

**Testimony in support of restoration of flat funding to
Educational Technology Sub. H.B. No. 64 Section 253.150
Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

Thank you Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking member Skindell, and members of the House Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify. My name is Amy Palermo and I am the Chair for the Ohio Educational Technology Centers as well as Executive Director for ITSCO, one of the eight Ed Techs in the state. I am testifying asking for your support of the amendment which restores funding to appropriation item 200465 Ohio EdTech centers and INFOhio. This is the same funding we received in FY15 with no increases in state funding.

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 use of classroom technology.

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 alongside of Advanced Placement kids. 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 disabilities. Because of the 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. 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.

I have, if you would like, you have a listing of professional development that will give you an idea of the kinds of services EdTechs offer.

This year the Ohio Ed Techs have focused on Ohio's new learning standards, blended learning, online resources for the new graduation options, and developing skills for next generation testing. In addition, we are also an ongoing Help Center for all districts.

The favorite thing that I get to say when I teach a class is that we are still here for you. Even if you are done with us for today, months from now when you need help implementing what you have learned today, we are here for you.

Whatever the need, Ohio EdTech's are there to help the classroom teacher. We don't deal with wires - we deal with learning. We are asking for your support of the amendment which restores funding to the Ohio Ed Techs and INFOhio. I welcome your questions.

Amy Palarmo
Volunteer Chair
Ohio EdTechs



EdTechs Help Schools!

In partnership with INFOhio

EdTech Funding Cut 42%

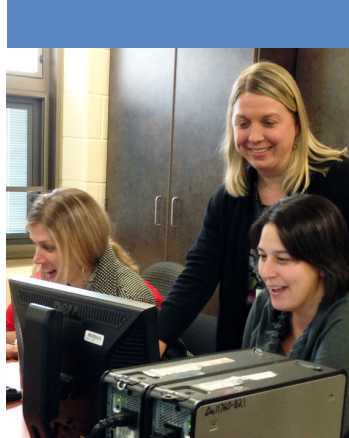
In a surprise move from the House, Ohio EdTechs were decreased from **\$1,778,879 to \$1,027,176**. INFOhio also received a 42% cut in funding. Both were flat funded in the executive budget. We are asking to restore flat funding for both agencies. This will result in **NO** increase in state spending.

ODE supports our request to restore flat funding. This will result in NO increase in state spending.

Without these dollars EdTechs will be forced to:



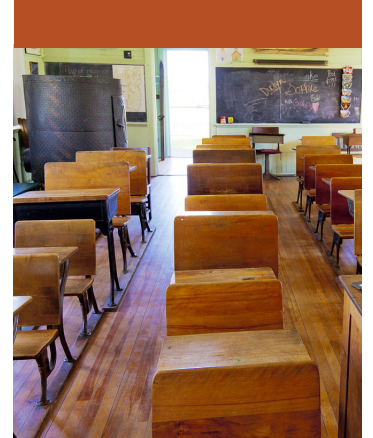
Hands-on professional development.



Kelly Pheneger providing professional development to North Baltimore teachers.



Laura Davis works with a student at Findlay High School.



A classroom without any technology.

Reduce professional development hours ~~120,000~~ to 55,000

Educators learn how to use technology to improve instruction. Specific courses in jeopardy include:

- Next Generation Testing, **9,355 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- Building 21st Century Skills with Google, **12,773 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- Blended Learning, **6,729 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- STEM, **13,658 hours** of professional development provided in past year

Reduce or eliminate most free professional development

Free professional development is available through free online and face-to-face classes with strategies for career readiness, online assessment and more. Specific programs in jeopardy include:

- Digital Learning Day Virtual Conference, **773 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- Educational technology consultation services, **5,551 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- Administrators Events, **1,150 hours** of professional development provided in past year
- Support for statewide and regional conferences, **3,930 hours** of professional development provided in past year

Increase in cost for fee-based services

Fee-based services that are now available at low cost that are in jeopardy include:

- Help with 1:1 computing
- Selection of online resources
- Chromebooks
- SmartBoards
- Many other teacher requested topics

Increase the gap for low-wealth, low-performing districts

The gap for low-wealth, low-performing districts to receive technology resources and high quality professional development will increase.

For many of these schools, Ohio EdTech and INFOhio classes and tech integration services are their only source of help when their district does not have an on-staff tech integration specialist

Ohio Educational Technology Agencies

The Ohio Educational Technology Agencies (EdTech) provide professional development that optimize the use of classroom technologies to improve student and school staff performance.

- CET, Cincinnati, OH
- ETSEO, Athens, OH
- ITSCO, Columbus, OH
- NWOET, Bowling Green, OH
- SOITA, Franklin, OH
- Western Reserve Public Media, Kent, OH
- WGTE, Toledo, OH
- WVIZ, Cleveland, OH

For more information please contact:

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We are asking that Section 263.150 appropriation item 200465 Technology Resources be restored to 'flat funding' level as introduced

- Restore EdTech to \$1,778,879 from \$1,027,176 (SubHB64)
- Restore INFOhio to \$2,500,000 from \$1,443,572 (SubHB64)

NO increase in state spending - same as FY15