

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network
Budget Requests for the 2008-2009 State Biennium Budget

Proposal for 200-426 FY 08 and FY 09

Line 200-426	FY 06 & 07	FY 08 Proposal	% Change	FY 09 Proposal	% Change
Connectivity	18,136,691	24,121,799	33%	32,081,993	33%
OECN Operating	8,338,468	8,755,391	5%	9,193,161	5%
INFOhio	1,700,000	2,592,120	52%	2,669,884	3%
Electronic Resources	769,223	994,416	29%	1,024,248	3%
SSDT	1,501,805	1,576,895	5%	1,655,740	5%
Total	30,446,187	38,040,621	25%	46,625,026	23%

Connectivity

This includes the subsidy for school building and ITC connectivity, Internet access services, and estimating and forecasting the bandwidth needs of Ohio schools. Following the recommendations of the committee appointed by Dr. Zelman, this program would include increased assistance to school districts that utilize higher-capacity fiber network connections for instruction assistance in each year of the biennium.

OECN Operating

This provides support for the general operation of the Ohio Education Computer Network and its twenty-three Information Technology Centers. Services include accounting, budgeting, payroll, student information services, student accounting, EMIS reporting support, and electronic communications. The OECN ITC's are serving an increasing number of staff and students in both traditional, charter, and community schools with additional business management and instructional support services requested by the schools.

INFOhio

INFOhio, the Information Network for Ohio Schools, is the state's virtual PreK-12 library that uses the existing school telecommunications infrastructure to address equity issues by providing electronic resources, library automation and other services to Ohio schools. These resources are linked to student achievement and performance, standards-based instruction, teacher effectiveness, and technological competency and are accessible from not only the school library, but also from classroom, lab, and home computers. INFOhio provides the standardized library automation software to put card catalogs online, which makes it possible for students and educators to access a variety of materials, including books and other resources in the school library as well as other libraries across the state. Since 1994, INFOhio has automated more than 2,343 school libraries so that more than 1.1 million students can fully access the electronic resources available to help them meet Ohio's academic content standards.

Electronic Resources

INFOhio supports the teaching of the state academic content standards by providing online access to a wide range of curriculum-related and age-appropriate educational databases and instructional resources. The INFOhio Core Collection of electronic resources includes online commercial databases such as encyclopedias, periodicals, professional journals for teachers, and other reference and research materials for students. INFOhio purchases these resources centrally for a substantial savings: \$.45 per student compared to \$45 per student if individual schools purchased only a fraction of these resources. INFOhio's electronic resources are one of the most widely used, cost effective and equalizing services that the state provides for Ohio's entire learning community – students, educators and parents. Since 2001, usage of these resources has increased dramatically by 334%; however, funding has decreased 23%. Since these electronic resources are available statewide, at no local cost, to all students and educators, whether from computers in the classroom, library or home, discrepancies of access and equity are cost-effectively resolved, thus closing any achievement gap.

State Software Development Team (SSDT)

The SSDT provides crucial development and ongoing support of several software services, including school financial services (budget, accounting, and payroll) and EMIS reporting. An increase is recommended in each year of the biennium to support the increased services provided and to expand into community schools as well as help level the playing field for all districts.

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Proposal for 200-446 FY 08 and FY 09

Line 200-446	FY 06 & 07	FY 08 Proposal	% Change	FY 09 Proposal	% Change
EMIS Subsidy	8,055,189	8,457,948	5%	8,880,846	5%
ITC Subsidy	1,295,857	1,412,484	9%	1,539,608	9%
Total	9,351,046	9,870,432	5%	10,420,454	5%

EMIS Subsidy

This set-aside provides subsidy support for school districts in meeting state Education Management Information System requirements. An increase is recommended for each year of the biennium to assist districts with program requirements for collecting educational data, data maintenance, data collection from community schools, and for reporting to the state.

ITC Subsidy

The OECON ITC's provide first-line technical support to school districts regarding state EMIS reporting requirements. The ITC's provide training, and support the infrastructure used to convert, load, validate, and transmit EMIS data to the Department. An increase is recommended for each year of the biennium to assist ITC's with changing program requirements, especially No Child Left Behind requirements.

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Notes to Budget Proposal for 200-426 FY 08 and FY 09

Connectivity: The increase in connectivity funds would create a two-tier subsidy for school building connectivity. All buildings would be eligible for the traditional \$3000 connectivity subsidy, if they meet the requirements of the program. Buildings connected via fiber-optic and higher speeds (according to standards developed by the Ohio K-12 Network Committee) would be eligible for a \$4,500 connectivity subsidy. The increase in the second year of the biennium would permit additional schools to qualify for the fiber incentive. The Ohio K-12 Network Committee would develop rules and guidelines for the additional subsidy for equalization and getting all schools online with adequate bandwidth.

OECN Operating: The OECN is responsible for basic services to more schools as additional public schools, charter schools, and community schools secure services from the ITC's. Staff Payroll Systems, School Accounting Systems, Inventory, Education Management Information System (EMIS), Electronic Mail (Email), Special Education Child Information Management System, Scheduling, Discipline Tracking, Ohio Career Information System, Equipment Inventory System, Computer Services & Statistical Report System, Grade & Attendance Reporting, Student Fees, instructional support, and INFOhio Media Center & Library Automation. Following rules established by the Department, each ITC participates in a continuous improvement program to insure quality service delivery to Ohio schools.

Schools are requesting more instructional and academic achievement support via the regional ITC's. The schools and their supporting agencies have increased their demand for technology training and maintenance. The D3A2 initiative requires the input and massaging of data to produce information to support academic achievement.

INFOhio Operating: Currently, INFOhio is in the process of installing a system upgrade, migrating all 2,300+ library collections to a new automation software, and developing a new single-search capability in direct partnership with its automation vendor. Given the increased number of automated schools the extensive system migration underway, and the development this new single-search portal, INFOhio needs additional support staff at all levels to meet the overall demands of implementation, maintenance and training. INFOhio supports its statewide service offerings through the 23 Information Technology Centers and through INFOhio Technical Services (NOACSC) which provides centralized, standardized support to each of the 23 ITCs. An increase is requested for both the ITCs and INFOhio Technical Services. In addition, an increase is recommended for INFOhio staff at the state level to expand services to Ohio's schools, specifically in the areas of content, alignment of resources, training, and parental involvement initiatives.

This funding increase would permit INFOhio to add essential staff to its centralized technical services and to restore local ITC funding so that there is one FTE per participating ITC. Centralized technical support, whether on the state or ITC level, has saved the state millions of dollars in vendor support.

INFOhio has grown into a nationally recognized library and information network, serving all Ohio schools and all PreK-12 students. Unfortunately, the infrastructure has not expanded as the operation has grown. An appropriate level of staffing is needed to meet both current activities and to

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permit direct involvement in new initiatives, including D3A2, resource alignment, resource sharing, and collection development.

Electronic Resources: An increase is requested to insure that INFOhio can continue to meet its contractual agreement to cooperatively provide electronic resources statewide as part of Libraries Connect Ohio - a consortium whose members include INFOhio, OhioLINK, OPLIN, and the State Library of Ohio. INFOhio must increase funding to: (1) insure availability of these cooperatively acquired resources, (2) acquire other essential K-12 resources, which support OACS, and (3) provide the necessary technical support and training.

Without an increase in funding, INFOhio will be unable to continue to participate in the statewide cooperative purchases, which save millions of dollars annually. In addition, schools will not have access to these crucial resources, which are cost prohibitive when purchased by individual districts. Equitable access to resources is critical to education because it levels the playing field for all Ohio students regardless of size, location or fiscal resources.

INFOhio's electronic resources include:

- Online magazine and newspaper collection of over 6,000 full-text titles
- Three current encyclopedias for primary, intermediate and secondary students as well as learning materials and teacher resources for mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies
- A research database for elementary and middle school students that helps develop research, reading and computer skills
- Science and technology resources
- Foreign language resources
- Digital works of art presenting more than 80,000 images from more than 30 national and international museums