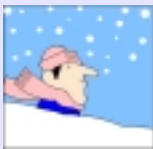
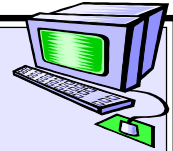




JANUARY
2006



Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association

ODE \$5.7M grant for D3A2

Ohio's D3A2 project just received a huge boost! Ohio will receive \$5.7 million from the USDOE to develop and complement its existing data system and sustain a unified statewide data exchange system to address federal and state directives. The grant also supports Ohio's Data-Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement (D3A2) project, our long-term initiative focused on developing the capacity of educators to have systemic access to data and aligned resources to improve instruction and student achievement.

Of the \$5.7 awarded, 13% is budgeted for training educators on the use of data for decision-making, and 28% of the grant will support the Information Technology Centers and large cities in the implementation of a national data definition and a standard transfer mechanism for sharing data. The remainder of the grant will support the design and development of a statewide longitudinal database; implementation of a comprehensive data dictionary; expansion of the statewide data warehouse; decision support capabilities; and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the system.

Using School Interoperability Framework (SIF), Ohio desires to have a common language for representing data and a reliable, secure and consistent protocol for sharing data vertically from the local to the state to the federal level. The expansion of value-added information will serve as a self-inquiry system for teachers and principals to determine the effects of schooling. Aligned to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, LDS is based on the four basic principles of stronger accountability, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents and an emphasis on proven teaching and learning strategies.

Ohio is in the midst of a data system transition that began in 1998 when a change in state legislation authorized the reporting of personally unidentifiable student level data via the use of a unique data verification code. In 2002, through the use of a third-party administrator (IBM), Ohio implemented the Statewide Student Identification System (SSID) to assign unique

permanent identification numbers to students. ODE began collecting unidentifiable individual student data in school year 2002-2003.

While changes were made to the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to support the collection of student level data, much of the system functionality remains unchanged from the 1990's system design. EMIS was designed to process and manage aggregated student data, not to manage individual student level records over time. As a result, even though ODE now has student level data, ODE's ability to efficiently and effectively manage the data and its ability to perform or facilitate statewide longitudinal data analysis to improve student achievement is limited. While ODE has made significant investments in various technologies and development efforts, it has not been afforded the resources necessary to design and develop the necessary system components to fully realize the benefits of the data and ensure appropriate use of data.

You are invited to participate in a focus group about Ohio's D3A2 statewide initiative. At the Meetings, you will see two five-minute prototype videos which will walk you through accessing item analysis and aligned resources using DASL or eSIS student administration software.

To register for a focus group meeting, please register online at: http://www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm

Focus groups will be held at MVECA on the following days:

Mon., Jan. 23rd, 3:15
Fri., Jan. 27th, 10:00



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Student Services

Angie Crandall * Lynda Davis * Ann Edwards * Stacy Hurtt * Sandra Ingledue * Annette Puckett

Scheduling

It's January and soon many schools will begin thinking about scheduling for the new year. Any schools that would like their CMST (Class Master Schedule) and CGRP (Class Group Master Schedule) records copied to the 06/07 school year please email davis@mveca.org or helpdesk@mveca.org with your request to have those copied. In your email, please give the BUILDING NAME and we will run the B110 for you. Once we have submitted the B110, we will reply to your email notifying you that it has been done with a message similar to the example below:

"I've submitted the B110 to process tonight to copy your master schedule for the next school year. Please pass the word not to delete it from MGMT. It will be ready for you by tomorrow morning. Be sure to check the mgmt screen to be sure B110 on mgmt shows a status of COMP (complete) and then go to your CMST/CGRP records and display the records for 05/06. If the process shows ERROR or PEND on MGMT then the job did NOT process because someone was in the files when the job tried to process. Should this happen, please contact me and I will submit it again for the next night.

If the B110 did not process due to ERROR or PEND then you will have no CMST or CGRP records copied so please be sure to check this. Be sure everyone is out of SIS by 8pm so this is able to process. Once those records are existing you are able to begin updating those records for the new school year for scheduling. Be sure when updating (deleting, changing or adding records) that you are displaying the 06/07 records and not your current 05/06 records. If you edit current year records it will cause problems with this years grade cards and a few other areas so be careful doing this process."

There will be a scheduling training session for those that wish to have a refresher or those that are new to the scheduling process. This would mainly be geared to High Schools or Junior Highs that run the B108 (Batch Scheduler). The training will be set up for the end of January or very beginning of February as many schools begin this process at that time. When a date has been set, I will send out a message to the SIS distribution list so watch for the email :). I will be updating documentation and will


post the document on the website when it has been completed.

For schools that would like to enter course requests online, there is the DSL Course Request Module. The link for this module and the documentation for using it is located on MVECA's website. From MVECA's homepage, select the DASL server link on the right side of the homepage. The Course Requests application link is listed at the bottom of the list of links as "Course Requests". Click on the link and you are ready to start using the application. Once you have all the requests entered for your students, please remember to email us that you are needing those requests loaded in to SIS (you won't be able to see your requests in SIS until we run the load process).

OGT

I know we have had questions about getting the OGT results to print on the SIS transcripts. I would like to inform everyone that this process is underway. SIS will be modified to accept the storage of OGT results in the PROH screen which it is currently unable to accommodate. There will be a REMIS program called OGTEMISSIS that will work the same as PROEMISSIS. Once the OGT results have been loaded in to EMIS, the program OGTEMISSIS will need to be processed at the district to move the OGT results from EMIS to SIS. At that time, once the results are in SIS, we will be modifying transcripts to print the OGT results just as they had printed the 9th Grade Proficiency results in the past. We will send out a message when the SIS program has been upgraded and when the new REMIS program, OGTEMISSIS, has been released to all ITC's.

There is also a new program that may be processed that will give a listing of students that need to take the OGT. The program is called NEEDSOGT and produces a similar report to the WHONEEDSIT program which was used for finding students needing to take the 9th grade proficiency tests. The NEEDSOGT program will be listed on the EMIS menu of locally defined programs and reports which is the same location where WHONEEDSIT is currently listed.

(continued on page 3) 

Calamity Days and the P310, P301, P105 and P705

1. If you find yourself cancelling a day of school at your building, you will need to do the following:

A. P310 - Remove the X on the day school was not in session. If you have multiple calendars in P310 for the current school year, remember to adjust each version.

B. P301 - Decrease the number of days in the "New" column by one. You may enter the original number of days that were going to be in session in the "Old" column if you wish to track those for your own reference.

2. If you end up cancelling so many days in a semester, and you end up EXTENDING the grading period, semester or year end, please be sure to change the following in addition to the P310 and P301:

A. P105 - Change the beginning and/or ending MONTH and DAY only (do NOT change the valid from YEAR or enter a valid tYEAR) on the right side of the screen.

B. P705 - Change the beginning and/or dates of the grading periods on the format for the R700 for the grading period. Please refer to SIS Beginning of the Year Checklist for this parameter and instructions on changing it. This parameter is what prints the "Number of Days Present" on your SIS gradecards if you are printing that information. Not all schools print that data on their SIS report cards.

"Running B118/B117/Transcripts" and "Scheduling for 06/07 School Year"

I would like to offer a couple trainings during January and February. I know January is the end of the semester for many schools and schools will be running B118/B117 and transcripts. January/February is also the time to begin transferring students to their new buildings for scheduling purposes and begin the task of scheduling. For these two subjects, I will be offering training sessions as refreshers and for new staff to the processes on Thursday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m.-noon at MVECA.

SPECIAL SERVICES MODULE (SSEM)

On September 29th, several Special Education supervisors from various districts attended what we will now call an Advisory Committee meeting. This was one of two meetings we planned to have this year in order to allow open communication pertaining to the Special Services Module between districts and provide the opportunity for us to share ideas and provide input as to how the module works for us now and how it could improve for our future needs. The meeting was informative and some requests were made to the software developers as a result of the feedback we received from the meeting. The next meeting is planned for March 7, 2006. Please sign up using the MVECA training calendar for March 7, 2006 at www.mveca.org and click on the training calendar link. Please fill out all requested information. We ask that you sign up for the meeting no later than February 24, 2006.

There are thirteen districts utilizing the Special Services Education Module. Eleven of the districts are using the module district wide and two are using it in selected buildings within the districts. The module continues to grow with your feedback and enhancement requests.

Updates to the Progress Book web site have been posted to include updated system requirements for the Special Services Module and Parent Access posting information. If you would like to see documentation that is not on the site, let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.



Progress Book has gotten off to the smoothest start yet for the 05-06 school year. There are 16 districts using Progress Book as their grade book package. Nine districts are using the software district wide and seven are using the software in selected buildings. One teacher recently wrote "The Progress Book grading system is working well for me. It seems the more I become familiar with the many features, the more "fun" it is. It surely beats the old pencil and calculator method. The Progress Book has had some interesting and user friendly features added. When I began using PB it seemed such a departure from the "old" program which our school used—perhaps 'insurmountable' came to mind. BUT with time, additional training and usage, THIS is the program to have." Thanks for the great feedback Bill Radabaugh from Miami Trace! Bill also provided some great enhancement requests to the software. Ten of the sixteen districts are using the Parent Access feature with equally great feedback coming in from parents as well as teachers.

If you would like to schedule a Progress Book or Special Services training or presentation in your district or building, email us at progressbook@mveca.org and we will do our best to accommodate you.



EMIS UPDATE

It's hard to believe that we have reached the halfway mark of the 05/06 school year. Some important dates to remember for 06K reporting:

- December 9, 2005 began the 45-day corrective action cycle with a warning letter being sent to districts who are out of compliance with 06K reporting requirements.
- January 17, 2006 - Official "out-of-compliance" letters will be mailed
- February 3, 2006 - Last day to deactivate SSID's at the IBM website
- March 3, 2006 – Final submission!

Data submission for December Reporting Period M has also begun, with the first submission of 06M data occurring on December 2nd. December (M) reporting period captures all students who have a current IEP on December 1 of the current year. Student Demographic, Attendance, and Program records are reported during this timeframe. Federal requirements require children with disabilities enrolled on or prior to December 1 of the current school year to be counted in the child count reported to them.

In addition to children with disabilities, during December reporting, preschool students enrolled on or prior to December 1 who are part of a preschool program funded by either the Early Childhood Education Grand Funds (Formerly Public Preschool Grant) or Preschool Special Education Unit Funds will be required to have an Early Childhood Record reported.

During the December (M) reporting period, in order for an entity to be able to submit an Early Childhood Record to ODE, the student must be:

1. Enrolled at least one or more days during the period of time that includes the month of November, up through and including December 1, AND
2. In the preschool grade level.

The final processing of December (06M) reporting will take place on January 20, 2006. December Reporting Requirements documentation is now available at the MVECA website, <http://www.mveca.org/EMIS/default.htm>.

MVECA hosted an SF-3/SF-3 Flow meeting on Wednesday, December 7. This meeting gave EMIS Coordinators the opportunity to schedule a time to meet with an Area Coordinator to resolve issues with their SF-3 and SF-3 Flow reports. Thank you to Angie Crandall for facilitating the meeting, and to Area Coordinators Jim Degen, Don Knight, Ken Taylor and Larry Grooms for their time and expertise!

New EMIS resources on the website – The tables explaining EMIS Coding for Special Situations that were presented by Debi Mason of MDECA at the November 18 School Finance Funding Seminar will soon be available at the MVECA website. Watch your email!



MVECA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., Jan. 16	MVECA offices closed	Fri., Jan 27	D3A2 Focus Group 10:00
Thurs., Jan. 19	INFOhio Multilis Cataloging Trng 8- 3:30	Feb. TBA	SIS Scheduling Training TBA
Fri., Jan 20	MVECA Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.	Feb. 13-14-15	eTech Technology Conf. - Columbus
Fri., Jan. 20	Final submission date - EMIS Dec. 06M	Thurs. Feb. 16	MVECA Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
Mon., Jan, 23	D3A2 Focus Group 3:15	Mon., Feb. 20	MVECA offices closed
Thurs., Jan. 26	SIS B118/B117 Transcripts Training 9 - noon	Tues., March 7	SSEM Spec. Ed supv mtg 10-noon

You can register online for all MVECA events at: www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm



FISCAL UPDATE

Deb Dinnen, Tom Faulkner

Fiscal Support has been using the **Unicenter Service Desk** to log requests for about five months. Currently, we enter your request in the Service Desk from your phone calls or emails to fiscal@mveca.org. Eventually, you will log your requests and all communication will take place within the Service Desk. Do not reply to the email from the ServiceDesk. You can click on "Forward" in your email client and send your response to fiscal@mveca.org. We will notify everyone with their new Service Desk usernames and passwords soon.

You may have noticed a recent addition to your emails from us. We, at fiscal, in attempt to keep you informed, have initiated **Weekly Updates**. The first day of every week we are sending an email with a subject line "Weekly Updates". Please read Weekly Updates for information about upcoming releases, problems, fixes, meetings, etc.

USAS

The following programs will not be available on September, 2006 release of the software:

VENSCN (as a stand alone screen)

RCPROC

RCEDT

APE

USASWEB offers the ability to query vendors, process receipts and process invoices. If you or any of your staff need training in USASWEB please email fiscal@mveca.org and we will be happy to accommodate you.

December USAS Updates (a brief summary of some of the updates):

1. State funds 406, 408, 409, 419, 422, 454, 455, and 457 will no longer be recognized as valid funds.
2. Function codes of 19xx are now required to be defined to 3 significant digits.
3. The EXTRACT option of AUTOREC has been modified to be able to select checks by a range of check numbers.
4. A message has been added to FNDCHG and ACTCHG that "USPS mapping entries as well as the USASEC security account filters may need to be changed manually."
5. The fund numbers 525 and 430 will no longer be checked as funds to be deleted after fiscal year 2004. These funds have been reinstated.

USPS

USPSWEB is finally here!!!!. Fiscal has placed a link on our web-page entitled "USPS Web Application." You can login using your MVECA0 username and password. Currently there are 3 modules:

Employee (BIOSCN)

Attendance (ATDSCN)

Benefit (BENSCN)

Please visit this site, use the application and let us know by emailing fiscal@mveca.org what features you like or dislike.

December USPS Updates (a brief summary of some of the updates)

1. Leave benefit deferred posting was modified to look back a full year.
2. Implement Board share fields on annuity type deductions (except retirement). Employee share and board share can be placed on the same deduction.
3. W2PROC modified to include 6 extra deductions for box 14. Only 3 will print on the W2. So, if an employee has all 6 deductions, the first 3 will be placed in Box 14.

**Registration for the 2006
State Technology Conference
(Feb 13-15, 2006) is now open.
Register through the eTech website.**



Java Client in Testing

The Sirsi Java client software is now undergoing rigorous testing across the state. The Java client is the newest way to access your circulation and cataloging functions. It will run on both PC and Macintosh platforms. Preliminary results should be available in January. It won't be long till we can migrate MAC districts, so everyone should be completing their data cleanup.

Parent Section developed at INFOhio Website

With the help of a grant from the Reinberger Foundation, a large group of volunteers has fully developed the parent section at the INFOhio website.

The parent section has background information and helpful tips to help parents get the most from INFOhio's Web site. It has links to sites to help encourage reading, homework help tools, help with INFOhio's electronic resources, internet safety tips and much, much more. Please visit this site at <http://www.infohio.org/Parent/Parent.html>

INFOhio Promotional Video

INFOhio has produced a four and one half minute video that gives a short overview of how we help Ohio students, educators and parents with their research needs. This video can be downloaded or streamed for presentation to teachers, parent groups or anyone else who would benefit from INFOhio services. Follow the links at <http://www.infohio.org/Parent/OutreachKit/Video2005.html>. Both dialup and high speed connections are supported.

Google Adds Library Texts to Search Database

by Edward Wyatt Published: Nov. 2005 NY Times

Google announced recently that it had completed the first major expansion of its Google Print database of searchable books, adding the full text of more than 10,000 works that are no longer under copyright, culled from the collections of four major research libraries.

The additions, from the university libraries at Michigan, Harvard and Stanford and from the New York Public Library, represent the first large group of material to be made available electronically from those libraries, which along with Oxford University contracted with Google last year to let the company scan and make searchable the contents of much or all of their collections. The entire text of the works can be searched and read online through the Google Print site (print.google.com). Users can also save individual pages and cut and paste excerpts from the material. The ability to print is currently limited to single pages at a time.

In December of 2004, over 80 teachers, curriculum coordinators, administrators, and technology professionals gathered at MVECA for a roundtable discussion about implementation of the Academic Content Standards for Technology. As a result of these discussions, a consensus was reached that implementation of the technology standards required a real educational plan for technology that addressed: network and workstation infrastructure, ongoing professional development, dependable technical support, and long-term funding initiatives that identified "total cost of ownership" as a priority. Ideally, such an educational plan would describe how we might address a laundry list of problems related to Ohio's overall approach to educational technology. For instance, the fact that BETA Survey results showed that over 70 percent of workstations were deemed "old" or "aging," suggested that computers were not likely to be dependable enough for rigorous classroom use. Other problems included: under-manned technology support departments, the need for a rewrite of core curriculum to address the technology standards, and the shortage of teachers with the capacity to build lessons that seamlessly utilize technological resources.

At the end of the roundtable discussion, a subcommittee was formed that was to attempt to compile data that would demonstrate best practices and approaches to technology integration, focusing on four major areas: infrastructure, professional development, support, and funding. Through research, the subcommittee discovered that Ohio's 2002 Consolidated State Application for federal grant funds includes a statement that reads "Ohio has in place a State Plan for Educational Technology that meets all of the provisions of section 2413 of ESEA." (Consolidated State Application for State Grants, under Title IX, Part C, Section 9302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Public Law 107-110), page 104). The subcommittee now intends to get more details about this existing plan in the hopes that work has already been done by ODE that will make meaningful implementation of the Technology Standards possible.

We encourage you to participate in a focus group about Ohio's Data Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement (D3A2):

Monday, January 23rd, 3:15 or Friday, January 27th, 10:00 at MVECA.

An additional session will be held at Clark Co. ESC on Jan. 24th - 3:30.

All sessions are limited to 15 attendees. At the Focus Group Meetings, you will be among the first in Ohio to see two five-minute D3A2 prototype videos using two of the more widely used SIS programs in Ohio's education arena today: DASL and eSIS. The videos will walk you through accessing item analysis and aligned resources.