



NYS Smart Schools Bond Act and E-Rate: Leveraging the Possibilities for Expanded Access to Broadband

Introduction

The passage of the Smart Schools Bond Act has provided districts with an unprecedented opportunity to upgrade network infrastructure to meet the needs of 21st Century classrooms. This brief provides information on how to use Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) allocation funds to help leverage federal E-rate reimbursements to support modernization goals.¹

Funding Categories

Select a SSBA expense in the left column and find its corresponding eligibility, if available, for federal E-rate Program funding in the right column.

SSBA Category²	E-Rate Implications
(All public New York State school districts have received an allocation from this bond.)	(Most public New York State school districts are eligible for at least some % discount on eligible purchases, depending on their FRPL enrollment.)

SSBA funds may be used to reimburse for purchases made in the following four categories:

The federal E-rate program provides two categories of expenses E-rate



SSBA Category²	E-Rate Implications
(All public New York State school districts have received an allocation from this bond.)	(Most public New York State school districts are eligible for at least some % discount on eligible purchases, depending on their FRPL enrollment.)
additional network capacity from the ISP or hub) in the fiber build project.	

2. Classroom learning technology equipment and facilities



capacity to the new classroom or building ±some of the soft costs (project management, architectural fees, etc.) may be covered by SSBA.⁸

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cycles. For example:

E-rate