

# Jackson Local Schools

*Striving for Excellence*



Chairman Oelslager, Ranking Minority Member Skindell and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of continued full funding for INFOhio's Digital Resources.

Good Morning. My name is Monica Myers and I'm honored to address this distinguished committee today on behalf of Jackson Local Schools. As Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for our school district, I work closely with our teachers and our library media specialists to ensure our students and staff have access to quality resources. As a former teacher and principal, I now have seen the value of INFOhio through multiple perspectives, including as that of a parent.

INFOhio provides our students necessary tools for early childhood literacy and college and career readiness, as well as 21st century competencies. If INFOhio funding is not restored to 2015 levels, it will cost Jackson Local Schools over \$68,000 per year to recover the lost resources. I am not aware of any school districts across Ohio who can cover such a cost.

In the last school year, Jackson Local School students logged on to the INFOhio website nearly 30,000 times which provided them to access millions of pieces of digital content for their personal learning and school assignments. We estimate 30,000 logins is at least 90,000 searches in the digital content.

INFOhio's BookFlix collection of over 120 pairs of fiction and non-fiction eBooks is the most used of our INFOhio resources. Here are just a few of the comments about BookFlix from our elementary teachers:

I once had a parent with a student who really struggled with reading and openly cried over how she wished she could help her child with fluency and comprehension as well. Having access to a free resource like BookFlix through our own library website was such a gift to that family, as they could listen and read stories together at home on a table computer.

BookFlix is a valuable teaching tool. It brings books to life for the students to enjoy. BookFlix helps students develop their strategy of visualization, which is a critical comprehension strategy. The tracking helps students to focus on the words as the story is read aloud. BookFlix also has paired text already built in.

Paired texts are an important piece of our curriculum. I use BookFlix as a supplemental resource for a variety of science and social studies topics. I also use it for writing as a way to use mentor books so the students can listen for and pick up on different types of writers crafts. We talk about what craft was used, where they noticed it, and how it affected the story. They then use what we talked about in their writer's workshop books and experiment with using different types of crafts we discuss.

I teach in a grade level with five other teachers. We plan our units of study together. Even though we have access to a diverse school library, BookFlix allows us to teach the same lesson at the same time without a need to share books. If we did not have this resource, it would be a devastating loss for my class.

As these accounts clearly illustrate, the loss of iNFOhio's BookFlix would negatively impact instruction at Jackson Local Schools, and consequently, our ability to adequately foster early literacy.

INFOhio is a valuable, cost-effective statewide resource, that provides equitable access to ALL Ohio students, regardless of where they are receiving their education. Our students urgently need the resources provided through INFOhio to help support early literacy and college and career readiness. As our school district moves toward 1:1 computing and a blended learning environment, these resources will become even more crucial. I join school administrators from around the state in urging you to restore INFOhio's funding to 2015 levels.

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