



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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.

<b>SSBA Category<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>E-Rate Implications</b>
(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





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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.<sup>8</sup>

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cycles. For example:

**E-rate**