

**House Finance Committee**

*March 28, 2017*

**Testimony on House Bill 49, the FY2018-2019 Biennial State Operating Budget**

*Theresa M. Fredericka, Director of INFOhio*

*Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network*

Chairman Smith, Ranking Minority Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of restoration to INFOhio's funding level to that of FY14/FY15. I am Theresa M. Fredericka, Director of INFOhio a division of the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network.

Let me begin by acknowledging the members of the Ohio Education Computer Network for the leadership provided to school libraries. Creating a robust technical foundation, they are overseeing the transition of school libraries from a print environment to a digital environment; they are facilitating the transformation much needed in our schools to support digital learning.

Since 1995, INFOhio has cost effectively— and more importantly, equitably—provided vital digital resources to all PreK-12 schools, public, private, charter, online, and home schools through the Ohio Education Computer Network. The *By the Numbers flyer* provided to you with this testimony illustrates our reach across the state and our effectiveness.

This morning I also acknowledge for their leadership the members of Libraries Connect Ohio which includes OPLIN (representing public libraries), OhioLINK (representing university libraries), and the State Library of Ohio. We pool our funds to take advantage of economies of scale in licensing agreements for digital content, which reduces the cost for all of us, thereby reducing the cost for the state of Ohio as a whole. This partnership gives a great advantage for Ohio's PreK-12 educational community.

The digital content that INFOhio provides is documented on the *Teach Learn* flyer also included with this testimony. You will find high-quality, reliable resources that support Ohio's Learning Standards. These are not available for free on the Internet and 96% of Ohio schools report that they could not provide these resources without INFOhio.

Working through the Ohio Department of Education, the INFOhio resources provide the digital content critical to teaching today's students how to research, think critically and then create new ideas. These skills are core to ensuring our PreK-12 students are ready for further education and the workforce. Funding INFOhio digital resources ensures that Ohio's PreK-12 students will be prepared to successfully transition from high school to the resources that Ohio students use for college assignments and Ohio employees use in the workforce. This is our contribution to the Ohio Attainment Goal 2025 set by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

What does this \$1.1 million cut mean to Ohio's 1.9 million PreK-12 students, their teachers, and their parents? Let's hear from one high school – River Valley High School, Gallia County – just how these resources which are provided to all Ohio schools at no cost, are being used daily to improve instruction.

Thank you.

Testifying on behalf of INFOhio:

Ann Stanley, Library Media Specialist, River Valley High School, Gallia County Schools

Brianna McGuire, Student, River Valley High School, Gallia County Schools

Dr. Timothy Edwards, Principal, River Valley High School, Gallia County Schools

*By The Numbers...*

# #INFOHIO WORKS FOR OHIO SCHOOLS

## Digital Content

**2.1 million**

Ohio students, teachers and administrators in public schools, community schools, non-public schools, virtual schools, and home schools with...

**24/7/365**

Access to INFOhio digital content and online learning tools.

**31 million**

Downloads of INFOhio digital content including eBooks, articles, digital videos, interactive experiments, images, and more!

**8.2 million**

Views of INFOhio developed web-based teaching and learning tools.

**15 million**

Views of INFOhio early literacy digital content that helps PreK-3 students increase early literacy and digital reading skills.

**1.4 million**

Searches in INFOhio's college and career readiness research tool, ISearch, which makes it easy for students to find trustworthy digital content.

**96% of Ohio schools report they could NOT provide these resources without INFOhio**

"Our students need problem solving and analytical skills to compete for tomorrow's jobs. We depend on the high-quality, grade level appropriate INFOhio resources and tools that help our students develop the research skills critical for their future success."

— John Miller, Superintendent, Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village

## Managing Assets



INFOhio's integrated library system serves as a consortium of **2,336** school libraries. (86% of the public school districts in Ohio) serving **1,162,992** students.



**1.9 million** items managed including books, eBooks, textbooks, and mobile devices.



**10.7 million** library searches annually.



**37.2 million** items circulated annually.

**INFOhio**  
OHIO'S PreK-12 DIGITAL LIBRARY

**mc·oecn**

INFOhio is a division of the Management Council  
of the Ohio Education Computer Network.



# #INFOHIO WORKS

## Cost Effective and Efficient

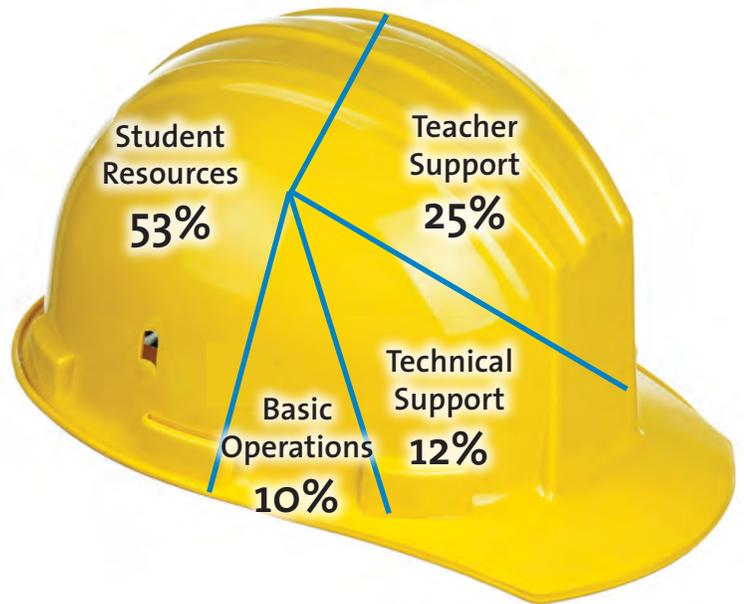
**\$51.8 million**  
in saved costs through shared  
services to Ohio schools

“There is no doubt that literacy is the single most significant skill we can teach young children to prepare them for their future. INFOhio opens the world of reading by providing equitable access to a variety of resources for all students, no matter what their reading levels. These resources help develop reading skills K-3 with engaging and relevant formats, while introducing young learners to digital tools necessary in a technological world.”

– Michelle J. Elia, Early Literacy Specialist, Special Education Consultant, State Support Team Region 5

“For Ohio’s students to develop the information literacy skills they need to engage with the digital materials used in universities and in future career opportunities, the rich collection of educational resources and services that INFOhio provides to all Ohio PreK-12 students is essential. INFOhio’s partnership with OhioLINK, OPLIN, and the State Library of Ohio lets Ohio’s libraries cooperatively and cost-effectively provide learning resources to all Ohioans at all stages of life.”

– Sara Bushong, Dean, Bowling Green State University Libraries



\$2.5M Budget School Year 2015-2016\*



Online guides, developed with input from the College Career Task Force, help students prepare for College Credit Plus, national college admissions tests, and workforce certification.

Visit  
[www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)

To find out more about improving learning in your district with INFOhio resources and professional development, contact [support.infohio.org](mailto:support.infohio.org)

Information in this report reflects data from school year 2015-2016



**Countless**

...the number of careers launched with the help of INFOhio.

# Learn

## Digital Resources for Students



Start your research with Isearch. It searches almost all of these resources, including videos and eBooks, with just one click.

Go to [infohio.org](http://infohio.org) and click any of the grade-level boxes.



### Ancestry Library Edition\*

Genealogical resources with census data, vital records, directories, and photos spanning back to the 14th century. Accessible only at school or public library. Grades: 6-12.



### Biography Reference Bank

Articles on a half-million people from antiquity through today. Grades: 6-12.



### BookFlix

Literacy resource pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks and learning activities. Combination builds love of reading while strengthening foundational reading skills. Lexiles included. Grades: PreK-3.



### Book Nook\*

Teachers and students learn how to create eBooks and book trailers and then use Book Nook to showcase and share their creations in a safe digital environment. Includes tools for teachers to integrate the creation process into instruction. Grades K-12.



### Consumer Health Complete

Articles cover all areas of health and wellness, from mainstream medical information to complementary, holistic, and integrated medicine. Grades: 6-12.



### Digital Video Collection

Hundreds of streaming educational titles that support Ohio's Learning Standards. Can be shown in classrooms or at home. Grades: 3-12.



### Early World of Learning

Develops language skills and introduces critical childhood themes for numbers, shapes, colors, opposites, and more within a highly interactive learning environment. Lexiles included. Grades: PreK-3.

\*This resource is not included in Isearch.



### Explora

Full-text articles from thousands of magazines, journals, and newspapers, along with images, videos, and primary sources. Organized by grade levels. Offers read-aloud and translation functions. Lexiles included. Grades: K-12.



### French & Spanish-language Encyclopedias\*

*Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos*, *L'Encyclopedie Decouverte*, and *Gran Enciclopedia Hispánica*. These are ideal for native speakers, bilingual students, and students learning French or Spanish. Grades: PreK-12.



### GO! Ask, Act, Achieve\*

By presenting the research process as a series of small steps, GO! helps beginning researchers learn skills needed to manage a project. GO! introduces a variety of INFOhio digital resources as well as websites with mind-mapping tools, note-taking strategies, and presentation ideas. Grades: 4-10.



### IWonder\*

Hundreds of age-appropriate, librarian-selected websites that support Ohio's Learning Standards. Helps students with homework and school research. Organized by subject area. Grades: 3-9.



### Literary Reference Center

Biographical and critical information on major works of authors of all nationalities and time periods. eBooks included. Grades: 9-12.



### Literature Online: American & English Literature

Cross-searchable database of full-text literature and criticism covering works of poetry, prose, and drama in English. Grades: 9-12.



### Points of View Reference Center

Multiple sides of current issues presented in overview essays and journal articles. Research for persuasive arguments and essays. Students develop analytical thinking skills. Lexiles included for most articles. Grades: 6-12.



### Research 4 Success\*

Blended-learning course presented in six modules teaches rigorous research skills needed for college and careers. Modules introduce key research skill with practice exercises and tools for formative, interim, and summative assessment. Grades: 9-12 & College Credit Plus students.



### School Library Catalog

Students in school libraries using INFOhio's CAT and CAT Jr. catalogs can easily search for books by Lexile range or other qualifiers to ensure they find a "just right" book. Grades: PreK-12.

[www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)

Username: infohio

Password: works

Your district or school may have its own password. Check with your school library media specialist to find out.



### Science Online

STEM resources including articles, diagrams, interactive virtual experiments, timelines, and biographies. Grades: 4-12.



### Storia\*

A collection of fiction and nonfiction eBooks specifically selected to support 4th grade learning standards. Students can access on multiple devices anywhere there's an Internet connection. Includes progress reports by student and class.



### World Book Timelines\*

Lets students build and share timelines. They can use content and images from World Book or upload their own.



### Science Reference Center

Full text of hundreds of science encyclopedias, reference books, and periodicals, searchable by topic and standard. Lexiles included. Grades: 4-12.



### World Book Web

Suite of online encyclopedias for grade school to high school and beyond. Includes eBooks, videos, activities, primary sources, read-aloud and translation features, and more. Lexiles included. Grades: PreK-12.

# Teach

## Digital Resources for Teachers



Powered by INFOhio

Encourage your students to start research with ISearch. It searches almost all INFOhio resources, including videos and eBooks, with just one click. ISearch also helps you easily find informational text and differentiate content.

Go to [infohio.org](http://infohio.org) and click any of the grade-level boxes.



### Curriculum Toolbox\*

Educator resources to support Ohio's Learning Standards. Select INFOhio resources and websites to quickly understand educational trends and practices to apply in the classroom.



### IMatrix\*

Online tool aligns inquiry skills with Ohio's Learning Standards, including College & Career Readiness. Search by grade level, subject area, and inquiry skill for articles, digital resources, lesson plans, and cross curricular connections to help students master the skills of forming questions, finding information, evaluating it, and presenting their findings.



### Research 4 Success Teacher's Guide\*

Make the most of the blended-learning course designed to help juniors and seniors develop the sophisticated research skills they need for college and careers with the R4S Teacher's Guide.



### Explora for Educators

Professional journals in all subject areas help educators and administrators keep up to date on education issues and practice. Includes lesson plans, student support sites, curriculum standards, and helpful educator websites.



### INFOhio Toolkit\*

Contains downloadable bookmarks, flyers, presentations, and tip sheets that help educators use INFOhio resources. Also includes technical help and search widgets.



### Success in Six\*

Self-paced online learning for educators. Learn the latest ways to use digital resources to support 1:1, blended learning, personalized learning, differentiation, and more. Work at your own pace through one or more of the six modules. Contact hours and college credit available.



### GO! Teacher's Guide\*

Make the most of GO! Ask, Act, Achieve, which helps new researchers manage their projects from start to finish, with this online guide. Includes suggestions for presenting the research process, background on the resources, and additional student resources.



### Learn With INFOhio Webinars\*

State and nationally known experts present on educational technology, trends, and techniques in this biweekly series of free webinars. Contact hours available. All webinars archived.

State and federal funds provide these online resources for all public and nonpublic PreK-12 schools, students, their parents, and educators across Ohio free of charge. The INFOhio Digital Library (the Core Collection) is brought to you by Libraries Connect Ohio, a partnership of Ohio's library networks—INFOhio (PreK-12), OhioLINK (higher education), and OPLIN (public)—and the State Library of Ohio. Access to these resources is funded in part through an Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio. The content does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the granting agencies.

Due to license agreements with the database publishers, the username/password may not be published electronically where it would be available to the general public. It cannot be posted on any district, building, or library web page that is publicly accessible. It cannot be included in any publications that are distributed electronically.

\*This resource is not included in ISearch. Please email [support@infohio.org](mailto:support@infohio.org) with questions or comments.

[www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)

**INFOhio** October 2016

INFOhio is a division of the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network.