

A Word from MC's CEO

"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." – Rainer Maria Rilke

As we all look forward to greener trees and lawns, bluer skies, and warmer temperatures, the General Assembly is engaged in the biennial work of developing the state operating budget for the next two years. We are fortunate that the trend for ITC support is on an upward trajectory. Historically, ITCs have been an efficient mechanism for schools to get their information technology needs met; however, as schools become more and more reliant on ITCs for a wider variety of services, there is a need for more resources. The operating budget, both as it was submitted

by the Governor and as it is being contemplated in the House, recognizes the good work of the ITCs and is poised to provide increases for ITC work and for school district IT needs. Moreover, the budget and some ESSER grant support will expand ITC internet capacity up to 200GB and lease the fiber connections from ITCs to OARnet for the next ten years at no cost to ITCs. We are delighted that this connectivity expansion will soon "bloom" for all ITCs. Happy spring!

– Geoff Andrews

SSDT Training Recordings

Throughout the year, the SSDT holds various train-the-trainer sessions with ITC fiscal support staff in order to review features and enhancements that have been made to the software. These sessions are called "Fridays with Fiscal" because — you guessed it — most of them take place on Fridays. The training sessions are recorded for those ITC fiscal staff who are not able to attend and are also available for all state software users to review. These recordings are assets to be shared with districts to provide additional tips and tricks that may benefit daily processing.

The recordings from these sessions are easily accessible under several playlists on the [SSDT YouTube channel](#). Current playlists include USAS, USPS, Inventory, and Release Recaps. Last month, SSDT conducted annual USAS and USPS overview sessions that reviewed various processes in the software. The recordings for the overview sessions can be lengthy, so chapters were created within each recording, allowing viewers to quickly navigate to a specific section of the video to review a particular process. The graphic is an example of the chapters created for the expenditure process recording.

USAS Overview 2023 - Day 2 - Expenditure Process



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This video reviews the steps involved in the Expenditure Process in USAS.

Chapters:

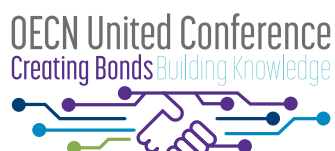
- 00:00 Introduction
- 01:47 Brief overview of Expenditure Process steps
- 02:54 Requisition processing, reports and related options available in the requisition grid
- 41:40 Converting requisitions to purchase orders
- 44:47 Purchase Order processing, reports and related options available in the PO grid
- 1:08:08 AP Invoice processing, reports and related options available in AP Invoice grid
- 1:20:24 Payables
- 1:23:23 Disbursement Processing, reports and related options available in disbursement grid

For a new user, the chapters provide an excellent way to learn each process without getting too overwhelmed.

TIP: In each SSDT monthly newsletter, the YouTube playlist links are located in the top-right section under the 'Useful Links' area.

Contact Michelle Drewes for more information (michelle.drewes@managementcouncil.org).

OECN United Conference: Creating Bonds, Building Knowledge



Watch for information
later in the year for
OECN United 2024!

The first annual **OECN United Conference** took place March 30-31 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark, Ohio, and was a resounding success. With 240 attendees, 41 sessions, 6 roundtable sessions, and 2 social events, ITCs and sponsors gathered, networked, and socialized with energy and eagerness. Breakout sessions centered on technology/security, fiscal/HR, SIS/EMIS, INFOhio, and other topics pertinent to ITCs. See you next year!

Pandemic EBT Concludes Summer 2023; Summer EBT Begins in 2024

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) began in 2020 as a temporary program. It was anticipated to end; however, the federal public health emergency (PHE) expiration continued to be extended. In February, President Biden announced that the PHE would end May 11, 2023.

What it Means for ITCs and Districts

Students eligible for school-year P-EBT may be submitted for P-EBT through the month of May as Ohio's plan states that students are funded through the month in which the PHE ends (May). Schools may not submit students for June. P-EBT eligibility is based on meeting all four of the following criteria:

- » Schools must participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP);
- » Schools must meet the five-consecutive-day requirement for reduced attendance or single-student absence due to Covid;
- » Students must be eligible for free/reduced meals; and
- » Student absence must be due to Covid.

Because P-EBT was in place for the 2022-23 school year, Ohio will have a summer P-EBT program. Schools participating in

NSLP may submit summer P-EBT for all free/reduced eligible students who were not participating in virtual learning. Schools will be notified when the window opens to submit their summer P-EBT files. ITCs are encouraged to work with districts to pull the summer P-EBT files. Additional guidance will be available after Ohio's summer plan is approved.

What Happens Summer 2024

The Consolidated Appropriations Action signed in December established a permanent summer EBT program beginning in 2024. While guidance is still being developed for this program, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) anticipates that schools will continue to submit students for summer EBT. The Management Council is working with ODE and JFS on the 2024 summer EBT program. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

Contact Missy Balbaugh for more information (melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org).



Ditch Local Installs of Library Software with SymphonyWeb

SymphonyWeb is a web-based version of the library admin client, WorkFlows. SymphonyWeb does not require software installation and includes nearly all the functionality of WorkFlows including circulation, cataloging, and reporting. More than forty-five districts have been participating in a SymphonyWeb Extended Pilot, providing input and helping develop documentation. Pilot districts will continue to have their costs covered through June FY24. As some districts that are not part of the pilot have expressed interest in using SymphonyWeb, it will be included as an additional service

option on the ITC's INFOhio Library Services Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. WorkFlows and BLUEcloud continue to be available at no additional cost and there are no plans to deprecate either of these tools.

SymphonyWeb pricing information is available in the [Management Council Community](#). Contact Erica Clay (clay@infohio.org) or Charles Schmiesing (schmiesing@infohio.org) if you have questions about SymphonyWeb.



OECN Salesforce Goes Live

As of March 20, state-level support teams completed the transition from Cherwell to Salesforce. The first group to begin using the new platform was the Ohio K12 Help support team followed by the Connectivity Champions and INFOhio. The remaining support teams transitioned on March 20.

The development roadmap is in process and will be posted in the MC Community by April 15. Based on feedback during webinars and from ITC and state support team staff,

additional features for the ITC portal are already in progress.

If you are interested in seeing the OECN Salesforce platform, please contact Missy Balbaugh (melissa.balbaugh@managementcouncil.org).



Libraries Connect Ohio Shared Collection Announced

On Thursday, March 16, the [State Library of Ohio Board](#) approved a grant to contribute LSTA funding to the Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) collection of digital content. INFOhio, OhioLINK, and OPLIN contribute funding for this collection of quality digital content. Through this unique partnership of library organizations, LCO provides a strong and consistent set of resources that demonstrates the benefits of shared services and effectively serves Ohioans of all ages.

The LCO collection of digital content is licensed for a period of five years, contingent upon funding, and is evaluated annually. Resources continuing from the previous collection include the EBSCO Core Collection, World Book resources, Oxford Research Encyclopedias and Very Short Introductions,

and ChiltonLibrary.

Additionally, the collection still includes Literature

Online: American & English Literature and the Sanborn

Insurance Maps. New to the

collection is CultureGrams. Please note: the LCO collection will no longer include Gale In Context: Elementary or Transparent Language Online.

[Learn more about the collection](#) and share the information with your districts. If you have questions about the LCO shared collection or other INFOhio digital resources, contact Erica Clay (clay@infohio.org).



Cyber Security at the OECN

Cyber security is on everyone's mind these days — and for good reason. The K-12 community is a rich target for cyber criminals because of the myriad of records historically kept on students. For the most part, these records are rather benign; however, some can contain sensitive information.

The OECN continues to make significant advances in protecting this sensitive data. Through the implementation of strong security frameworks, the sharing of information and knowledge, and taking advantage of collaborative purchasing agreements that help drive down costs, Ohio's ITCs are leading the way. Action items that you can encourage your districts to be aware of and address include:

- » Holding regular security awareness training
- » Using multi-factor authentication (MFA) for sensitive data
- » Utilizing endpoint protection, including advanced versions

- » Requiring strong and long passwords, including the use of password management systems
- » Staying up to date with system patching and addressing known vulnerabilities
- » Backing up critical data
- » Adopting and implementing incident response plans

Combating cyber criminals is an ongoing task that requires discipline and teamwork. And while no plan can provide 100% protection against a security breach, utilizing the steps above and working collaboratively in this fight will place districts in a more-secure position. Share with your districts the solutions you have in place to help address a majority of their needs.



Training for Your ITC Library Support Staff

We hope to see your ITC library support staff at these upcoming trainings and meetings:

- » What's New Webinar: May 3, via Zoom
- » Library Provider Training and Refresher: June 22, State Library of Ohio
- » INFOhio Users Council and Library Providers: August 1, State Library of Ohio

For those interested in learning from other SirsiDynix users, the [COSUGI](#) (Customers of SirsiDynix User Group) Conference is April 25-27. The event is online and \$100 for COSUGI members. Register under INFOhio's COSUGI membership to get the member rate. Questions about upcoming training or the COSUGI conference? Contact Charles Schmiesing (schmiesing@infohio.org).

MC Store Info and Updates

Lightspeed renewals are available on the MC Store as of March 31. Licenses can now be purchased as one- or three-year licenses or can be purchased in a bundle with other Lightspeed products. Please reach out to Madison Ernst (madison.ernst@managementcouncil.org) with any questions.



Upcoming Events / Meetings...

4/18-20 MC/ITC Training – CCL
4/18-21 OASBO Annual Conference & Expo
5/4 MC BOT Meeting
5/5 Membership Meeting
5/17 ITC Directors Meeting
6/7-8 MC Senior Staff Retreat
6/22 MC BOT Meeting
7/9-11 ITC Directors Retreat (dinner only on 7/9)

MC will be Closed in Observance of...

5/29 Memorial Day
7/4 Independence Day
9/4 Labor Day
11/23 Thanksgiving
11/24 Day After Thanksgiving
12/25 Christmas Day
12/26 Day After Christmas

