



River Valley High School

8785 State Route 160 Bidwell, OH 45614
Phone: (740) 446-2926 Fax: (740) 446-7382
www.gallialocal.org

Jude Meyers, Superintendent

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Richard Stephens Asst. Principal/AD

Erin Bush, School Counselor

Dama Schultz, School Counselor

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Cera and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of continued full funding for INFOhio.

My name is Amy Stanley, I am the Library Media Specialist at River Valley High School in Bidwell, Ohio a position I have held for the last five years of my twenty one years of teaching. I have also completed the iCoach training through INFOhio. Library services are quickly changing in the age of technology. Teaching children how to find information and use it effectively is more challenging than ever before. INFOhio helps to make this process much easier by providing a "one stop shop" filled with multiple resources and databases that can be utilized by all grade levels in any school district while eliminating the guess work for students and teachers about whether or not a source is reliable.

Each school year I visit all of the English classrooms to do a presentation on research using INFOhio's resources. When I first started teaching at the high school I only introduced the research features to the seniors for their Capstone projects. Now, we are reaching into the Ninth grade classrooms to introduce the research features of INFOhio. With the addition of our One to One Chromebook Initiative, students have reliable research tools and much more at their fingertips with INFOhio. Our students are using these resources on a daily basis, whether it is to find primary sources for a research project, finding a topic to write a persuasive speech, read a classic piece of literature, create a timeline for a history assignment or complete a science experiment, all of these can be done by utilizing the resources from INFOhio. Using the EBSCO databases from INFOhio provides students with reliable sources of information. The EBSCO resources are also the same resources that colleges and universities are expecting their students to use and be able to navigate as soon as they arrive on their campuses. Having these available to our students and teaching them how to use them is invaluable as we are trying to create college and career ready citizens.

Our students are also utilizing "Ohio Means Jobs" we access through INFOhio's Curriculum Toolbox. They are taking practice AP and practice ACT exams. Our Family and Consumer Science and Business teachers utilize this feature to help high school students to explore careers and the paths they can take upon graduation. College Credit Plus Students, who are taking online classes at the high school, rely heavily on the databases from INFOhio as their work must reflect thorough research at a collegiate level.

Our school is located in a very rural part of Southeastern Ohio. Many of my students do not have transportation to even get to the local library. Even more of them do not have any Internet service available at their homes. By combining the One to One Chromebooks with these INFOhio digital content we have eliminated barriers to learning. Using our school WiFi, students are able to complete very complex research without having to leave the building. If we did not have these digital resources our student body would become handicapped by the lack of resources that are needed to give them the education that they deserve.



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Without funding for INFOhio's digital content our students would be left to sift through websites and sources that may not be fully vetted. It is vital for our students to continue to have these resources to use. Without them our district would have to pay \$97,151 per year. INFOhio is a necessary tool for students in the Gallia County Local School District.

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