

## **SCSD ScholarChip FAQs**

**1. Question:** Why are we using ScholarChip?

**Answer:** The high schools have been investigating ways to improve student attendance for some time. As you know, student attendance is an incredibly important component of student achievement. Additionally, school safety is an important priority for the district and the utilization of visible ID badges and lanyards allows us a better way to identify all authorized staff and students in the large high school buildings and the principals deemed this to be an important safety measure.

**2. Question:** Do other school districts use ScholarChip?

**Answer:** Yes. We are aware of 54 Long Island School Districts that are currently using ScholarChip.

**3. Question:** Will all of our schools be using ScholarChip?

**Answer:** No, just the students at the high schools. Our other schools are not using this system and there are no plans to expand its use at this time.

**4. Question:** How has the roll out of this tool been communicated with the stakeholders within our school community?

**Answer:** Mr. Coady and Mr. Rose have engaged their faculty, their site based teams and their PTSAs about this plan and received very positive feedback. The Board of Education was made aware of the eventual roll out of this tool in May 2022 with an anticipated roll out during the 2022-2023 school year. Due to supply chain issues, the necessary equipment was not available at that time and the implementation was delayed until the beginning of this year.

**5. Question:** Will the students be required to wear their ID cards on lanyards?

**Answer:** Yes. School safety is an important priority for the district and the utilization of visible ID badges and lanyards allows us a better way to identify all authorized staff and

students in the buildings at any time. This is more of a challenge in our large high schools and, as a result, the principals deemed this to be an important safety measure.

6. **Question:** Will the district be using ScholarChip to continuously monitor the location of students throughout the high schools?

**Answer:** No. The district is using the technology for the purpose of accounting for student entry into the building. The current technology does not allow for continuous tracking of students and can only be used when the ID card is presented within a few inches of the portable kiosk.

7. **Question:** How will a student's data and personally identifiable information be protected?

**Answer:** Each card has a unique serial number that is mapped to a student in a protected database. There is no other information besides this number stored in the ID card. Even if a lost card is read, it will not reveal any private information. We are duty bound to protect a student's data by New York State Education Law Section 2-d and District Policy #8625 which calls for the Privacy and Security of Student, Teacher and Principal Data. NYS Ed Law 2-d and Commissioner Regulations address data security issues such as - secure processing, encryption, not using the data beyond the intended purposes, not using the data for advertising, and ultimately to delete the data if we end the contracted relationship. The BOCES data agreements with ScholarChip address these data security requirements. The vendor would not be selected if they were not compliant with the requirements set forth in law and policy.

8. **Question:** Are parents able to "opt out" of using the ScholarChip ID and system?

**Answer:** No. All students will be expected to comply with the new attendance management system.

9. **Question:** Are parents required to give consent for their children to use the new ID cards and utilize ScholarChip?

**Answer:** No. All students will be expected to comply with the new attendance management system.

**10. Question:** What is the cost of ScholarChip?

**Answer:** The first year cost for ScholarChip is \$88,486 plus 15% for BOCES fees, but this will allow us to apply for BOCES aid which will lead to a net implementation cost of \$57,516 after aid. We estimate that the recurring fees will be \$44,243 plus 15% for BOCES fees, with a net recurring cost of \$28,758. The initial year fees included the purchase of the ID card printers, kiosks, card readers, and a larger supply of initial ID cards for all high school students, and licensing and support. The recurring fees include licensing, support, and some supply costs for new ID cards when needed.