

## **Testimony in support of restoration of flat funding to Educational Technology Section 253.150**

The Ohio Educational Technology Centers serve the professional development needs of teachers and administrators as it relates to educational technology. With a focus on pedagogical practices, Ed Techs provide instruction on effective and meaningful applications of technology. Annually, we provide over 45,000 teachers face-to-face and online professional development in the use of classroom technology and exceed 120,000 hours of professional development delivered to P-20 educators. We need more funding to reach more teachers, not less.

I began my career as a middle school teacher. I taught seventh grade Language Arts. In my third year of teaching, my school became the first in the district to become an “all inclusion” building. This meant that all students, with all abilities, were taught in the same class. It was terrifying. Along with the rest of the faculty, I thought this was ludicrous and couldn’t imagine how I would meet the needs of a kid that couldn’t read along side of an Advanced Placement kid. But it is my nature to face challenges head on, with everything I’ve got. It turned out to be the most profound year of my educational career and an experience that changed the trajectory of my life. Through the use of technology, I was able to create lessons that met the diverse needs of my learners. We used videos to act out vocabulary lessons, cameras to document learning, and voice recorders that doubled as practice for reluctant readers and teaching aids for students with learning disabilities. Because of technology, my student that could not read because of a degenerative eye condition, made a 100 on a reading test. He was in tears. He hadn’t passed a reading test in three years. And it wasn’t just the students with disabilities that were successful. It was all students. Technology played a critical role in the success of my students.

The importance and critical nature of technology in education has only grown since then. The Ed Tech Centers continue to bring new and impactful educational technology experiences to educators.

This current year we have focused on Ohio's new learning standards, online resources for the new graduation options, and developing skills for next generation testing. I have included a professional development catalogue that my Ed Tech Center, ITSCO, publishes to give the committee a clearer picture of the types of services Ed Techs provide. The other Ed Tech Centers provide services similar to what you will find there. In addition to these catalogue of courses, a few specific examples of the Ed Tech

initiatives include:

- **Preparing Students for Online Assessments**  
In this face to face and online course, teachers learn how to use technology to strengthen their everyday curriculum while providing skills that will also strengthen students preparedness for online testing. With an emphasis on student growth (rather than technology), the Ed Tech professional development teaches how to help districts successfully implement online testing.
- **Tech Coaching for INFOhio**  
INFOhio provides valuable resources that would often go unused without meaningful professional development opportunities that build skills sets for integration
- **District Technology Coaching**  
Many districts do not have the internal resources to support the long term professional development needs of their teachers. Ed Techs provide long term technology coaching to assist teachers with technology practices and seamless integration in support of student work and learning.
- **Ongoing Help Center**  
Part of the beauty of being an Ed Tech Center is that we are able to provide ongoing help to our educators. Educators that participate in our courses are able to contact us at any time for follow questions, trouble shooting, or classroom integration assistance.

Whatever the need, Ohio EdTech's are there to help the classroom teacher. We don't deal with wires - we help with learning.

A 42% reduction means our classroom visits, and the number of teachers we are able to reach, would be cut almost in half. We are asking that the flat funding amount of \$1,778,879 as included in the executive budget be restored.

As I stated previously, we provide a wide array of tech integration topics to schools; some of which include Internet safety, use of tech tools like SmartBoards, iPads and Chromebooks, partnering with INFOhio to share free reading resources for Third Grade Reading, and much more.

Research shows 80 % of ALL jobs already require use of technology. If we are to prepare students for their future, we must first prepare teachers.

That is what this funding supports, training to help teachers help their students prepare for a better life, using the tools of technology.

At this time, I would like to invite Marysville Exempted School District to share their experiences with the Ed Tech Center, ITSCO.

I thank you for your time, and welcome any questions you may have.