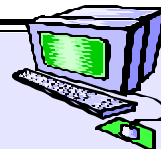




June 2006



Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association



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Executive Director

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Treasurer
Washington Court House

What's New? What's New? What's New?

Fiscal Year 2006 is winding down. Several changes will be coming about at MVECA as FY2007 approaches.

MVECA will become a Council of Governments on July 1. What does this mean? The possibilities for the growth of MVECA are tremendous. The Greene County Career Center will no longer be the Fiscal Agent for MVECA. MVECA will have its own Treasurer for the first time in its 25-year history. In order to make this COG transition official, the Assembly has some business to attend to.

Superintendents and Treasurers: Please plan to attend this important meeting:

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:
Thurs., July 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

We welcome a new member district! Madison Plains Local Schools (Madison County) will become a member of MVECA on July 1, 2006.

The Assembly in April voted to reduce MVECA-net fees, thanks to cost savings MVECA will enjoy through our connection to the Third Frontier Network.

DASL rollout has begun. We have three districts going "live" with DASL in July 2006. The rest of MVECA's districts are scheduled for their rollout during FY07-08. Go to the DASL webpage on the MVECA website, or contact MVECA and we will send or email you a copy of the latest rollout schedule.

USASWEB & USPSWEB software migration has begun. The SSDT (State Software Development Team) has written software that is internet based, works on a windows platform or GUI interface, and can be accessed anywhere a user can access the internet. This transition and training has already begun at MVECA.

INFOhio is almost fully migrated to the Sirsi K-12 software from Multilis. A new Toolkit for Promoting INFOhio Resources to Parents is available to all schools and parents. The kit is also available on INFOhio's website at www.infohio.org/Parent/Toolkit.html.

Progress Book/Parent Access will have a new look and many more features for Teachers, Administrators, and Parents. Watch for exciting news about this new release, expected in August 2006. The popular Special Services Module continues to improve in features and functions!

We are anticipating new Human Resource modules, to be available July 2006.

MVECA will be welcoming a new Executive Director in September 2006. We will make the official announcement at the July 6 Assembly Meeting.

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During the end of year meeting conducted at MVECA on April 20, the Progress Book team shared a PowerPoint presentation consisting of end of the year 05-06 close out information. This presentation is posted on the Progress Book web site at www.mveca.org/progressbook. Click on the "End of Year 05-06 Progress Book PowerPoint Document" link to view this presentation. While you are on the Progress Book web site, take a moment to print out the "2006/2007 Required Setup Document for all Progress Book Buildings". This document must be updated each year for each building using Progress Book so setup information for the following school year is as complete as possible. The setup documents should be completed and returned to us by July 1, 2006. You can fax the information to: 937-767-1793. We will email the Progress Book contact list if we require additional information aside from the setup document.

If you have report card changes for 06-07, please email or fax those changes to us no later than June 30, 2006. New report card examples for buildings or districts coming into Progress Book for 06-07, should be sent to us no later than July 15. Please note that for changes or new report card development, we must have a contact person over the summer months with the authority to make decisions about the revised or newly created report cards.

In order to prepare for the 06-07 upgrades and rollover, Progress Book / SIS integration is scheduled to be turned off on Friday, June 16, 2006 at the end of the workday (year-round buildings excluded). If you need to maintain integration for a longer period, please send us an email to this effect. In July, we will email the Progress Book contacts informing them when we expect to turn on integration for 06-07. At that time, if you would like us to wait to turn on integration due to last minute scheduling changes, email us and let us know at progressbook@mveca.org.

PARENT ACCESS

Parent Access will upgrade for the fall release with a new look and many more features for teachers as well as administrators and parents. Some of the expected enhancements planned for release include the redesign of the Parent Access login page. Administrators will have the ability to post attachments, links, and messages for the parents of the district for a specific building. Teachers will be able to post attachments and links to homework and messages. New roles for control of publishing information and input will be available. Teachers will have a choice as to whether parents will be able to view excluded assignments or not. The ability to view parent and student email addresses will be available with the upgrade. Parents will be able to view grading scales, homework and message attachments and links. Parents will have the ability to reset their student's passwords for Parent Access and will be able to see the new "Progress Summary", "Progress Details" and "Attendance" pages for their students. A new "search" feature will be added so parents and students will be able to search for homework and message detail pages. The changes should promote more communication and customization in addition to improved progress reporting. Please check out the PowerPoint presentation in the Parent Access section of the Progress Book web site.

SPECIAL SERVICES MODULE (SSEM)



The new EMIS component with the ability to generate the EMIS Data Collection Form for EMIS reporting from the data entered on a student's IEP is currently in the testing phase. Changes have been made to the software to prepare for this new enhancement such as the drop down field choices and the new feature to finalize an IEP/EMIS set of forms. Special Education staff and EMIS Coordinators will be granted access to generate, review and eventually send this EMIS data directly to the EMIS system for the Ohio Department of Education reporting. The SSEM/EMIS Reporting will eventually be able to replace the current, time-consuming process requiring the special education staff to relay the correct data, which is then hand-entered by school district personnel. Watch for announcements and training opportunities about this new EMIS reporting enhancement. If you are an EMIS coordinator and would like to be added to our Progress Book email contact list, send us your information and we will make the addition.

Check out the Progress Book web site for Progress Book and Special Services Education Module quick tips, video clips, streaming training video, documentation, and much more at www.mveca.org/progressbook.

Keep in touch because your needs are important to us. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Student Services



* Angela Crandall * Lynda Davis * Stacy Hurtt * Sandra Ingledue * Annette Puckett

SIS UPDATE

The year end is upon us! We will begin SIS cleanups in July this year. Below is an abbreviated SIS Yearend Checklist. There will be future emails going out to keep everyone updated as to what we see has not yet been done in your SIS buildings that is necessary before you leave.

- ___ Verify Final Marks (R703, Format 01)
- ___ Enter Exception Credits (IMAD or ECRD)
- ___ Update COHI for Grades 9-12 (B118)
- ___ Update RANK for Grades 9-12 (B117)
- ___ Withdraw any Active Early Graduates (STUD)
- ___ Verify Attendance (R319 from ABHI and R322 from ABSE)
- ___ Produce/Print Transcripts and Cum Labels (R702 for Transcripts/R702 or R700 for Cum Labels)
- ___ Re-Transfer and Re-Receive Students if needed (B106/B107)
- ___ Post Fee Payments and Produce/Print Fee Detail Report (R109)
- ___ Produce/Print any other Yearend Reports that are Useful (R101,R309)
- ___ Cleanup MGMT Screen
- ___ Add School Calendar (P310) for 06/07
- ___ Add P301 for 06/07

Again, email will be sent out as a reminder including the above steps .

We will be sending email out about the SIS Beginning Year Meeting to be held in August (probably the second week of August, but a date has not yet been confirmed).

Thank you for a wonderful year and enjoy your summer!!!





Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Northwestern Local, Greenon Local and Northeastern Local school districts that have begun their conversion to DASL. All three districts are currently training in the program and are slated to Go Live on July 31 of this year.

Conversion Procedures

There have been many questions from districts with regard to the conversion process and time lines. The District Implementation Plan on our web site is a document that outlines in great detail the steps of converting to DASL and all that is involved in each Phase of the process. Each Superintendent should review this document and contact MVECA with a list of users who will make up their Implementation Team and to confirm the projected Go Live Dates. The document itself will be filled out by the Implementation Team Members.

The training model that will be implemented with DASL is a “train the trainer” model. MVECA’s Student Services team will train your district’s Implementation team of 3-8 individuals, who will then train your district’s staff. These training teams will be the first line of support for troubleshooting internal district problems or questions. The district training teams will have direct access to MVECA for any support help that they need. If other district personnel call MVECA for help with DASL, we will direct them to the district training team members. If you have not submitted the names of your training team to us, please do so soon.

During your training and conversion, you will be asked to sign-off of reports, formats, and list all of the extracts you currently use and what format you need them in. MVECA staff will work with each district to determine your needs and how to best meet those needs using DASL. Each of these steps in the conversion process will need to be closely examined by your staff and discussed with MVECA staff. This process will be critical in the success of the DASL conversion.

There are several features you are going to have with DASL that you currently do not have with SIS/ POISE! DASL has greatly improved the student scheduling module. When dropping and adding courses to individual student schedules, you will be able to sort by teacher, subjects, period’s, etc. in order to search only those courses matching your search criteria. This will allow for scheduling changes to be made without a printed copy of the master schedule! There have also been some great improvements to the student Fees module. In DASL there is the ability to remove a payment from a student fee if it was added in error. You also have the ability to remove a fee from a student. Both of these options will only be available if you have been granted the proper security. This will allow for greater flexibility with student fees. For those districts using SWAN for attendance and grade collection, there is no longer the need for you to import the teacher data. With DASL, SWAN information (both grades and attendance) is automatically updated as soon as the teacher saves it!

MVECA is looking forward to moving ahead with DASL; however, we do understand each district’s needs and are willing to work with you to make the transition to the new software as easy as possible. We encourage all of you to check the DASL page at <http://www.mveca.org/SIS/DASL/default.htm> on a regular basis. We will use this page to keep you posted on known issues in DASL as well as helpful tips to guide you in the transition. This will make the move from SIS/POISE to DASL as smooth as possible. Please contact us at dasl@mveca.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above information.



EMIS UPDATE

The FY06 Yearend (N) reporting period submissions are underway! The first submission took place May 19th and included data from fifteen of our twenty-four districts. Please check aggregations regularly. Coordinators - if your building people are responsible for steps in the checklist, please be in contact with them to insure those steps have been completed before they leave for the summer. The REMIS programs can be run by the district against LIVE only. If any REMIS programs need to be run after the snapshot on June 30th, you will need to email HELPDESK@MVECA.ORG and request to have those run by MVECA against the 06N database. For those of you who opted to do the preliminary runs of the ATTUPDEMIS and MAJOREMIS programs to remove the excessive Majority of Attendance errors from your EMSAGG5.TXT error report, please remember that final runs of both of these programs will need to be done once school is out and all attendance/absence information has been finalized. You must contact us at HELPDESK@MVECA.ORG and request to have your preliminary attendance removed from the EMIS LIVE database prior to the final run of ATTUPDEMIS. Then, another run of MAJOREMIS will also need to be done to recalculate the Majority of Attendance IRN data to capture the complete school year's attendance information. Please email HELPDESK@MVECA.ORG for more information or if you have questions about these steps.

Gifted - All students must have a gifted record reported in the EMSGIF screen in EMIS. If you have not already faxed a completed Gifted Default form to MVECA, please do so as soon as possible and we will process the GIFTEDMIS program for your district based on the defaults you select. (fax 937.767.1793)

Preschool Assessment Spring Results - Those who have begun the process of modifying the existing Preschool Assessment records in LIVE to change the dates and scores to reflect the spring results can continue to do that. Or, if you have already begun the process of manually creating an additional record to report the spring result, you may continue with that.

Also, for those who have not modified any records yet, MVECA can create an additional set of records for purposes of reporting the spring result and also keeping the fall record intact - this is optional (keeping the fall record in the yearend database) as no determination has been made by ODE whether both records need to be housed in LIVE. So, in essence, there are three ways to report the spring results for yearend:

1. Modify the existing fall record to reflect the spring date and score.
2. Manually create an additional record to report the spring results.
3. Send email to HDESK@MVECA.ORG and request to have an additional set of records created to report the spring results - **ONLY IF NO OTHER ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN YET.**

Key Dates for EMIS FY06 Yearend (N) Processing:

6/9/06 - DEADLINE TO MAKE INITIAL PERIOD N DATA SUBMISSION. Submission of incomplete or inaccurate data for Period N triggers an official out of compliance letter to be mailed on 6/13/2006 with guidance as to corrective action. This is the initiation of the 45-day data accountability corrective action cycle.

6/30/06 - Creation of 06N database (snapshot). Last day to deactivate SSIDs at the IBM website for Period N.

7/28/06 - Last processing of Period N FY06 data. Funds withheld from any district determined out-of-compliance for this reporting period are forfeited by this date if corrective action has not been taken. This represents the end of the 45-day data accountability corrective action cycle.

8/4/06 - District deactivation of SSIDs can resume at the IBM website for this data submission.

One final note - in the interest of ensuring that the ESC student-level data (reported by districts) and Contractor Staff records (reported by ESC's) are reported as accurately as possible during yearend, it might be helpful to coordinate a time for districts and their ESC's to attend an open lab together. Please let me know if you would like assistance with coordinating dates and times at hurt@mveca.org. Have a great summer!

Summer Open Lab dates (revised): June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 19



We are in the final stages of converting to the Sirsi Workflows software. The revised MAC client should finish testing this summer and be available in the fall. Our goal is to have the four remaining MAC districts converted by winter break. MAC districts MUST use the JAVA client. PC districts need to work with MVECA to schedule a time to switch to the JAVA client.

Please take note of this important information regarding workstation requirements for Unicorn GL3.1. There have been a few recent changes (highlighted in red). Please be sure to share these specifications with your Tech Coordinators and library staff as INFOhio prepares to apply the GL3.1 upgrade at all ITC's this summer.

WorkFlows Release	OS/Platform	Processor	RAM	Disk Space for WorkFlows	Monitor Resolution	TCP/IP network
WorkFlows GL3.1 Java™ Client	Windows 2000, XP, or Mac OS X (Tiger 10.4.* and higher plus JRE 1.5 required)	Minimum: 700 MHz Suggested: 1 Ghz	Minimum: 256MB Suggested: 512MB	100MB	1024 x 768 or better	Y
WorkFlows GL3.1 C Client	Windows 95, 98, XP, NT, 2000	Pentium	128MB	20MB	800x600 or better	Y

Note 1: On workstations running the WorkFlows Java™ client, SirsiDynix recommends setting the virtual memory association to equal twice the amount of physical memory, at minimum. Please work with your PC administrator to check the virtual memory setting on each workstation running the WorkFlows Java™ Client, and increase the memory if necessary.

Note 2: Macintosh users - the GL3.1 java client will require Java Runtime environment 5.0 (aka JRE 1.5) which is a more secure version than JRE 1.4. This will need installed prior to installing the GL3.1 WF's client on the Mac. Macintosh users should be running OS X version 10.4.* and higher (Tiger). Note: During INFOhio's java pilot this spring, we found that version 10.4.6 worked well, whereas lesser 10.4 versions could be problematic at times.

Note 3: WorkFlows Java will not affect OPAC stations, which will continue to require the ability to support current browser versions of Internet Explorer or Netscape.

Sirsi supplied the following justification for the switch from JRE 1.4 to JRE 1.5:

JRE 5.0 contains many changes since the 1.4 release. Some notable, and compelling changes include bug fixes for 64-bit desktops, an interface change for SSL support with LDAP user authentication for WorkFlows, a couple of security patches that secure sites require, a change for Japanese characters in the UTF-8 Unicode environment, and two memory leak fixes.

JRE 1.5 is available for free from Sun and we will also place the JRE 1.5 install file on the INFOhio java docs page.

Some Mac libraries will need to upgrade their OS X to a higher version. While an added expense, hopefully it represents a minimal cost for the libraries. We checked on K-12 education pricing to upgrade Mac's to OS X version 10.4.6 or higher (Tiger)

For an individual license = \$69

For 10 – 100 = \$59 ea.

For 101 – 999 = \$49 ea.

For 1000+ = \$39 ea.

<http://store.apple.com/1-800-800-APPL/WebObjects/K12>

You enter your zip and choose your school, then you're taken to their store where you can click on the Tiger icon about halfway down in the middle.



Important INFOhio Date: August 10, 2006 – Beginning of Year meeting



FISCAL UPDATE

Deb Dinnen, Tom Faulkner

The monthly meetings are taking place on the third Friday of every month. There has been a great turn out. The goal behind the meetings is to develop a best practices manual and provide a way for users to network. Please add this meeting to your schedules. It's a great way to keep up to date on the software and operating procedures for the Treasurer's Office.

Webpage

Many of you may have noticed an addition to our Fiscal Webpage. If you haven't been out there for a while, we are attempting to implement video streaming. Currently, we have one for USASWEB Requisition Processing. Click on VIDEO CLIPS on the MVECA FISCAL webpage. Look for additional trainings to come out soon.

Fiscal Yearend

We are very busy gearing up for the Fiscal Yearend. The fiscal team has decided that we are having two Fiscal Yearend meetings this year. One training for beginners (6/8/06) that will provide details and one for the experienced user (6/9/06). Please look on the training calendar for times, dates and other details. As always feel free to contact us at fiscal@mveca.org if you should have any questions.

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

RCPROC RECEDT APE VENSCN (as a stand alone.)

Upcoming Events June 8 - Fiscal Year End for Beginners June 9 - Fiscal Year End Closing Mtg.



JUST IN !!! SPECIAL OFFERS WORTH NOTING



THE MCOECN IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE OHIO K-12 MICROSOFT STUDENT/STAFF SELECT PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICTS REDUCED EDUCATION PRICING ON SELECTED MICROSOFT PROGRAMS.

TO MAKE A SCHOOL'S STAFF AND STUDENTS ELIGIBLE, THE SCHOOL WILL NEED TO FILL OUT A FORM. AFTER THE ITC RECEIVES THE FORM, STAFF AND STUDENTS CAN ORDER PROGRAMS AT THE COST ON THE WWW.EDRESOURCES.COM OR WWW.JOURNEYED.COM EDUCATION PRICE LIST. THE DISTRICT OR MVECA WILL NOT HAVE TO HANDLE ORDERS. THE TRANSACTION WILL BE BETWEEN SCHOOL STAFF/STUDENTS/PARENTS AND THE VENDOR.

IF THE SCHOOL TREASURER SIGNS THE DISTRICT TREASURER AUTHORIZATION PORTION ON THE PROPER FORM, THE DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE \$8.00 FOR EACH PRODUCT ORDERED. THE DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE FUNDS ABOUT AUGUST 1 DIRECTLY FROM THE MCOECN OR ITS AGENTS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL PURCHASE.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OHIO SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ABOUT TURNIT IN.COM:

TURNITIN.COM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OF THE OHIO EDUCATION COMPUTER NETWORK (MCOECN), IS PLEASED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING EQUITABLE AND STANDARDIZED PRICING FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

SPECIAL PRICING THROUGH JUNE 15, 2007

- 25% OFF THE PER-PUPIL PRICING FOR NEW SCHOOLS

- 15% OFF THE PER-PUPIL PRICING FOR RENEWALS

For more details, contact Jim Pesch or Thor Sage at MVECA.

Technology News

Thor Sage, Steve Phipps



CA Unicenter ServiceDesk (Helpdesk)

If you are a person in your building or district that contacts MVECA for technical, fiscal, or INFOhio services, then you should find out how to logon to the helpdesk software. Doing so will provide you with a place where you can easily log a problem for the MVECA staff and will allow you to track progress on all your requests. Your login will also provide you with a complete record of all your past requests. Everything from password resets and content filter edits to questions about fiscal applications can be placed in helpdesk. Currently, only the service areas mentioned above have implemented the software, but soon all of MVECA services will be accessible through the easy to use interface. If you're interested in taking a look at the new helpdesk, give your MVECA representative a call or send an email.

Computer Recycling

As of right now, there is no MVECA recycling project scheduled for this summer. In the event that a facility can be found for another round-up, you or a member of your staff will be notified by the end of the first week of June. But you don't have to wait for MVECA to recycle your old computers and used electronic equipment. You can contact RET3 Job Corps yourself at 216-361-2991. RET3 will accept your recyclable items free of charge, and all you'll need to do is pay for transportation. For more information go to: <http://www.ret3.org>

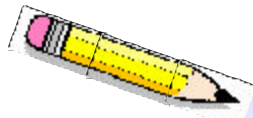
Technology and Security Evaluations

INNOVATE AND THE MCOECN PARTNER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY EVALUATIONS.

Innovate and the MCOECN have partnered to offer special pricing to Ohio schools for technology and security evaluations. Through these services, schools can review and document their current technology implementations and get an outside viewpoint as they focus on future plans for the district. The attachment to this email further describes these offerings. For further information, you may contact Marv Sauer of Innovate directly at msauer@innovatetcg.com or 248.470.6594.

Ohio Technology Summer Summit

The Ohio Technology Summer Summit is being held on Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28, 2005, from 8:00am - 4:30pm each day at the Quest Business Center in Columbus. Tutorials run concurrently each day, while workshops run a full day. Tutorials and workshops are taught by many of your colleagues and practicing professionals from across the state who will demonstrate successful approaches or lessons learned, tell a story of overcoming challenges, provide hands-on examples about techniques or tools and provide participants the opportunity to network with other colleagues. The cost to attend one or both days is just \$50 per participant. Participants are required to register for each individual tutorial or workshop they plan to attend. For more information go to: <http://www.etech.ohio.gov>



MVECA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., May 29	MVECA Offices Closed		
Thurs., June 8	Fiscal Year End for Beginners	Thurs, July 6	SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 9:00
Fri., June 9	Fiscal Year End Closing	Thurs, July 6	Special Board meeting 10:00 a.m.
Thurs., June 15	MVECA Board meeting	July 5, 19	EMIS Open Lab
June 7,14, 21, 28	EMIS Open Lab	Thurs., Aug.10	INFOhio Beginning of Year mtg.
Fri., June 16	Fiscal Monthly Mtg. 9:30-12	TBA August	SIS Beginning Year Meeting
Tues., July 4	MVECA Offices Closed		

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