

Ohio Connectivity Champions Assist in Connecting Cleveland Metropolitan School District Students to Internet Thousands of Households Now Connected

The Ohio Connectivity Champions (OCC) partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) to help deploy free internet service to more than 6,000 district households during the 2021-2022 school year ensuring online access to health, employment, school, skill improvement, and the economy.

In September 2021, CMSD was awarded approximately \$12 million from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a federal \$7.17 billion program that helps schools and libraries provide the tools and services needed for remote learning during the pandemic. As part of Spectrum's Stay Connected K-12 program and EmpowerCLE+, more than 6,000 high-speed modems were distributed to households in CMSD's district.

Recognizing a need to help CMSD roll out this initiative, Joe Mancini, OCC coordinator, reached out to Melissa Hirsch, CMSD director of IT strategy and business development, to assist. "After speaking with Ms. Hirsch, we pulled together a team to coordinate the effort between Spectrum and CMSD," Mancini said. "The biggest challenge has been reaching each household's caregiver to confirm internet connection. To ensure that

CMSD's families are connected, we call each household three times per week to attempt contact."

The Champions also help CMSD with address changes, identifying household internet needs, verifying installation of needed internet, ensuring that unneeded modems were returned, and making sure that households that *do* need modems are scheduled to receive one. "Ohio's Connectivity Champions are committed to removing the burdens districts face while connecting families to internet," said Geoff Andrews, chief executive officer of the Management Council, parent organization of OCC. "We are pleased to be part of an initiative that helps Ohioans connect to the internet and participate in the global economy."

OCC has made over 10,300 calls to CMSD households — completing over 4,900 requests — and will continue to reach out to families who have not been successfully connected. OCC assists all Ohioans with internet connection, and can be reached at ohio-k12.help/remotedx, email or text at connectme@ohio-k12.help, and by phone 844-K12-OHIO (844-512-6446).

Spence White Service Award Recipient Named

Each year, the INFOhio Advisory Board recognizes an ITC employee who provides exemplary service to the INFOhio community of users. The *Spence White Service Award* recipient demonstrates a dedication to the vision of INFOhio and outstanding support for the delivery of the INFOhio project. The award is named for former ITC Director, Spence White, who recognized early on how the Ohio Education Computer Network could support INFOhio's vision of providing equal access to information resources to all Ohio students and teachers.

The *Spence White Service Award* recipient is selected from ITC personnel who are nominated by school library staff, teachers, administrators, or colleagues. In addition to the nomination, at least one additional letter of support from an ITC colleague or school library staff person must be submitted.

The INFOhio Advisory Board is pleased to announce that this year's *Spence White Service Award* recipient is Shelley Hughett, software support specialist with TCCSA. The board shared that Shelley's advocacy for school library staff and the support letters provided by three school library media specialists describing Shelley's outstanding support for the delivery of the INFOhio project were among the reasons she was selected. The board recognized that with her twenty-two years of dedicated service to the INFOhio vision and project, Shelley epitomizes the standard of excellence INFOhio wishes to carry on in the name of Spence White.

Shelley will be recognized at the Management Council Membership Meeting in May. **Congratulations, Shelley!**

SSDT’s Release Recap

SSDT has added a new ‘[Release Recap](#)’ area to its wiki. The release recap is a summarization of new features, improvements, and enhancements that took place in the prior month’s USAS, USPS, and Inventory applications. SSDT releases software updates every two weeks and includes, with the changes, detailed release notes linking the JIRA issues involved; however, the release notes are listed in separate areas on the wiki per the application they are referencing. A single document containing a recap of the prior month’s releases is an efficient reference tool for both ITC and district staff.



Displayed to the right is a snippet of SSDT’s March recap showing the hyperlinks at the top of the page. For example, if there is a need to review just the payroll changes that took place last month, information would show with a click on the USPS-Releases link. Also displayed is a table for each application including the release date, version, and type of release (regular or hotfix). The version number includes a hyperlink to the more-detailed release notes in the wiki. Listed below each table is an easy-to-understand summarization of what took place, broken down by the type of change — bug fix, improvements, new features, and patches.

The recap link is also provided under the “Useful Links” section on every issue of the SSDT newsletter. With so many changes taking place with each software release, the release recap will provide an easy way to keep you up to date with on-going changes in state software.

March Recap

- [USPS-R Releases](#)
- [USAS-R Releases](#)
- [Inventory Releases](#)

USPS-R Releases

Date	Version	Type
 11 Mar 2022	6.61.0	Regular
 25 Mar 2022	6.62.0	Regular

Bug Fixes

Employer Distributions Report CSV output type was including report parameters and summary information. These have been removed so that it only includes employeeNumber, employeeName, payitemCode, accountCode, gross, employerAmount

Previously, pay amounts displayed in Payment Detail used for direct deposit notifications were displayed in the order added. We fixed the sort order based on position number and/or pay type so the employee can easily tell where the wages came from.



Update on the Middle Mile Upgrade Project

The Management Council — in collaboration with ODE and OARnet — are in the final planning stages of the Middle Mile Upgrade project. This project will provide the much-needed additional bandwidth to ITCs and large urban districts to better serve their member schools.

Equipment has been ordered and is expected to arrive in mid-April. Installations are expected to begin in May of this year and completed by September 2023.



Products and Services Updates

» The OECN store now allows you to view order history! After logging in, select the menu on the top right-hand corner, followed by sub menu. From here you will see the option to view “my store account” which contains your order history and the complete order history for your ITC.

» Did you know? Confluence has a watch feature that allows you to be notified when a page is updated. At the upper-right corner of the page is a “Watch” option link (with an eye icon), click that and you’ll be notified of changes and updates via email. Try it out on the Products and Services page and never miss an update!

GenYES Program Freely Available to Ohio Schools in the 2022-2023 School Year

Through the RemotEDx initiative, INFOhio will provide free access to the GenYES student technology leadership platforms and instructional content beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. The GenYES program will be added to INFOhio’s portfolio of student and educator tools that are freely available to all Ohio schools. It will also be made available as part of a larger toolkit to accelerate and personalize learning through student leadership and student empowerment.

The GenYES program provides an introduction to computer science, coding, and STEM careers, as well as careers in teaching and education. Students learn through action while supporting others and completing projects that demonstrate their learning. The program

is flexible and is designed to support school technology integration goals while building the next generation of technology leaders. GenYES can be implemented as a regular class or extracurricular club.

Ohio’s current GenYES users should continue to contact their ITC for support through this school year. Additionally, current and potential GenYES Ohio educators are invited to join the GenYES Ohio Community group in Open Space, where they can share information or ask questions of other GenYES Ohio educators. INFOhio will continue to add GenYES resources and training materials for facilitators to the GenYES Ohio Community.

Have questions? Contact INFOhio at support.infohio.org.

Ohio Education Job Board Launched

In conjunction with Ohio’s ITCs, the Management Council is excited to announce the launch of the Ohio Education Job Board for K-12 jobs in Ohio. This job board incorporates an intuitive job listing page that includes search function filters and an interactive map.

Built specifically for the education industry, the Ohio Education Job Board is the central hub for K-12 jobs in Ohio. From teachers to bus drivers to support personnel, applicants looking for a position in an Ohio school district can search by zip code, job category, grade level, and/or job type. The interactive map enables prospective applicants to see available job postings in a specific search area making it easy to find open positions in

desired locations. By drilling down on the job board map, applicants can identify the type and number of positions that are posted in each district.

School districts posting open positions to the Ohio Education Job Board provide applicants with a positive experience through a simple search process and comprehensive offerings. With no need for districts to post positions in multiple places, the Ohio Education Job Board is a one-stop shop for prospective applicants. The new job board can be viewed by visiting:

ohiok12jobs.schoolspring.com

Upcoming Events...

- 4/20..... April directors meeting ~ 9:00a
- 5/5..... May directors meeting and CIP peer review ~ 9:00a
- 5/6..... Membership meeting via Zoom (URL tbd) ~ 10:00a
- 7/10-11.... ITC directors retreat
- 7/29 Annual CIP due to ODE

MC will be Closed...

- 4/15Good Friday
- 5/30.....Memorial Day
- 7/4.....Independence Day
- 9/5Labor Day
- 11/24-25....Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/23Christmas Holiday
- 12/26Christmas Holiday

Next newsletter: July 5, 2022