



Connections

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network

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From the CEO...

By Bruce E. Hawkins, CEO

In difficult times leaders will emerge. Back in 1776-77, in a publication called *The Crisis*, Thomas Paine wrote the familiar words, "These are times that try men's souls." As we can recall from our history lessons, out of the most difficult of times, our greatest leaders have emerged; for example, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt. No one wants to see our country in a time of economic downturn and turmoil, but in times such as these, true leaders can make a difference that will not only impact the immediate future, but many generations to come.

We have new leaders in our country and in our state. Hopefully these leaders will be remembered as those who have made a true difference and improved our society. In the speech that Barack Obama gave when he made his presidential announcement he said, "Let us be the generation that shapes our economy to compete in a Digital Age....and let's lay down broadband lines in the heart of inner cities and rural towns all across America."

In his campaign speeches, Governor Strickland talked about Broadband Ohio, empowering Ohio's economy and connecting it to world markets. Since he became governor, Ted Strickland has formed the Ohio Broadband Council as a fundamental building block of Ohio's emerging new economy. The goal is to provide technology connections to all Ohioans.

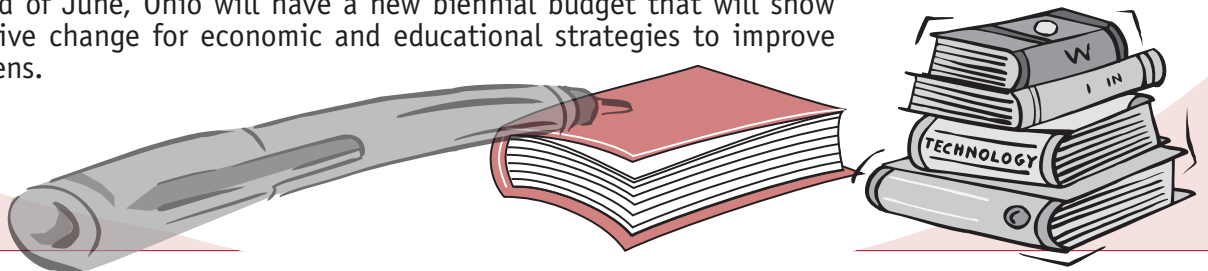
Our new State Superintendent Deborah Delisle has also been a leader in technology. She oversaw the implementation of innovative technologies at the Cleveland Heights/ University Heights School District while she served as superintendent.

Only time will tell, but it is likely that technology will be one of the tools used to improve our economy, our education system, and our citizenry. This is a time for all leaders to step forward and work together to improve our society.

This certainly will not be without its challenges. In 2008, the State of Ohio had to implement three rounds of cuts to the Ohio Department of Education's budget. In January, \$51.8M was reduced from the FY08 budget and \$49.7M from the FY09 budget. In September ODE's budget was reduced again by \$25.9M and in December by another \$30.4M. The administration has done all it can to minimize the impact of these cuts on Ohio's school children; however, with the massive amount of cuts, not everything could be held harmless. For example, INFOhio, Ohio's School Library Information Network, was reduced by 18.1%, connectivity funding by 13.2%, State Software Development by 24.7%, and ITC subsidies by 16.8%.

In addition, the reductions in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) subsidy, amounted to \$16.6m in cuts including 12.3% reductions to districts, 12.3% reductions to ITCs, and 7.4% reductions to ODE operations. These cuts are coming at a time when the EMIS redesign is in development.

By early February, the governor will come out with his budget projections for FY10 and FY11 and these recommendations will be discussed and debated over the next several months in both the House and Senate. Hopefully, by the end of June, Ohio will have a new biennial budget that will show leadership and positive change for economic and educational strategies to improve life for all Ohio citizens.



Impact after three rounds of budget reductions:

OECN 200-426	Original FY09	Current as of Jan 09	% Change
INFOhio	\$2,469,223	\$2,021,677	-18.1%
Connectivity	\$18,136,691	\$15,748,623	-13.2%
SSDT	\$1,501,805	\$1,130,479	-24.7%
ITC Subsidy	\$8,338,468	\$6,934,112	-16.8%
Total	\$30,446,197	\$25,834,891	-15.2%

EMIS 200-446	Original FY09	Current as of Jan 09	% Change
District Subsidy	\$8,462,984	\$7,421,755	-12.3%
ITC Subsidy	\$1,372,085	\$1,203,272	-12.3%
ODE Operations	\$6,751,013	\$6,251,646	-7.4%
Total	\$16,586,082	\$14,876,673	-10.3%



*Preparing 21st Century Ohio Learners for Success:
The Role of Information Literacy and Libraries*

A report by the INFOhio and OhioLINK Special Task Force
to be released: September 30, 2008

Preparing 21st Century Ohio Learners for Success

Today's secondary school students must have information literacy skills to ensure a successful future in a technology rich work environment or to pursue a successful post-secondary education. Yet numerous studies confirm that students lack these critical skills. Coupled with the Governor's "Seniors to Sophomores" initiative, this situation compels Ohio's school and academic librarians to take action. School and academic librarians already work within their individual organizations to prepare young people for an information-intensive world and are uniquely positioned to influence student success.

INFOhio, the PreK-12 school library information network, and OhioLINK, the academic library consortium, currently support teaching and learning by providing quality information that serves student needs across PreK-20. However, an even greater effort to teach students to use these resources effectively must be coordinated if Ohio is to return to its place as an economically competitive giant in the global marketplace.

INFOhio and OhioLINK have formed a joint task force of school and academic librarians to accomplish projects that inform and engage our communities about the importance of instilling these critical information literacy skills in Ohio's students. We are pleased to announce the following:

1. The Joint Task Force has written a white paper which outlines six goals that will enable INFOhio and OhioLINK to move to the next level of cooperation to help Ohio achieve global economic competitiveness through the development of an educated, talented, and creative workforce. This white paper is available online at www.infohio.org/12-13TransitionWhitePaper200809.pdf

2. A Web page has been published to collect related materials and links for school and college librarians and other educators. In addition to basic information, the page links to Ohio and national standards sites. (It is linked from INFOhio's "Educator" and "Library Staff" pages in the "Transition from High School to College" section.) www.infohio.org/PreparingOhioLearners.html

3. An Information Literacy E-List (listserv) is available for in-service and pre-service educators who wish to share ideas and best practices related to the integration of information literacy and 21st century skills in standards-based classrooms. INFOhio and OhioLINK will use the listserv to update subscribers about Task Force progress and Ohio's efforts to prepare 21st century Ohio learners for success in school, college and work life. Free subscriptions can be placed at <http://lm.nwoca.org/cgi/wa.exe?A0=infohio-info-lit-l>. (It is linked from INFOhio's home page > About INFOhio > E-Lists.)

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Post to the E-List or e-mail 12-13Transition@infohio.org

Internet2 and INFOhio



Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, Ohio school districts that use the Ohio Education Computer Network as their primary Internet provider have unlimited Internet2 Network access without bandwidth charges and join members of the Internet2 community. INFOhio, the Ohio K-12 virtual school library and information network, will be providing training on Internet2 to Ohio schools. INFOhio will assist Ohio's K-12 administrators, technology support staff, teachers and students in tapping into the power of Internet2. Internet2 resources will support Ohio Academic Content Standards, 21st century learning skills and instruction.

Internet2 will bring a world of resources into the classroom. In buildings with adequate connectivity and equipment, students and teachers will be able to participate in a variety of online, real-time, authentic learning experiences. Any additional charges will be the responsibility of the districts. Building a network of learners using Internet2 that includes local, regional, state, national and global partners, will assist teachers and students in collaborative learning opportunities. Web 2.0 online applications and sites, including podcasting, remote instrumentation and social networking, will be much more accessible. Internet2 will enhance technology integration into schools, such as the statewide INFOhio Digital Video Collection.

Ohio's program is funded by the Ohio Department of Education and is administered by the Technology Solutions Group - Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (mc•tsg) in collaboration with the Ohio Academic Research Network (OARnet).

Use these links for additional Internet2 information:

Internet2 and Ohio Schools: A World of Resources - Background information prepared by INFOhio. www.infohio.org/Educator/Internet2Background.html

Internet2 Instructional Support - Links for educators to background information and other helpful resources. Also lists specific classroom activities that make use of *Internet2*. www.infohio.org/Educator/Internet2Instruction.html

Internet2 Technical Support - Links for technologists to background information and other helpful resources. Also will list training opportunities for technology coordinators and support staff. www.infohio.org/Educator/Internet2Technical.html

EMIS Update

The following are three recommendations we would like to share with you that were made by the State EMIS Advisory Committee to the state superintendent.

EMIS Recommendations:

1. The superintendent stresses to school districts the significance and benefits of EMIS reporting.

All too often, EMIS is looked at by non-EMIS professionals as simply mandatory data entry that a district must complete only for funding. In fact, the data collected by EMIS is essential not only in funding, but for research, accountability, special education requirements, federal regulation, curriculum, report cards, public information, and the education of children. It is critical that the information collected by EMIS be used for educated,

data driven decisions and instruction that will benefit every aspect of a child's education from P-20.

2. Consistent training and support throughout the state for the operation and implementation of EMIS.

Those responsible for EMIS throughout the state have many different roles outside of EMIS. A standard basic training for incoming EMIS workers would place all workers on an equal basic level of knowledge. Therefore, consistent fundamental training should be available to individuals, schools, districts, ITC's, ESC's, and all others involved with all aspects of EMIS.

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3. A smooth rollout for the EMIS Redesign (EMIS-R).

The EMIS redesign will truly change the face of data reporting in increasingly positive ways. It is paramount that the rollout of the redesign goes smoothly and that EMIS reporting entities are properly situated to “hit the ground running” on day one. Additionally, there will certainly be unforeseen issues in the early stages of EMIS-R, and the EMIS Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Education be understanding and sympathetic to the issues that may arise at all reporting levels. The Advisory Board believes that allowing reporting entities to receive any changes in operation or schedule in a timely manner would do much to alleviate many issues.

Information related to the EMIS Redesign can be found on the ODE website. Please visit www.ode.state.oh.us to learn more about the Ohio Department of Education's EMIS Redesign project. For more information, please contact Nancy Haefeli at nancy.haefeli@ode.state.oh.us

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