



SUMMER 2003

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association

Connected



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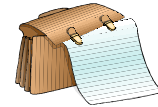
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Here's the Latest...



Round Six of the Ohio LIT (*Ohio Leadership for Integrating Technology*) Workshops to be held at MVECA

***Round Six -Apr. 1, May 13, June 24, 2004**
(Round 4- Sept. 2003; Round 5 - Dec. 2003)

The goal of this statewide project is to provide superintendents and principals with quality technology leadership training focusing on whole school improvement and systemic change. A network-ready laptop computer, equipped with software and a carrying case, will be provided to the district of each participant who attends all three days of training and completes the course requirements.

(For more information about Ohio LIT course requirements or the Ohio LIT grant partners, visit the Ohio LIT website at www.osn.state.oh.us/go/ohiolitwebcrossing). For more information about the Ohio LIT program, visit www.osn.state.oh.us/go/ohiolit.

You can submit applications electronically at www.osn.state.oh.us/go/ohiolitregistration.



COMING IN THE FALL

- * **New Special Education software that will contain IEP and MFE forms**
- * New DASL software to replace SIS - should be ready to demo by Winter
- * More MVECA training classes (visit our Training page on our website)
- * More Open Lab sessions for Student Services, EMIS, and Fiscal help
- * Preparation for migration of MultiLis to SIRSI in school libraries

Reduction in Building Connectivity Subsidy for FY04

The state ONENet Committee plans to reduce building connectivity funding from \$3500 to \$3000 per building for FY04.

The remaining funds will be allocated to the Third Frontier Network, a project to (among other things) connect all DA sites to the state SOCC through fiber. Districts will greatly benefit from network improvement and up streamed bandwidth. The committee further determined a subsidy of \$3000 per building be set for ESC buildings and community schools that meet the ONENet eligibility criteria.

MVECA welcomes new staff

Debra Dinnen - Fiscal software support
Stacy Hurtt - EMIS support
Sandra Ingledue - Progress Book support

TURNITIN.COM offers special pricing to districts

The Internet allows teachers to confirm suspected cases of plagiarism. Sites like Turnitin, (www.turnitin.com) analyze papers for likely plagiarism. A teacher can usually enter key phrases from an essay into a search engine to find the source from which they were copied.

The MCOECN VAR has announced that Turnitin.com is offering a special price to Ohio customers who order before Fall.

MVECA's Second Annual Administrator Update
Mon., June 23, 2003 (see flyer on page 7)



Where has the year gone?!? Weren't we all just working to get the SIS data correct for October EMIS reporting??? And now, it's almost summer!!! With summer comes SIS cleanups and preparations for the next school year. We will begin SIS cleanups the third week in June this year. Below is an abbreviated SIS Yearend Checklist. The complete SIS Yearend Checklist can be found on MVECA's website by following the Student Services link and then clicking on SIS information.

SIS Yearend Checklist (Abbreviated Format)

- _____ Verify Final Marks (R703, Format 01)
- _____ Enter Exception Credits (IMAD)
- _____ 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 or R322 from ABSE)
- _____ Produce/Print Transcripts and Cum Labels
(R702 for Transcripts / R702 or R700 for Cum Labels)
- _____ Re-Transfer and Re-Receive Students (B106 and B107)
- _____ Clear Attendance Letter Flags (B124)
- _____ Post Fee Payments and Produce/Print Student Fee Detail Report (R109)
- _____ Produce/Print any Other Yearend Reports that are Needed/Useful
- _____ Submit an R101 with Blank Status Field (Print if desired)
- _____ Submit an R309 with Blank Status Field, for the Entire Year, for Details (Print if desired)
- _____ Cleanup MGMT Screen LEAVING the R101 and the R309 on the MGMT Screen for Archival
- _____ Add School Calendar for 03/04 School Year (P310) and Notify MVECA to Copy Calendar to Additional Buildings as Needed
- _____ Add P301 for 03/04 School Year
- _____ Complete Additional Steps Listed on Laura's Yearend Checklist as Needed

Remember, the SIS Yearend Checklist **with details** can be found on MVECA's website using the Student Services link. Also, if you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact us here at MVECA.

I've enjoyed working with you this school year and I'm looking forward to another enjoyable school year in 2003-2004! I hope you all have a great summer break and have the opportunity to enjoy some 'rest and relaxation'!

"Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries." — James A. Michener



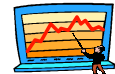
EMIS Year End Reporting

With June fast approaching we'll soon be out of school and knee deep in EMIS Year End reporting. I've scheduled EMIS working sessions in the MVECA training room every Tuesday and Thursday during the month of June. I hope that these work days will give you a chance to get away from a busy office and get your EMIS data cleaned up before it's time for you to leave for the summer. I will be there to assist you during the working sessions to answer questions, and help resolve problems as needed.

I have loaded the March 2003 administration of the 4th, 6th, and 9th grade proficiency tests. Districts can begin updating status codes in PROH in SIS for those students who are not required to take and pass the tests. Once changes have been made, PROSISEMIS will need to be run to update EMIS with the changes.

This is also a good time to contact districts for the results of students who moved into your district after the test administration. You will need to get those results from the previous district and add them into PROH manually.

NEW SOFTWARE FOR FY04



Several MVECA districts will be piloting a new product, **Progress Book** from Software Answers. This full featured web-based grade book and attendance program has many great features, including course of study alignment, parent access from home, great elementary report cards formats, and more. Contact Sandra Ingledue for a demo or with questions (ingledue@mveca.org).

The new web-based **DASL** product continues to develop into a full featured student management system. MVECA will begin to demonstrate this software as soon as it is available to us (target: by Winter 2003). Our goal is to make it available for those districts ready to convert to this new package to replace SIS for the 2004-05 school year. We will continue to support SIS for those of you not quite ready to change by Fall 2004.

Special Education staff will be interested in another product by Software Answers (developers of Progress Book). By Winter 2003, we should have available a **Special Education module**, containing the state of Ohio's IEP and MFE forms. This product, like Progress Book, will be developed in Ohio, by Ohio educators, for Ohio needs.

INFOhio Retreat 2003

A Planning Conference for School Year 2003-2004

Monday, June 16 - Wednesday, June 18, 2003
Capital University – Columbus, Ohio

INFOhio's 2003 Retreat provides INFOhio task forces, staff, providers, users and partners the opportunity to meet and begin planning for the upcoming school year. This year will focus on task force group work to plan programs for school year 2003-2004, initial implementation of the new INFOhio Strategic Plan (2003-2008), and Sirsi transition. For more information hurry to: <http://www.infohio.org/LibraryStaff/retreat2003.html>



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by Thor Sage

New Training Calendar and Online Registration

Be sure to take a look at MVECA's Training Calendar. Click on the Training Calendar link located at the front of our website (www.mveca.org). If you don't see the training you need, please give us a call. We regularly customize training for our member districts.

Also note that registering for training is now easier than ever. Simply click on the online registration link located on the calendar, type in the appropriate information, select the class you want, and click the submit button. No email or phone call is necessary.

Fiber Feasibility Study

MVECA's Fiber Feasibility Study is progressing well. Data is now being collected to allow Innovative Technology Consulting Group to construct a plan for fiber installation that takes into account all available technology funding, E-rate discounts, and any existing fiber networks that could be utilized to our benefit. A steering committee made up of school district personnel will evaluate the initial drafts of the study in order to make sure that its findings and recommendations are truly feasible and valuable to all.

Web Server Cleanup

Please take a few minutes to make sure you don't have unused documents and files residing inside your web folders on MVECA's web server. There is a tremendous amount of disk space being used for files that haven't been accessed in over a year. Also, please do not to create large download libraries on the server. Instead, you can link to the resources you need out on the web. If you post any student webs, do not allow students to archive large video clips on our server. There are also massive collections of photos on the server that have not been accessed this year. With your help, we can keep the web server running efficiently.

The Third Frontier Network

Ohio's OneNet Commission is making commitments to participate in the Third Frontier State Fiber Network Project. In an effort to fund this project, the OneNet Commission is discussing the reduction of per building subsidies to \$3000. A OneNet Ohio Joint Communique' (May 2003, vol. IV, issue III) states that "districts will greatly benefit from network improvement and up streamed bandwidth and should (be) more than compensate(ed) in lower operation costs in the future."

The Third Frontier Network (previously known as the Ohio Dark Fiber Initiative) is being created to provide advanced networking services to support higher education and research in the state of Ohio. The goal of this project is to create a premier network that will enhance research, education, and economic development that will help expand Ohio's role and reputation in networking technology. (Excerpt from <http://tfn.oar.net/>)

INFOhio UPDATE



by Jim Pesch

Sirsi Transition: For the last year MVECA area school libraries have been working on cleaning up their data in anticipation of the transition to the Sirsi Unicorn K-12 product. The fruits of those labors will be seen this summer as we begin the complex task of de-duping each district's records. Much work remains to be done, but we are confident that it can be completed over the next year. The pilot schools in the state will switch to the new Sirsi product this summer. Learning from their experience will help other districts transition more smoothly. MVECA schools are expected to complete their transition for the 2004-2005 school year.

Please visit the INFOhio webpage for general information about the transition at <http://www.infohio.org/LibraryStaff/Transition.html>. For detailed information about your district please visit the transition section of the MVECA website at http://www2.mveca.org/infohio/Transition_Documents.htm.

Electronic Resources: Through the generosity of one of INFOhio's partner organizations, American National Biography will be funded for the next two school years. You may recall that American National Biography was slated to be discontinued because of funding cuts.

On May 29, INFOhio will learn if a grant request for additional electronic resources will be funded. If funding is received the following types of resources will be available to all Ohio residents.

- Primary source documents on American history
- Spanish language encyclopedia
- Science encyclopedia
- Art image collection
- Online dictionaries on a wide variety of subjects
- Ohio and other selected full-text newspapers
- Literature collections of poetry, drama and fiction



FISCAL UPDATE

by Michelle Powers and Deb Dinnen

Is it Fiscal Year End already? I'm afraid so! It's a busy time in the Treasurer's Office and the Fiscal Support Staff here at MVECA will be here to help! There are many exciting things happening. The May release of the State Software offers many enhancements and corrections to problems.

PAYROLL- USPS

SERS/STRS Rate Change – Changes were made to the software to accommodate STRS advanced wages and deducting at two rates – earnings in FY03 at 9.3% and earnings in FY04 at 10%.

NEW CONTRACT – NEWCNT was changed to reset the New Hire Reporting flag in the BIOSCN when needed.

PAYROLL CD – A new feature! If desired, an automated process can be implemented for copying payroll reports to a web accessible directory in PDF format for viewing and archival purposes (burned to CD).

PAY DEDUCTIONS - PAYDED and DEDRPT have been combined into a single screen formatted program. Users may run PAYDED using the Projection option to get just a deduction report without paying deductions (the old DEDRPT).

BUDGETARY-USAS

NEW HIRE REPORTING FOR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS – A new report named VENHIRE has been created to satisfy the New Hire reporting requirements. A new hire reporting flag has been added to the vendor file, as well as the Hire Date and Birth Date.

Check out the Training Calendar on the web page to register for upcoming events:

- June 4, 9:30-? - Open Lab for new hires, BRDDIS, LEVPRO
- June 6, 9:30-noon - Safari/UDMS Report writing
- June 11, 9:30-? - Open Lab for USPS Clean up of JOBSCN, DEDSCN, and NEWCNT

You can contact the fiscal help desk by emailing fiscal@mveca.org. Your message will go to Michelle and Deb.

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE

by Bill Schroeder



As the school year comes to a close it is evident that the educators in the MVECA area have made substantial progress in video distance learning this year. Many of the teachers that participated in the MVECA Summer Institute last summer took their expertise and became distance learning leaders in their buildings and districts. Teachers had such varied connections as an IP videoconference with Senator Michael DeWine in Washington D.C., viewing a live open heart surgery while interacting with the surgical team, participating in debates with students across the state, to speaking with actors from the Globe Theater in London, England.

The important thing to remember with the successes is that they were all based on meeting curricular objectives. This shows that hard working and creative educators can take a new technology and use it to enhance their classroom while meeting state mandated guidelines. It is through these educators that our entire profession is able to keep a step ahead in a field that requires us to change as fast as the times around us change.

I encourage all administrators to give these teachers a special nod of encouragement for taking the extra time to learn how to implement innovative methods of teaching into their classrooms. It was a large task with large results.

IVDL SUMMER INSTITUTE -Aug. 11-12-13 - register NOW



IMPORTANT DATES

Tues., June 3	EMIS Year End report workday 9:00-3:00
Wed., June 4	USPS Open Lab (new hires, BRDDIS, LEVPRO) 9:30-?
Thurs., June 5	EMIS Year End report workday 9:00-3:00
Thurs., June 5	SWISS Meeting 10:00-2:00
Fri., June 6	Safari, UDMS, SSWAT 9:30-12
Tues., June 10	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Wed., June 11	USPS Spring Clean Up 9:30-4
Thurs., June 12	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Tues., June 17	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Thurs., June 19	MVECA Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
Thurs., June 19	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Tues., June 24	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Thurs., June 26	EMIS report workday 9:00-3:00
Fri., July 4	MVECA CLOSED
Aug. 11-12-13	IVDL Summer Institute

A New Foreign Language? An English essay written by a 13 year old British teenager in text messaging short-hand starts: "My smmr hols wr CWOT. B4, we used 2go2 NY 2C my bro, his GF & thr 3 : kids FTF. ILNY, it's a gr8 plc." Translation:

"My summer holidays were a complete waste of time. Before, we used to go to New York to see my brother, his girlfriend and their three screaming kids face to face. I love New York. It's a great place."

LONDON (Reuters) -Sun Mar 2, 9:14 PM E

"I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident."

— Thomas Alva Edison

Digital Whiteboards Outsell Traditional Chalkboards

Schools across the country are gradually replacing the chalkboard with its high-tech, wired cousin: the interactive digital whiteboard. Digital whiteboards, which cost anywhere from several hundred dollars to \$20,000, have been outselling chalkboards for the past five years because teachers can do anything on a digital whiteboard they can do on a computer. However, instead of students crowding around a teacher seated at a 15-inch computer monitor, they can stay at their seats and view a 4- by 5-foot screen.

Here is a description of a math teacher using a digital whiteboard: "When he runs out of writing space, instead of erasing the board, he taps it gently with a finger. The board instantly erases itself, and his notes are saved, reappearing in miniature on the right side of the screen. To solve an equation, his students pull out calculators from their backpacks. Instead of following suit, the teacher touches the whiteboard screen lightly, his fingers acting like a computer mouse, and up pops a two-dimensional, 3-foot, sleek, black graphing calculator..."

A digital whiteboard works in conjunction with an Internet-accessible computer.

Cyber-cheating??

Google Answers, staffed by a cadre of 500-plus freelance researchers, takes people's questions - for example, a calculus problem or a term paper topic - and provides answers and links to information. Google charges a listing fee of 50 cents and, if someone comes up with a satisfactory response, the user pays that researcher a previously entered bid (minimum: \$2).

Highlights and status of accountability changes for 2002-2003

(Exert from the Feb/March 03 Newsletter to Superintendents from Susan Tave Zelman)

As you are aware, Ohio's new accountability plan that incorporates federal requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the current report card indicators and adds a performance index measure and a growth calculation, was approved recently by the State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education. Some of the key changes to the accountability system are highlighted below.

As a reminder, the 2003 Building Report Cards (reflecting 2001-2002 data) are being mailed to parents in March 2003. The changes below are among those that will be reflected in the next Local Report Card (LRC) that uses 2002-2003 data.

Key Changes:

- The Department will release the 2002-2003 LRC in August 2003 to meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirement that report card data is available prior to the start of each school year.
- School buildings will receive designations of Excellent, Effective, Continuous Improvement, Academic Watch, or Academic Emergency for the first time.
- Summer fourth-grade reading and ninth-grade (as reported at the end of ninth-grade) assessment results will not be included in the accountability calculations. This is due, in part, to the new timeline and, in part, because of the federal regulations that state "if a student takes the state assessments for a particular subject or grade level more than once, the state must use the student's results from the first administration to determine AYP."
- The highest score from October and March administrations of the fourth-grade reading test and the Ninth-grade Proficiency Tests will be used for accountability calculations for 2002-2003 only. Multiple administrations of the Ninth-grade Proficiency Test and the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) will be given in the future, but only the March 10th-grade OGT scores will count in the AYP calculations.
- Students with disabilities are no longer exempt from the accountability calculations. This is in Senate Bill 1 (Ohio Revised Code Section 3302.03 (E)) and in NCLB.
- All alternate assessment participants count towards the 95 percent test participation requirement without limitation, as does taking the test with approved accommodations or without accommodations.
- The percentage of alternate assessment results that can be counted as proficient is pending final guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. The limitation of .5 percent (one half of one percent) of the tested population of the district was removed from the final regulations released in Dec. 2002. Although the U.S. Department of Education has stated that they will propose new parameters for the use of alternative assessments, no proposal has been released to date.
- The only students who are exempt from the calculations to determine the percentage proficient or above are those students in a school building for less than a 'full academic year' (operationalized as 120 consecutive days of enrollment for 2002-2003). Students in the school for less than a year but in the district for 120 consecutive days count for the district. Students not meeting the 120 consecutive day requirement will count in the calculations for the state.

- The participation rate is calculated based on students enrolled in the building at the time of spring testing. The mobility exemption does not apply to the test participation calculation.
- The calculation of the percentage of students at or above proficient will include only tested students in the denominator. This is a change from calculations for previous LRCs that included all students required to take and pass in the denominator. Remember, however, that participation rates lower than 95 percent will result in a school or district missing AYP.
- Students do not always count at the school in which they are enrolled. Exceptions include students who are educated in a school within their resident district that is not their 'default home school' or students educated through a special education cooperative. When this decision is made at the volition of the district, the students can be counted back in their home school's results. An example is a school that educates all of the LEP students in the district because of expertise or resources – those students may count in their home school's calculations.
- There is no exemption for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in the federal accountability regulations. LEP students are expected to participate in the reading and math proficiency tests with accommodations this year.
- The March administration of the OGT will not be used as an indicator for 2002-2003, but will be used as the baseline for AYP calculations from 2003-2004 onward. The 2003-2004 administration of the OGT will be used as a report card indicator and in the AYP calculations.
- The graduation rate for the 2002-2003 and future LRCs will lag one year so we can continue to use the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recommended method for the calculation. This will allow us to include summer graduates and returning withdrawals in the statistic for the 2002-2003 graduation rate (both data elements will not be entered into EMIS until after the release of the 2002-2003 LRC so it will be used on the 2003-2004 LRC).

To meet the federal release deadline for the next report card, we will use the ODE LRC Web site to meet the public dissemination requirement in law.

Percent Proficient Goals for AYP for 2002-03

To be applied to each district, building and subgroup

Grade Level	Subject	Baseline	2002-03 Annual Goal
Grade 4	Reading	40.47%	40.47%
	Math	35.86%	35.86%
Grade 6	Reading	36.00%	36.00%
	Math	36.83%	36.83%
Grade 9	Reading	78.03%	78.03%
	Math	53.11%	53.11%

Process of aligning SB 1 with NCLB

ODE is in the process of working with the legislature to align Ohio statute with new federal requirements of No Child Left Behind. We hope all necessary changes are adopted before the release of the next LRC in August 2003.

Announcing...

MVECA's Second Annual June Administrator Update

"Update on Community Schools Legislation/Funding Opportunities"

Mike Carder, TRECA

"eLearning in Action - What Works for Us"

Sandy Warner, Greene Co ESC

"Sneak Preview of new DASL, Progress Book Software,
and new Special Education Module"

MVECA Staff





WHEN: Monday, June 23, 2003
8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Locust Hills Golf Course - Banquet Room
5575 N. River Road, Springfield
937-265-5152
(driving directions available upon request)

WHO: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Leaders,
Technology Staff, Guidance Dept., and anyone
with an interest in the topics

Lunch and refreshments will be provided by MVECA.



TO REGISTER: Please register on-line at www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm or RSVP to Sue Ann Welsh
(welsh@mveca.org)  (767-1468) 
by **Wednesday, June 18, 2003.**

