment of the plan and use their existing allocation to complete the nonpublic loan requests. This will be automatically calculated in the new SSIP form.

**What expenditures can nonpublic schools request through the $25M supplemental program?**

A: Nonpublic schools can request any items considered to be transportable in the School Connectivity and Classroom Learning Technology category, including, but not limited to:

* Computer Servers
* Storage Devices
* Routers/Gateway Appliances
* Firewalls/Security Devices
* Switches
* Wireless Access Points and Attached Antennae
* Controllers
* Modules
* Transceivers
* Power supply devices, connectors, terminals and power cords purchased specifically for an SSBA device included in the current application.
* Interactive Whiteboards
* Desktop, Laptop or Tablet Computers and associated charging carts/stations
* 3D printers, robotics, projectors, machinery

If there is a question of whether an item is eligible, please send an e-mail to the SSBA inbox at [smartschools@nysed.gov](mailto:smartschools@nysed.gov) to request confirmation of eligibility. Since these expenditures are not being approved prior to claiming for reimbursement, we highly recommend confirming that items are eligible before making any purchases.

**Are there any expenditures that are definitely not eligible?**

A: Yes. In addition to the usual prohibition of using State funds for construction for a nonpublic school, districts cannot use SSBA funds to pay for a nonpublic school‘s installation or configuration costs, software, licenses, cabling or other professional services as they are considered normal operating costs.

**Do I need to complete an SSIP to make requests for the nonpublic expenditures through the $25M supplemental program?**

A: No, eligible districts do not need to file any additional requests. The total loan amount will become available in a new section of the reimbursement claiming system, labeled “Supplemental $25 Million Non Public Loan” where the district will file for reimbursement after making purchases of eligible items for the nonpublic school loans.

**Are there any other administrative steps required prior to accessing these additional funds?**

A: Yes. There is a simple form ($25m Supplemental Nonpublic Certification) on the Business Portal that the Superintendent must certify prior to filing for reimbursement of these funds. This form documents that the district has contacted each nonpublic school within the district to inform them of the availability of these additional funds, along with a confirmation of each school’s intent to participate or not.

**My district fits the criteria for the $25M supplemental program, why I do not see it on the list?**

A: If your district does not show up on the list, then it is possible that your district (a)met the $250 per-pupil maximum on other plans or (b) your plan that meets the criteria has not been approved.