MCOECN Update *by Bruce Hawkins, CEO*

What's New?

In June the Management Council relocated their main office to a new location in Columbus. We now occupy office space with other educational organizations such as BASA, OSBA, OASBO, OASSA, OAESA, OESCA, and OALSS. Please make note of our new address at 8050 North High Street, Suite 150, Columbus, Ohio, 43235, and our new phone number (614) 840-9810.
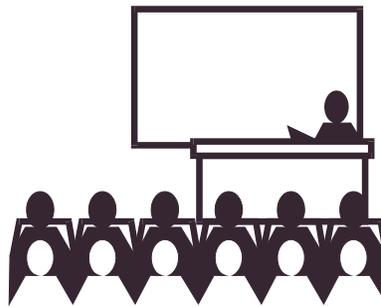
Check out the new look of our website and our redesigned logo at www.mcoecn.org. You'll find the site easier to navigate with additional links making information easier to find. Log on and tell us what you think.

Visit our booth this fall at the GOTEC/OELMA Conference and the OSBA Capital Conference. The Management Council will exhibit a new booth display at these trade shows.

SchoolNet, in conjunction with the MCOECN, is providing a Fall Technology Training Academy the week of October 29 and November 5. These courses provide an opportunity for staff development to district technology coordinators, DA Site staff members, and other educational agency employees.

Tech Leader Academy

SchoolNet and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, in coordination with the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, sponsored a Technology Leadership Academy for superintendents and central office administrators at the Licking Area Computer Association (LACA) in June. The purpose of this academy was to give superintendents an update on technology and training in some technological tools that can assist them in their everyday job performance.
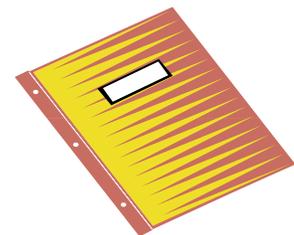
The academy included numerous topics including technology standards for school leaders, questions superintendents should be asking their technology coordinators, online training programs, data for student learning, the use of video technology, web page development, legal aspects of technology and many other topics.

The evaluation of this academy by the participants was excellent and this program will be repeated around the state for superintendents and central office administrators. Please watch for details on upcoming Technology Leadership Academies!

CELT Study

Through funding in the previous biennial budget, SchoolNet contracted with the CELT organization to study the technology providers in Ohio's schools and to develop a strategic plan for technology. A team of staff members from CELT has been in Ohio for most of this calendar year and has conducted 277 focus groups to discuss the technology in Ohio schools. They are currently releasing results of this study and are proceeding with the development of a strategic plan for technology in Ohio schools.

This study will be used by the Technology Task Force which the Ohio Legislature is reconvening to study technology in Ohio schools. In addition to the contract CELT has with SchoolNet, they are concurrently conducting an independent review for the Ohio Department of Education on regionally provided professional development and technical assistant services. This will then lend to the development of policy recommendations for improved service delivery to the Ohio Department of Education.

INFOhio Update: Educators Honored by State's Electronic School Library Network
by Theresa M. Fredericka, Executive Director

Educators, school librarians and state legislators honored Dr. George Tombaugh, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council, and eight school districts and agencies for their pioneering efforts in providing the right student with the right resource at the right time.

INFOhio sponsored the recognition event held on May 16, 2001, in Columbus. According to INFOhio Executive Director Theresa Fredericka, "The challenge we face today is blending traditional educational resources with the power of technology and the tools of the information age — computers, the Internet, electronic databases, visual images, and interactive media. All students need equal access to these tools and to the wealth of information they offer. It is important to recognize the efforts of our colleagues who are leading the way in this challenging new era." The following individuals and schools were honored for their outstanding achievements:

Dr. George Tombaugh, Superintendent of the Westerville City Schools, began his career as a mathematics teacher with Sylvania Schools and has held numerous administrative positions, including Superintendent of the Springfield Local Schools for 20 years. Dr. Tombaugh understands the purpose and significance of school media centers as an integral part of the education process. He also recognizes that information-gathering skills are important life skills that promote life-long learning. In 1999, he served as Governor Taft's Executive Assistant for Education and as Education Policy Advisor and liaison with the Department of Education, Board of Regents, School Facilities Commission, SchoolNet Commission, and Ohio Education Telecommunications Commission.

The LSTA Advisory Council has provided seed money to automate hundreds of school libraries. In the past three years, they awarded 120 grants totaling almost $6 million to K-12 libraries, benefiting nearly one-half million Ohio students. LSTA grants help to provide students with greater access to school and public library materials across the state.

Beachwood City Schools; Chauncey Elementary (Athens City Schools); Claymont City Schools; D. Russel Lee Career Technology Center; Franklin County Educational Service Center; Hudson City Schools; Napoleon Area City Schools; Warren City Schools and Trumbull 100 community service group.

Each of these school districts and agencies have developed unique library media programs implementing INFOhio's vision of embracing appropriate, emerging technologies to provide equity of information for students and teachers.

Continuous Improvement Plan for Data Acquisition Sites
by Bruce Hawkins, CEO

Similar to Continuous Improvement Plans in local school districts, the Data Acquisition Sites are going through a process for their organizations. These CIPs were submitted to the Ohio Department of Education this summer and are currently being reviewed. A customer satisfaction survey will go to the school districts at the end of this calendar year to determine the satisfaction level of Data Acquisition Site services. This survey will give guidance to the DA Sites as they continue to address customer needs. The State Department of Education has withheld ten percent of the Data Acquisition Site subsidy pending the results of the customer satisfaction survey.

Nine core services have been identified that will be measured by the survey. The focus of all DA Sites is to provide all services that will meet their customer needs. These customer needs are identified by each DA Site's governing board. Because of this, most sites offer additional services beyond these core services.

The nine core services identified are EMIS System/Services, School Accounting Systems, Staff Payroll Systems, Equipment Inventory Systems, INFOhio Electronic Resources/Media Center/Library Automation and Services, Student Administration Systems, WAN Implementation/Maintenance, Internet Connectivity and Support, and Electronic Mail Delivery Systems.

Technology in the New State Budget *By Bruce Hawkins, CEO*

Technology will be impacted in several different ways in the new state biennial budget for education. The funding for Data Acquisition Site subsidies was decreased in both years of the budget, INFOhio received a slight increase in their operating budget and the electronic resource sharing for INFOhio was also reinstated in the budget. Public connectivity funding for schools was increased as was the connectivity for non-public schools. There was a substantial decrease in EMIS funding to DA Sites; however, there was an increase in EMIS funding to local school districts. The legislature allocated $1 million each year for the Student Management Records System (AAL) which is a student information service package that has been piloted by a few districts around Ohio.

Let's look specifically at how this funding will impact school district programs in technology. In the current fiscal year the DA Sites will receive a decrease of 6.8% in the subsidy over FY01 and in the next fiscal year that decrease will represent a 22.8% decrease over FY01. This decrease coupled with the reduction in EMIS subsidy of 25% in the first year of the biennium and an additional 33.3% in the second year of the biennium will require Data Acquisition Sites to go back to the local school districts for funding just to maintain current level of services. On the other hand, school districts did receive an increase in their EMIS state support of 18.5% in the first year of the biennium and 15.9% in the second.

In the last biennium through a combination of funding through the Ohio Department of Education and the SchoolNet Commission, ONEnet Ohio was formed. This ONEnet project has provided substantial increase in connectivity funding for public and non-public schools, Internet access subsidies and equipment at both the DA Site and school district level to enhance this connectivity. The new budget allocates an additional $1.4 million in the first year of biennium and another $600,000 in the second year of the biennium to increase connectivity to public schools.

Through a federal litigation process, Ohio will be receiving a tobacco settlement to be disbursed over the next several years. In this biennium, part of the tobacco settlement money will be used to continue support for the ONEnet project, INFOhio online resources, Project RISE (a pre-school project), and IVDL (Interactive Video Distance Learning). There will also be funding from this tobacco settlement to continue SchoolNet Plus funding (at an adjusted level) for additional student computers in Ohio Schools with the emphasis on the 6th grade.

DA Site Funding — Compared to FY01 Funding

FY02	$11,510,000	-6.80%
FY03	$10,716,791	-22.80%

EMIS Funding

EMIS Funding	FY01	FY02	%	FY03	%
DA Sites	$2,951,519	$2,213,639	-25.0	$1,476,760	-33.3
Districts	$6,550,325	$7,763,297	+18.5	$8,999,708	+15.9

INFOhio / *INFOhio Electronic Resources

FY01	$1,994,086	
FY02	$2,043,938	$865,950
FY03	$2,095,037	$909,247

*From Tobacco Subsidy to SchoolNet

	FY02	FY03
*ONEnet Ohio	$1,841,655	$1,917,293
*INFOhio Electronic Resources	$ 865,950	$ 909,247
*Project RISE (Preschool project)	$1,200,000	$1,200,000
*IVDL (Interactive Video Distance Learning)	$4,086,000	-0-

Other Technology Funding	FY02	FY03
SMRS (Student Management Records System - AAL)	$1 million	$1 million
Oracle Database	$2 million	$2 million
Oracle Financial Package	-0-	-0-

$2.7 million for Student EMIS Identifier Change

Data for Student Learning
by Andrew Tompkins, CTO

The last few months have been a busy time for the Data for Student Learning (DSL) project. We have seen several changes in both the software and the project. On the software front, we are proud that DSL is a user-driven product. We strive to gather ideas and feedback from Ohio educators and turn these requests into new and updated features in our software.

New screens or reports added in recent releases include attendance incidents, emergency contact information, group membership listing, an improved transcript, October EMIS enrollment, absence graph, weekly attendance percentage, and a homeroom list. Changes have also been made in the menu screens for test results and reports in an effort to make navigation quicker and easier. Please keep those ideas flowing!

Also new to DSL is the ability to display the results for several off-year proficiency tests, including Stamford-9, ITBS, and OOPT. However, we are asking for your patience while we work to make this data available for your use. Loading off-year testing data can be a difficult and time-consuming task. Staff members from our DA Sites are being trained in the techniques needed to load and verify this data.

Along with changes in the software, changes have occurred in the project management structure. The response to this software has been almost overwhelming. In order to keep our focus on the needs of our customers, we have created two new functional groups. The first group is a management team created with representatives from the five DA Site regions.

Members of this team include Sandy Mercer (LACA) representing the Central region, Sonny Ivey (WOCO) representing the Northwest region, John Mitchell (LNOCA) representing the Northeast region, Dave Forman (SPARCC) representing the Southeast region, and Al Porter (H/CCA) representing the Southwest region. Andrew Tompkins represents MCOECN. Please contact any of these individuals if you have questions regarding the Data for Student Learning project.

To assist and advise the management team, we have also created a Data for Student Learning Technical Advisory Group. This group is made up of a DSL support person from each DA Site. This group will now have the responsibility of staging the DSL Technical Roundtable meetings and coordinating a grass-roots volunteer effort.

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