



Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association



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MVECA

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DSL (Data for Student Learning)

DSL continues to be improved! New screens/reports include attendance incidents, emergency contact information, group membership listing, an improved transcript, Oct. 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 to make navigation faster and easier.

Also new is the ability to display results of your off grade tests into the DSL database, including Stamford-9, ITBS, and OOPT. You must provide MVECA with the tape from the testing company containing the test data. We do not receive this data automatically for off grade testing like we do for Proficiency testing. Remember that we can also load your student pictures for you into DSL, if we have the file from your picture company, if you desire.

STUDENT NUMBER NEEDED: You must have a student number associated with each student's off grade test record so that the data can be attached to the correct student in your database. When students (or teachers) complete answer forms for scoring, be certain to include each student's EMIS number on the scoring form so that the results will get associated with the correct student.

DSL User Support: We recognize the need to schedule more DSL training sessions, as well as set up a User group where we can highlight the latest DSL release and share ideas for using DSL. We also see a need to train more SuperUsers, since some have left their former positions in your districts. You may also want to know that representatives from MCOECN have met with Marilyn Troyer from ODE to determine if we can receive support from ODE for inservice/training and documentation for DSL staff development. We will keep you informed of any possibilities for additional training and support.



Annual Report

Included with this newsletter is MVECA's Annual Report for FY 2001. We have shared our income and expenditure information with you so that you can be better informed about our funding status and operating costs. We expect some changes in the next few years in the way we are funded. We need to plan for your future needs and continue to look for ways to provide you the best technology support for the lowest possible cost.

ODE SURVEY

In December, ODE will be sending surveys to district superintendents and other selected district staff (EMIS coordinators, Treasurers, etc.) concerning the services you receive from your DA (Data Acquisition) site. If you receive this newsletter, then your DA site, most likely, is MVECA. This survey is being developed by ODE and will be returned directly to ODE. MVECA has no input into questions that will be included on the survey and, to date, we have not seen the items that will be included on this survey. It is our best guess that your responses to the items on this survey will help ODE determine whether we (MVECA and all DA sites) will receive the 10% of our state funds that ODE is holding back for FY02. We certainly urge you to complete the surveys honestly and truthfully. However, we at MVECA would like to hear from you directly if there is anything you need that we are not providing, or if you have suggestions about how we can improve our services. We want to serve your needs and we need to know how we can best provide the assistance you most need.

"I believe man will not merely endure, he will prevail because he has a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance." William Faulkner

EMIS News by Laura Gallogly



We Survived! All districts reported their October EMIS data on time!

ODE will be sending out October reports weekly for you to check and make corrections. Please keep in mind that if you do make corrections, you must request that MVECA resubmit your EMIS October data to ODE.

Updated Local Report Cards are being released weekly. *PLEASE* make sure your EMIS Coordinator has printed this document and your district administrators have checked it.

Please see the Local Report Card schedule for dates for final processing of June, September, and October EMIS data that affect the LRC. **SEE INSERT FOR LOCAL REPORT CARD SCHEDULE.**

MVECA will be submitting the address file to ODE by December 8, 2001 for those districts that have chosen state distribution of the LRC. Please send an E-mail to GALLOGLY if you have chosen the State distribution method.

November 28, 2001 – EMIS Technical Assistance (call for an appointment)



INFOhio by Jim Pesch

On October 15th we held our first users group meeting with representatives from 11 of the 13 MultiLIS-automated districts present. Also in attendance were representatives from 2 non-automated districts. Agenda topics included: a discussion of your training needs and how to accommodate them, demonstration of the new MultiLIS reports menus, updates on changes in the MultiLIS and WEB2 software, discussion of the enhancements to the electronic resources, and an overview of the MORE program (Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere) including revised pricing.

Terri Fredericka, Executive Director of INFOhio, was on hand to give an update on the funding and direction of the INFOhio project. Terri made it quite clear that the INFOhio project is still a grass-roots effort and the best way to become involved is to join one of the several INFOhio task forces. Task force discussions are conducted primarily on-line and require little out-of-building time. Visit the INFOhio web site to sign up.

A REMINDER: The system hosting the INFOhio Union Catalog and MediaNet will be taken offline the first Friday of each month for routine maintenance. The system will become unavailable at 4:00 p.m. and should be brought back online by 5:00 p.m.

The Chicken and Egg Phenomenon: Integrating IVDL content into existing curricula

by Bill Schroeder

The most common question I get is "What is out there that I can use in my class?" Sounds like a simple enough question. However, the options for programming are so vast there is no simple answer to this question. The better question is "What activities in my curriculum would benefit from an interactive program?" The next step is finding the right program. To start this search, go to www.schoolvoice.org. Schoolvoice is a database of many of the content providers around the country. It provides links or contact information so that you may examine the programs being offered and decide if they are right for your class. If you can't find one that you are looking for, do not worry. Many sites will work with you to develop a unique program for your class. We have worked with the Columbus Zoo to develop a program on careers in marine biology. We are currently working with Wright Patterson Air Force Base to develop a program on terrorism and bioterrorism. These programs are being designed for consumer science, social studies and science classes. If you would like to begin using IVDL please contact me and I will work with you every step of the way, from finding a content provider to developing a program that will fit the specific needs of your classroom. I can be reached through email at the following address: schroeder@mveca.org.

Student Services Update by Sue Harvey

It's hard to believe it but it will soon be Christmas and then a New Year. It seems that just when we start to get into this year we have to start working on next year.

Here are some tips for items coming up:

1. Remember to run the B118 and the B117 to update course history information at semester end.
2. Notify me if you would like to have your master schedule rolled over.
3. Run B106 and B107 to transfer students into your school for scheduling.

Trainings on schedule:

December 5, 2001 – REPO – learn how to change the grade level and etc. for labels

December 12, 2001 – Grad Verification Training



Important Dates

Dec. 3-4-5	SOITA Conference - Dayton
Dec. 5	SIS Training - REPO
Dec. 12	SIS Grad Verification Training
Dec. 14	Fiscal Calendar Yearend Mtg. 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 25	MVECA Offices Closed
Jan. 1	MVECA Offices Closed
Jan. 21	MVECA Offices Closed
Feb. 4-6	SchoolNet Conference - Columbus
Feb. 18	MVECA Offices Closed

Fiscal Reminder from Michelle Powers

Happy Holidays! Occasionally we get so wrapped up in our day to day routine that we forget about options that can make your life a little easier! I wanted to remind everyone using the USASCN that you can split quantities and also split pricing.

CHARGING AN ITEM TO MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS

POSCN will allow one line item to be charged to more than one account. The line item will be divided, displaying the separate account codes on the screen; however, the line item will be combined into a single item on the printed purchase order. In order for POSCN to recognize a multiple account line item, the first account code entered is called the "combined item" meaning this is the line item the rest of the items are being combined into. The rest of the items that are to be combined with the first item are called "split items." A split item requires a "-" to be entered in the Description field. The "-" indicates the line item should not be printed on the purchase order, but instead included in the "combined item."

There are 2 ways of combining items:

1. Splitting the Quantity: involves splitting the quantity of a particular item among several different account codes. The price must be the same for each item. The price may be left blank and POSCN will know to assign the previous item's unit price.

EXAMPLE 1a: how the screen will look in POSCN

Qty	Description	Price	Account Code
50	Reading Books	\$15.00	05 001 1100 521 0000 000000 001 00 000
100	-	\$15.00	05 001 1100 521 0000 000000 005 00 000
100	-	\$15.00	05 001 1100 520 0000 000000 006 00 000

EXAMPLE 1b: how line item will be printed on the purchase order.

Qty	Description	Price	Total
250	Reading Books	\$15.00	\$3,750.00

2. Splitting the Price: involves splitting the price of a particular item among several different account codes. The quantity field must be left blank for the split items.

EXAMPLE 2a: how the screen will look in POSCN

Qty	Description	Price	Account Code
1	Color Printer	\$250.00	05 001 2411 740 0000 000000 060 00 000
-		\$275.00	05 001 2421 640 0000 000000 010 00 000
-		\$300.00	05 001 2411 740 0000 000000 030 00 000

EXAMPLE 2a: how line item will be printed on the purchase order.

Qty	Description	Price	Total
1	Color Printer	\$825.00	

Note: Purchase orders with split items will display the "-" followed by the combined item's description in various USAS reports so they will be easy to distinguish.

TECH NEWS

SchoolNet Plus Round Five by Thor Sage

Now that it seems definite that schools throughout Ohio will enjoy another round of SchoolNet Plus funding, questions do arise as to how well problems regarding "total cost of ownership" will be addressed in funding guidelines. Last year we heard about the births and deaths of initiatives such as RUST and CARE that attempted to address concerns about replacement cycles and support costs. This year though, it looks like SchoolNet Plus is simply going to add yet another Roman numeral to its name (they will now be able to boast the same number of sequels as Rocky). In an effort to find out the details behind SN+5 funding allocation, we asked Barb Bloxam at SchoolNet for help. She promptly emailed us a portion of the Q & A, which can be found at <http://www.ohioschoolnet.k12.oh.us/resources/faq/frameset.asp>. **We have included some questions and answers in this newsletter's enclosure.**

Ohio Technology Leadership Regional Academies

The academy is designed to provide attendees with awareness and management tools and to enhance personal productivity skills related to technology. Activities will accommodate varying skill levels. This academy is open to all superintendents and assistant superintendents. The training in our region will be Jan. 16-17 at Laurel Oaks Career Center. Contact basa@basa-ohio.org or their website at www.basa-ohio.org for more information or to register. It will be a PC based workshop.



New Statewide Organization Forming for Tech Coordinators

The newly formed technology coordinator professional organization has changed its name to the *Association of Technology Professionals Serving Ohio Schools (ATPSOS)*. For information or to get involved, contact Thor at MVECA. He will be representing our area at the Steering Committee meetings.

Technology Standards for Teachers

The Ohio SchoolNet Commission and several of Ohio's key education stakeholder groups are working to adopt International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards for classroom teachers. This process will begin with the development of a statewide, pre-K-18 framework for teacher professional development in educational technology. Plans are for skills from SchoolNet's Novice/Practitioner matrices to be embedded inside those standards.

SchoolNet expects to release the revised Novice/Practitioner matrices at the 2002 State Technology Conference, February 3, 4, 5, and 6 at the Columbus Convention Center. *If you wish to have input into this process, you need to be in touch with SchoolNet before the work is finalized.*

Impact of the New State Budget on Technology




The full impact of the budget will not be realized until the effects of the DeRolph III decision are known.

At this writing, the funding for DA sites subsidies has been decreased in both years of the budget.

For FY02, DA sites will see a decrease of -6.8% and in FY03 a -22.8% decrease in funds over FY01 levels. This decrease, coupled with the EMIS subsidy reduction of -25% for FY02 and -33.3% in FY03, will require DA sites to reassess fees that Member districts pay just to maintain the current level of services. Local districts did receive an 18.5% increase in their EMIS funding for FY 02 and 15.9% increase for FY 03. It appears that the state is making a conscious decision give funds directly to local districts instead of DA Sites and will expect local districts to purchase needed services from DA Sites through service level agreements. We at MVECA have always written service level agreements for each district specifying the kind of and cost of services we will provide for you. We will need to review these fees and agreements in light of the budget cuts to reflect the funding changes.

INFOhio electronic resources were reinstated in the biennial budget The new budget also allocates an additional \$1.4 million in the first year and another \$600,000 in the second year of the biennium to increase connectivity to public schools. Ohio will use its tobacco settlement to continue support for the ONEnet project, INFOhio online resources, IVDL, and SchoolNet Plus funding for 6th grade computers for Ohio Schools. Any further cuts in ODE's budget may well affect any of these numbers.

		DA Site Funding		Compared to FY01 Funding		
	FY02	\$11,510,000			-6.8%	
	FY03	\$10,716,791			-22.8%	
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%
OTHER				FY02	FY03	
	*ONEnet Ohio (Tobacco subsidy)			\$1,841,655	\$1,917,293	
	*IVDL (Tobacco subsidy)			\$4,086,000	-0-	
	SMRS (Student Mgmt. Records System - AAL)			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
	Oracle database			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	
	Oracle Financial Package			-0-	-0-	

If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." — William Penn



330 E. Enon Road
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Computers to be added to sixth-grade classrooms through State's SchoolNet Plus program
(Press Release - September 24, 2001)

(Columbus, OH) - The Ohio SchoolNet Commission is pleased to announce that computers will be added to sixth-grade classrooms statewide through the fifth round of Ohio's SchoolNet Plus program. Excerpt from: <http://www.ohioschoolnet.k12.oh.us/home/frameset.asp>.

Barb Bloxam at Schoolnet provided the following Q & A, which can be found at <http://www.ohioschoolnet.k12.oh.us/resources/faq/frameset.asp>

Question 1: How many multimedia computers does SchoolNet anticipate will be purchased using SchoolNet Plus Round 5 funds?

Answer 1: SchoolNet anticipates that districts will be able to purchase a collective total of 22,000-40,000 multimedia computers with Round 5 funds.

Question 2: When will the application for SN + Round 5 be made available to districts?

Answer 2: The application is anticipated to be released by October 31, 2001.

Question 3: Will schools be required to purchase equipment from vendors contracted with SchoolNet?

Answer 3: School districts have the option of choosing their own vendor provided that the workstations, servers, laptops and service level agreements purchased meet or exceed the minimum SchoolNet guidelines, which includes matching or beating the statewide pricing and service level agreements.

Question 4: When will district allocations for Round 5 be made available?

Answer 4: District allocations will be made available to districts in October.

Question 5: Will all districts participate in Round 5 during FY02?

Answer 5: Allocations for Round 5 will be issued over a two-year period, and those districts with the highest financial need will receive their allocations first.

Question 6: Can districts still have a balance from Round 4 when they apply for Round 5?

Answer 6: All districts, unless they have been granted an extension by SchoolNet, must submit a Final Expenditure Report for Round 4 prior to receiving any Round 5 funds.

Question 7: Are community schools eligible for Round 5?

Answer 7: Community schools are only eligible for Round 5 in FY02 if they met the requirements for participation in the CommunitySchools.Net program in FY01 and if they service grade 6 students. To be eligible for Round 5 in FY03, community schools must meet FY02 CommunitySchools.Net program criteria and service grade 6 students.

Question 8: What can districts use their Round 5 funds to purchase?

Answer 8: While the majority of Round 5 funding is earmarked for the procurement of computer hardware, such as servers and workstations, districts may use up to 30 percent of their Round 5 funds to purchase software, maintenance, personnel support, electrical upgrades, peripherals, professional development and recycling of obsolete equipment.

Question 9: Can Round 5 funds be spent in grades other than in grade 6?

Answer 9: To help districts provide technology resources where needed most, funds from Round 5 can be used for hardware acquisition, upgrades and maintenance in sequentially higher grade levels once the 1:5 multimedia computer to student ratio has been achieved in grade 6.

Question 10: Can districts lease computers in Round 5?

Answer 10: Yes, districts can lease computers in Round 5. Districts must be prepared to support the lease agreement if Round 5 funds are insufficient, and the district must at the end of Round 5 ensure that computers still exist in grade 6.

Question 11: What is the intent of Round 5 funds?

Answer 11: The intent of Round 5 is to assist districts in equipping classrooms with multimedia computers in a ratio of 1 computer per every 5 students in grade 6 as a priority.