**Smart Schools Bond Act**

**Completing the Supplemental Nonpublic Claim**

In the 2017-18 Enacted Budget, the Legislature and Governor amended the procedures used to calculate the per pupil loan amount for nonpublic schools. Due to this change, some school districts may have an additional nonpublic loan obligation for School Connectivity items that were NOT previously included in the calculation of the nonpublic loan allocation.

This change ONLY applies to the following school districts:

1. Those that have nonpublic schools located within their boundaries; and
2. NOT already met the $250/per pupil nonpublic maximum SSBA loan amount; and
3. Have an application that reflects acquiring classroom learning technology equipment or devices, (such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, and desktop, laptop, and tablet computers,) including budgeting for certain transportable School Connectivity investments.

The 2017-18 Enacted Budget language (Chapters 54 and 59 of the Laws of 2017) changed the nonpublic technology loan calculation to include certain additional school connectivity items that were, or will be, budgeted for under the School Connectivity category. Items from the School Connectivity category that are eligible for the Nonpublic Loan Program are connectivity devices that are portable. This would exclude any item that cannot be moved easily, as well as items that are ancillary hardware or do not directly improve Internet connectivity.

The School Connectivity items that will now be included in the calculation of the total nonpublic loan includes certain portable hardware, network, access and internal connection and components,

such as:

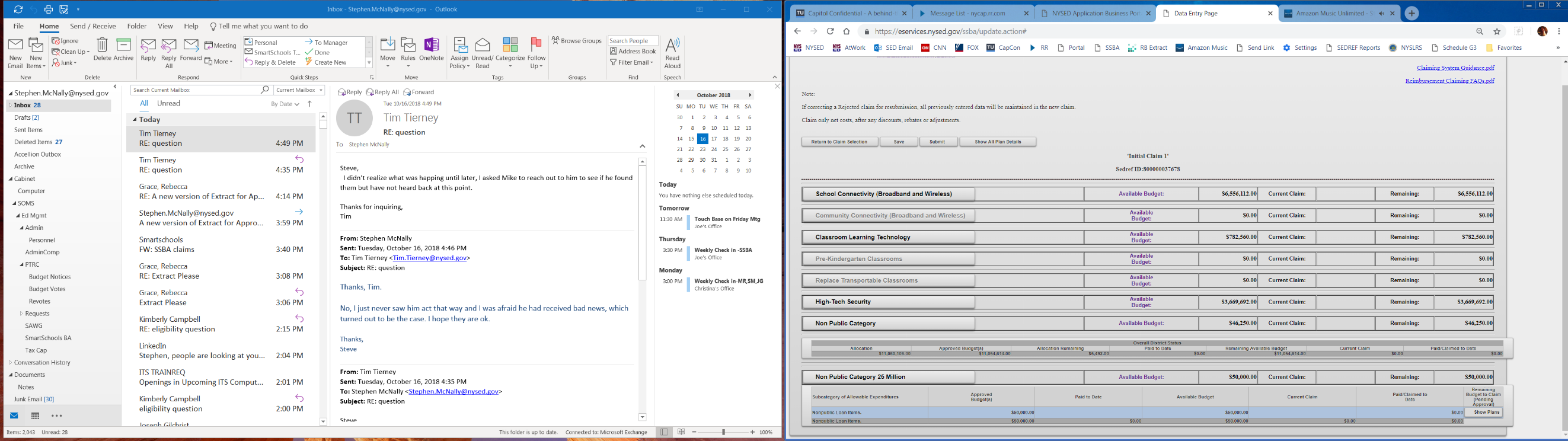
* Computer Servers
* Storage devices
* Routers/Gateway Appliances
* Firewalls/Security devices
* Switches
* Wireless Access Points and Attached Antennae
* Controllers
* Modules
* Transceivers
* Power supply devices, connectors, terminals and power cords purchased specifically for an SSBA device included in the current application.

In districts with SSBA funds budgeted for these items under the School Connectivity category, this new calculation will have the effect of increasing the amount available to nonpublic schools for loans – up to the $250/pupil maximum, which remains unchanged.

**Implementation**

The Legislature and Governor recognized that districts meeting the criteria above which had already submitted a Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP) prior to the implementation date of **April 15, 2017** would not have been able to plan for the additional expenditures. To support the additional loans, a new appropriation of $25 million was provided to create a Supplemental Nonpublic Loan Program.

Districts which submitted their SSIP prior to April 15, 2017 will NOT have to file an additional or revised SSIP to access these funds. These districts will only need to file an online reimbursement form in the NYSED Business Portal for the items to be purchased and loaned with the supplemental amount. Districts must request reimbursement on a separate claim from the regular SSBA expenditure items. This claim will ONLY contain eligible purchases funded with the supplemental $25 million appropriation enacted as part of the 2017-2018 Budget.



Use this line to claim reimbursement under the Supplemental Nonpublic Loan Program **ONLY**. The Non Public Category above is for regular SSIP programs and plans.

NYSED will post a spreadsheet on the Smart Schools website containing the additional per pupil and total Supplemental non-public loan amounts by district. A link will also be posted on both the Educational Management Services and State Office of Religious and Independent Schools (SORIS) websites.

The additional nonpublic loan amount will be based upon a district’s highest approved budget for eligible items within the School Connectivity category. Eligible school districts must first consult with the nonpublic schools located within their district boundaries, as they did originally and accept requests from those schools for the additional loans, make and document the purchases, then file for reimbursement in the NYSED Business Portal, just as they do for the existing SSBA Program.

After making eligible purchases for items to be loaned to nonpublic schools under the Supplemental Nonpublic Loan Program, districts will use a separate category of the existing Smart Schools Bond Act reimbursement claim to file for reimbursement of the incremental nonpublic school loan expenditures. This line on the claim form will have the supplemental loan amount shown as the available budget for districts to claim against.

School districts will report the number, type and cost of items purchased for loan to nonpublic schools the same way they do currently. When claims are approved by NYSED, they will also be paid through the existing process.

**Districts with SSIPs Submitted, but not yet Approved, prior to 4/15/2017:**

The few districts which submitted an SSIP prior to 4/15/2017, but are still pending SSBA Review Board approval, are also eligible for a portion of the additional $25 million fund to support the new school district purchases of eligible items to be loaned to nonpublic schools. These districts also will not have to file a revised SSIP to access these funds.

After formal approval of the pending SSIP by the SSBA Review Board, the Department will calculate the additional portion of the SSIP budget related to eligible School Connectivity expenditures in their SSIP to calculate the additional nonpublic loan amount under the Supplemental Nonpublic Loan Program.

NOTE: Department staff will work closely with these districts to ensure the proper claims are calculated and submitted for reimbursement under both the supplemental loan amount and the regular SSBA nonpublic loan amount, if applicable.

**Nonpublic Schools’ Choice of Items**

The list of items that a nonpublic school may choose for their students includes any of the portable School Connectivity items listed above, as well as any previously eligible items under the Classroom Learning Technology category.

It must be remembered that all other expenditure guidelines and policy that apply to public schools also apply to the nonpublic expenditures. Subscription fees, product or equipment leases, professional development, software or applications (other than those necessary to operate SSBA-funded hardware optimally,) fees or other administrative costs are ineligible. These items are considered operational costs, not capital expenditures, which makes them ineligible for Smart Schools funding.

In addition, capital-intensive-related costs, such as construction, in nonpublic schools are not eligible. It is highly recommended that a school district contact the Smart Schools team in the New York State Education Department’s Office of Educational Management Services at [Smartschools@nysed.gov](mailto:Smartschools@nysed.gov) with any questions about item eligibility.

**Eligible Nonpublic Items**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Antennas - Attached | Mice, headphones & keyboards |
| Cables & connectors - Integral to Hardware | Modules & components |
| Cameras | Mounting equipment & stands |
| Carts and cabinets- Charging & storage | Power supply, connectors & backup |
| Chromebooks | Printers (non-3D) |
| Computer servers | 3D printers & laser engravers |
| Controllers | Projectors |
| Desktop computers | Robotics |
| Firewalls/security appliances | Routers/gateway appliances |
| Hardware extended warranties | Storage devices |
| Indoor or Outdoor wireless access points | Switches |
| Interactive whiteboards | Tablet computers |
| Laptop computers | Other costs (Transportable only) |
| Machinery |  |

**Ineligible Nonpublic Items**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cabling/Fiber | Installation |
| Configuration fees | Licenses |
| Construction | Software |
| Consultant fees | Other operational costs |

Visit <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/> for additional information.