



Connections

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network

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From the CEO...

By Bruce E. Hawkins, CEO

New Director at eTech

I would like to welcome Kate Harkin as the new Executive Director of the eTech Ohio Commission. The commission went through a lengthy process and hired Kate at their November commission meeting. Kate began her official duties on November 30 and has been very busy ever since. In HB1 there is a requirement for the eTech Commission to develop a PK-20 Technology Plan by January 1, 2010. Ms. Harkin and her eTech team did an excellent job of completing this task in a short timeframe.

A very important aspect of this technology plan is that it is a living document. This allows it to change along with technology and to grow as the eTech staff will continually be gathering input from stakeholders to update their strategies for promoting technology in Ohio. One of the first venues for gathering input was at the eTech Ohio Technology Conference that was held on February 1-3 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. You are encouraged to give input into this technology plan so that it meets the needs of the various constituencies in Ohio.

OEEN Rules Revision

Every five years the rules in the Ohio Administrative Code need to be reviewed. This year it is time for the rules regarding the OEEN (OAC 3301-3-01 to -07) to be reviewed. The initial changes were presented to the State Board of Education in January. These rules will go through a process of State Board hearings, public input, and review by the Legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules Review (JCARR). Final adoption should occur in late spring or early summer. Some of the recommended changes in this document include clarification on ownership of the equipment at the Information Technology Centers (ITCs), professional development (CEU) requirements for ITC staff, and the fiscal carryover requirements for ITCs. As with any revisions of Ohio Administrative Code rules, the public has the opportunity to express their views on all of the rules in this code.

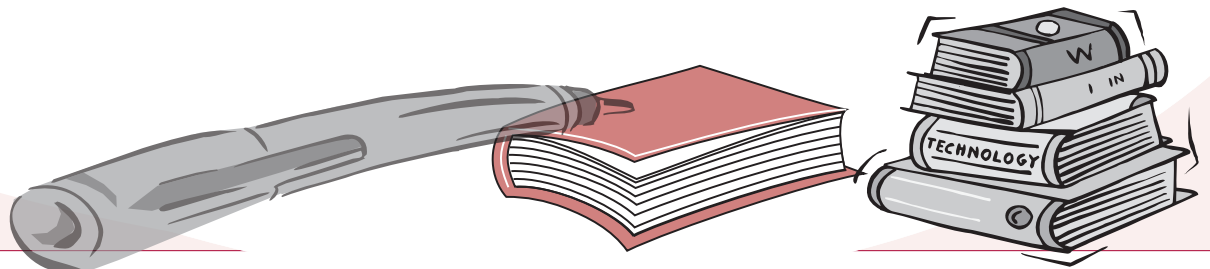
State Budget

In December, the legislature reached a compromise on resolving the existing shortfall in this biennial state budget. Concerns remain as to the future of the state budget in this weak economy. Will state revenue match expenditures for the remainder of this biennium? How will the legislature prepare a budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 with the potential loss of federal stimulus funds and other non-recurring revenue? It is certainly time for all of us to look at efficiencies and economy of scale as we deliver vital services to the citizens of Ohio. We know that the need for bandwidth will not be decreasing as students and staff in our schools are becoming more dependent on this technology. For example, just a couple of years ago we were using less than a gigabit of bandwidth per month. Today this has grown to an average of nearly 3.8 gigabits per month. These resources are vital to our students as they get a quality education and prepare for our workforce, and we need to find ways to make sure these resources continue.

EMIS Redesign

The Department of Education is working diligently with their vendor to complete the EMIS redesign project. Meeting the original time schedule has proven to be more difficult than anticipated forcing schools to use the legacy system for October and December reporting. We encourage schools and ITCs to be patient while the contractor works through kinks in the new system. In the long run, the new EMIS reporting system should provide for better and more timely data than was possible under the old system.

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INFOhio Announces the Release of a New Video:

21st Century Tools and Electronic Resources for Students, Teachers and Parents

INFOhio, the preK-12 information network for Ohio schools, has created a new video: ***21st Century Tools and Electronic Resources for Students, Teachers and Parents***. Created in cooperation with the Montgomery County Educational Service Center and with assistance from Centerville City Schools, this video introduces 21st century literacies in relationship to the INFOhio Core Collection of Electronic Resources. Through this video you will be introduced to the online resources INFOhio provides to Ohio students and teachers. In addition, you will be acquainted with the special features in these INFOhio resources that enable you to infuse student learning with 21st century information literacy skills.

You will find this video at www.infohio.org/Educator/21stcenturyvideo.html. The video is easily streamed or downloaded and each part of the video is segmented for classroom use.

Follow a school librarian as she takes the learner through the unique 21st century tools that are incorporated into the following INFOhio resources. The viewer will learn:

- to set an RSS Alert in ***EBSCOhost***,
- to enhance communication, collaboration and creativity using the tools available in ***World Book Web***,
- to use Boolean searching, email alerts as well as RSS feeds from ***Biography Reference Bank***,
- to find videos, experiments, animations and activities from ***Science Online***,
- to find high-quality, digital images of works of art from museums around the world from ***The Art Collection***,
- to use ***The Research Project Calculator*** to learn how to approach a research task, monitor learning and evaluate progress in their research,
- to maximize the testing resources of ***LearningExpress Library*** to prepare for college and the world of work, and;
- be invited to read ***Preparing 21st Century Ohio Learners for Success*** and learn more about ***INFOhio's Go Further*** initiative for students in grades 7-12.

INFOhio's central goal is to advocate **21st century learning skills** to enable all Ohio PreK-20 students to be information and media literate and to reach their full potential to learn, work and add to their knowledge base. INFOhio helps all students and teachers access the right content, in the right format, at the right time and to do so with **professionally selected resources**. Another INFOhio goal is to provide all students and educators with **free and equitable access** to an essential academic core collection of online and physical library materials appropriate to PreK-20 research.



If you have technical questions or wish to receive more information about ***21st Century Tools and Electronic Resources for Students, Teachers and Parents***, please contact webmaster@infohio.org.

ITC Support by the Numbers

Did you know that the OECN ITC's assist districts by providing many vital services? Here are a few examples of the level of OECN ITC support:

- Over 3.8Gb per month of Internet access
- Over 19 million library books checked out via the OECN INFOhio circulation systems per year
- Over 7 million student report cards and interim reports per year
- Over 1.8 million warrant checks each year and 1.5 million purchase orders each year
- Over 1 million parent access accounts
- Over 1.2 million support contacts per year
- Over 5 million employee paychecks processed each year



Effective Evaluation of Personnel

Effective evaluation of personnel is important to the benefits and success of the services provided for ITC member schools. Productive ITC personnel provide support and enhancement which extends to education at the classroom level.

What outcomes do you want from your evaluation process? How are you and your associates responding to the challenges of effective and productive evaluations? How have past personnel evaluations worked successfully at your ITC?

ITC policies and procedures direct the evaluation of personnel. But, the application of the process is critical to the outcome. How often and what techniques are used in your evaluation process? How recently have they been examined for effectiveness and productivity? What feedback from the evaluator and evaluated has been incorporated into the process?

What are the questions the employee asks as the self evaluation is prepared and then shared with the evaluator? What questions are answered as the evaluator prepares the overview of the employee's performance? Each of these is based upon the job description and the contract and assumes they are current and written effectively. What constructive ideas/observations do both bring to the evaluation process and the resulting evidence document? Does either party identify and "market"

the strengths of the employee, especially as they promote the services of the service center? One writer said the results should include "to do" lists, and maybe more importantly "stop doing" lists for increased effectiveness.

Consistency from one employee to another within the ITC and for each employee from one evaluation to the next is important. Quality will result from a sustained and comprehensive effort on the part of the employee and the managing supervisor. Follow up intervals will depend upon the guidelines and the objectives established during the evaluation process. Each party will need to sign off on the resulting directives and conclusions. This does not necessarily show agreement with each part by the evaluated, but acknowledges the process and receipt of the results. Often the evaluated will want to file and discuss a follow up response to the evaluation results and process.

The evaluation must assist the evaluated to grow and become even more productive. If it does not do this, then the process is flawed and needs to change. If the employee is unable to grow in the ITC environment and/or is not productive he or she needs to move to other employment. The goal is have a productive and positive employee providing exemplary services.

Microsoft and Adobe Products Announcement

For many years Educational Resources has been partnering with the MCOECN to offer ITCs and school districts discounted pricing on Microsoft and Adobe products. This past fall, Educational Resources went through a re-organization and is no longer offering these products. The MCOECN is happy to announce our new partnership with Journey Education/Academic Super Store to bring our Ohio schools the best possible pricing on those Microsoft and Adobe products. We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our MCOECN Team at Journey Education:

Microsoft Select Specialists - overall Microsoft product information and questions:

Marcy Rodriguez, Select Licensing Manager
(: 866-559-0302 | E: 866-759-9774
*: mrodriguez@journeyeducation.com

Lisa Moore, Select Account Manager
(: 800-220-9395 | E: 866-947-4604
*: Lisa.Moore@Journeyeducation.com

Microsoft School Agreements - MCOECN Consortia School Agreement:

Joel Culpeper, Bids and Contract Manager
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*: Jculpepper@Journeyeducation.com

Adobe & All Other Products:

Mike Cain, Account Manager
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*: Mike_cain@institutionalsuperstore.com

Microsoft Marketing & Consortia Management:

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Student Licensing:

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*: JudyMac@JourneyEducation.com

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New Chief Operating Officer at ODE

The Management Council has had the opportunity to meet a few times with Francis Pompey, the new Chief Operating Officer at the Ohio Department of Education. Mr. Pompey most recently came from the Huntington National Bank and has a background in fiscal management and organizational structures that will be beneficial as he and the Management Council work together in assessing the technology needs and uses in Ohio's schools. We look forward to working with Mr. Pompey as we address the future of technology services for Ohio schools.

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