



Connections

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*Management Council
of the*

Ohio Education Computer Network

*Providing Technology
Services to Ohio
Classrooms*

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Management Council Gives Technology Update to Ohio House and Senate *by Bruce Hawkins*

On May 23, Senator Robert Gardner and Representative Bill Harris (Bill Harris is now a member of the Ohio Senate) sponsored a meeting in the statehouse for an Education Technology Update. The Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network described how schools are using the legislative funding to increase technology in Ohio's classrooms. An overview was also presented to the legislature on the background of the OECN and the changes made since the implementation of the Unified School Accounting System (financial package).

The OECN responsibilities include the student information systems, INFOhio electronic resources and library automation, internet connectivity as well as other technology support services to the 669 school districts, educational service centers and joint vocational schools served by the OECN.

Students from the Ashland City Schools explained how they are using technology in their classrooms to prepare them for future life experiences. Students from both

the Auburn Career Center and Lynchburg-Clay Local Schools highlighted the Cisco Academy training, a technical program where students receive both hands-on skills and preparation for certification.

The Management Council expressed their appreciation to the legislators for their commitment to technology in Ohio's schools. This support includes the funding of the ONEnet program that provides voice, video and data connectivity to schools; the SchoolNet Plus program which enabled schools to purchase 180,000 computers for Ohio's elementary schools; and for their support of the INFOhio project which provides both library automation services and electronic resources in our schools. Without this legislative support, technology in the classrooms of Ohio would not continue to grow and prepare students for the next century.



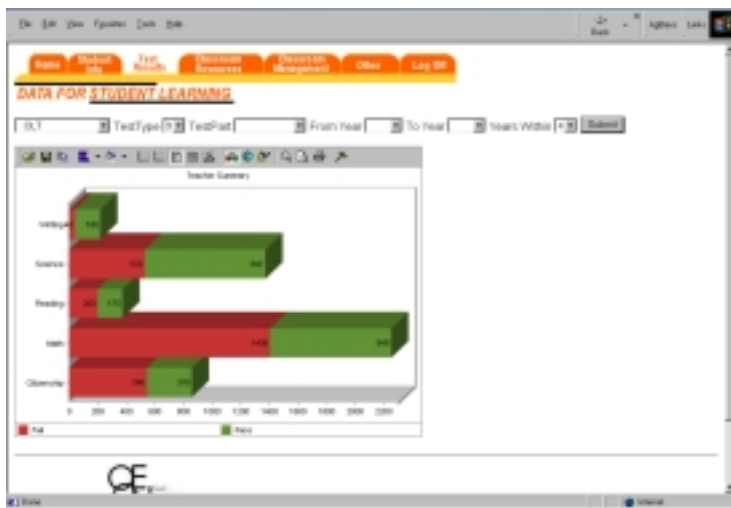
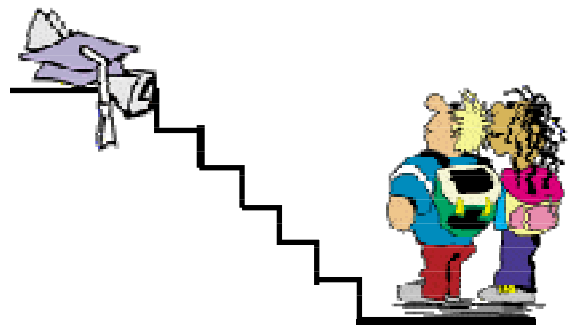
Students from Ashland, Auburn Career Center, and Lynchburg-Clay explain how they are using technology in their classrooms.

Data for Student Learning

by Andrew Tompkins

To improve educational outcomes school managers need friendlier and timelier access to their data. We have listened to our customers as they have described their needs. As a result, the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network and their member DA Sites formed the Data for Student Learning Project. DSL is a pilot program involving developers at multiple sites working together to create a tool that allows multi-year comparisons of data.

The Data Acquisition Sites are well positioned to develop this pilot. We have helped manage data for several years. However, the legacy programs for fiscal, student data, and EMIS handle data on a current-year basis. While they work well for their intended purpose, they don't provide the information to solve today's needs for trend analysis or continuous improvement planning.



Graphical representation of proficiency results by teacher.

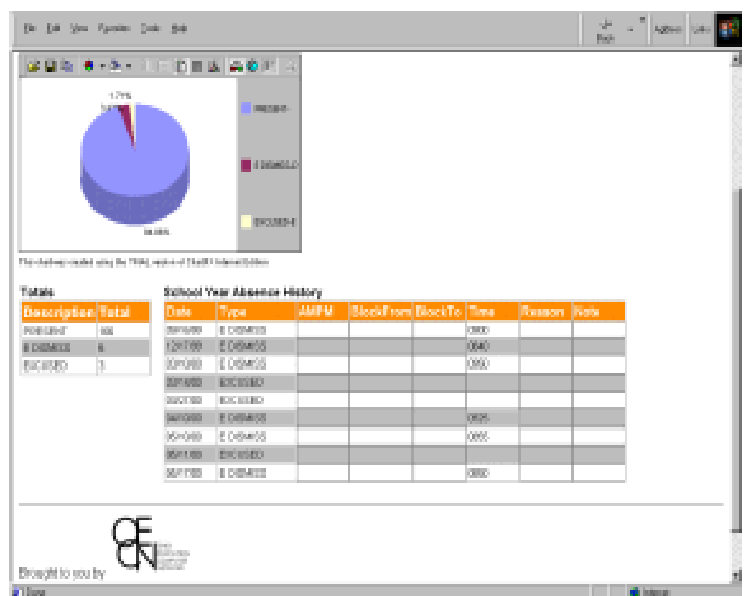
DSL is different in that it puts both current and historical EMIS, fiscal, and student data in one place. We have added multiple years of proficiency data, and can do the same for off-year and local testing data. This relational database makes it possible to use modern web-based and graphical reporting software. Districts will be able to combine and analyze their data much easier and faster than has been possible in the past.

We are very excited about this project. The DA Site developers have been able to create a web interface to easily produce many different charts and graphs. These charts and graphs include items such as class lists, student

demographics, proficiency details, and attendance. The charts and graphs can help teachers or administrator as they work on the continuous improvement process.

The graph pictured above is a sample graph that shows proficiency results by teacher. The graph on the right is another example that demonstrates how we can look at attendance data using graphical tools.

The DSL project was created to provide our schools with these information tools very quickly, very efficiently and very economically. Several of our Data Acquisition Sites are rolling out pilots for their local districts. We look forward to feedback from these districts as this project continues to grow. For more information, please contact Bruce Hawkins at the MCOECN.



Graphical representation of student attendance.

INFOhio: Content Equity Through Electronic Resources

By Theresa M. Fredericka

INFOhio makes it easy for all students to have equal access to electronic resources. INFOhio currently makes four online resources available to all public and non-public schools at no charge: two encyclopedias, a collection of 217 full-text magazines, an elementary reference database and, new this school year, an American national biography database. Students and teachers can access these resources from any Internet accessible computer in the classroom or at home through June 2001 with a username and password.

INFOhio ensures equitable access to curriculum-specific, age-appropriate online resources for Ohio's public and private schools. It's easy for parents and legislators to see their tax dollars at work when these resources were used more than 2.2 million times during the past school year.

The new **American National Biography** offers biographies of more than 17,400 men and women whose lives have shaped the nation. The database includes thousands of illustrations, selected web sites and powerful search capabilities.

INFOhio ProQuest Collection provides every school access to an online collection of more than 200 periodicals, including 6 state and national newspapers. Almost 60 new titles were added for this school year.

SIRS Discoverer is an online reference database created with the young researcher in mind, grades 1-9. Each article is selected for its education content, interest and level of readability from more than 1,200 publications.

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online offers all the text of the print version plus 3,000 additional articles, 22,000 digital images, 130,000 Internet links, *Merriam Webster's 10th Collegiate Dictionary* and **Britannica Intermediate**, a 38,000 article online encyclopedia that is aimed at elementary and middle school students.



Representative Tom Roberts joined INFOhio's Theresa Fredericka (far right) in honoring Webster Elementary Structured Magnet School (left to right - Rosalyn Givens, Stella Campbell, and Andrea Hirtle) on May 7, 2000.

SchoolNet Summer Staff Development Training *By David Rhoades*

Summer Technology Training Academy 2000 successfully trained over 250 technology support personnel in 17 different training classes. Many individuals helped make Summer Technology Training Academy 2000 (STTA) a success. The joint efforts of Ohio SchoolNet (OSN) and the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (MCOECN), and the support of many school districts, DA Sites and state agencies were essential to the Academy. During three weeks of classes from July 17 through August 4, individuals were able to attend valuable training sessions free of charge to their districts and agencies. The cost of the classes and the meals was paid by OSN. Classes were held in the newly remodeled

conference facilities at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

Each week provided a different offering of courses covering various topics relevant to the employees of the DA Sites, school districts and state agencies. Global Knowledge of Cary, NC provided instructors for the majority of the classes. Five-day ATM training was provided for personnel from each of the DA Sites and some State of Ohio agencies. ATM Internetworking, Network Troubleshooting, Understanding Network Fundamentals, Network Management, Network Security Administration, Windows 2000 Client Administration, Windows NT 4.0

(Continued on Page 4)

SchoolNet Summer Staff Development Training (Continued from Page 3)

Server, and Internet & Network Communications & Telecommunications Fundamentals II were provided for the school district technology employees. In addition, VTEL provided training in the setup, operation, and troubleshooting of their equipment for three classes of students.

As an added benefit to the training experience, attendees enjoyed refreshments at break time and were served breakfast and lunch every day of their training. On Tuesday evening of each week, participants, instructors and guests enjoyed an Italian buffet. Various members of the staff of OSN, DAS, and MCOECN were available at each dinner to answer questions or field concerns of individuals attending the STTA. Some vendors attended and were able to address issues regarding their products. Following the Tuesday dinner, and each Wednesday evening, a hospitality room was available. In addition to beverages and snacks, many of the students enjoyed discussing their fields of interest, sharing techniques they used, checking their email or just playing a hand of cards.

If you were unable to attend STTA 2000, plan to

join a class this fall. The Fall Technology Training Academy will be held during the weeks of October 30 and November 6. Course listings and registration material can be obtained by logging onto www.mcoecn.org/ftta/. Another training academy is being planned for Spring of 2001 the weeks of April 30 and May 7. Please forward any questions or comments regarding courses and registration to techacademy@osn.state.oh.us.

Thanks to the hard work of many individuals at OSN and MCOECN, the training was able to help those attending prepare for serving their users. OSN's Julie Fox and Kelly Bernard, and MCOECN'S Bruce Hawkins, Vicki Alexander, Cindy Siler, and Andrew Tompkins were instrumental in the planning and the operation of STTA. Abigail Rhoades and David Rhoades were contracted to manage the project. Equipment was loaned by OSN, DAS, and MCOECN. The participants made valuable suggestions for immediate use in the classes and for future training. The Ohio Legislature and the Governor provided funds for STTA to OSN.



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