

- Shift in emphasis from infrastructure to instructional and professional development support
- Budget allots \$43.7 and \$43.1 million over the biennium

# Ohio SchoolNet Commission

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## ROLE

The Ohio SchoolNet Commission, formerly known as the Ohio SchoolNet Office and as the Office of Information, Learning and Technology, began in 1994 as an office within the Department of Education. Currently, agency staff serve under the supervision of an executive director appointed by the eleven-member Ohio SchoolNet Commission. They are responsible for administering various programs that support SchoolNet's mission: "To provide leadership, coordination, and oversight in the acquisition and responsible use of technology in schools, to facilitate equitable access and measurable improvement in learning, and to contribute to an educated society."

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
83	\$43.8 million	\$43.0 million	\$23.9 million	\$23.2 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 94

## OVERVIEW

The budget allocates expenditures of \$43,799,278 in FY 2002 and \$43,018,744 in FY 2003, a decrease of 63.3 percent and 1.8 percent respectively. These figures increased slightly from the proposed executive budget. About 54 percent of total funding for the SchoolNet Commission originates from the General Revenue Fund (GRF). These figures are for the main operating budget and do not include moneys from the Education Technology Trust Fund (see the "Budget Issues" section). The major areas of expenditures include technology and professional development, operating expenses, and continued subsidy payments to school districts. The total budget decreases by 63.3 percent in FY 2002 due to a one-time appropriation transfer made in FY 2000-2001 biennium, and the fact that funding for the RISE-Interactive Parenting project will move to the Department of Education's budget beginning in FY 2002. This budget does not appropriate any funds for SchoolNet Plus (line item 228-698), and this causes most of the percentage decrease for FY 2002. If SchoolNet Plus funds are not included in the FY 2001 budget, the decrease for total appropriations in the FY 2002 budget is only 14 percent. General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriations decrease by only 8.1 percent and 3 percent in FYs 2002 and 2003, respectively.


SchoolNet Plus funds were primarily allocated for the purchase of additional hardware. An examination of the appropriations reveals a shift in priorities in SchoolNet operations from the provision of hardware to one of providing greater technical service to the educational technology community. To this end, the budget increases appropriations for Personal Services by 36 percent in FY 2002 and by five percent in FY 2003. The SchoolNet Commission will increase total staff levels to 83 members for the biennium.

Related to the priority placed on providing an increased level of service and in an attempt to bolster accountability in how professional development funds are spent, the budget separates appropriations intended to support technical and professional development activities in a Technical and Instructional Development line item (228-406). This line item is comprised largely of subsidy payments provided to the education technology community. The current budget appropriates \$10,475,898 in FY 2002 and \$10,172,630 in FY 2003 to support the development and implementation of educational technology as well as for technical and professional development assistance. Of the total appropriation, the budget allocates \$1,400,000 in each year of the biennium for the Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network (OEB) to make grants to provide interactive instructional programming services targeted to the poorest 200 school districts statewide. Of this money, up to \$55,000 may be used for the process of administering the grants. The budget also allocates \$2,900,000 in each year of the biennium to support Technology Equity Grants. These grants are used to subsidize district efforts to acquire support for technology. This funding is down \$200,000 from previous levels. In addition to these grant programs, the remainder of the 228-406 line item would be used within SchoolNet to support the use of technology and the quality of technology-related professional development.

The budget decreases spending for Educational Technology (line item 228-539) by 8.5 percent in FY 2002 and 4.1 percent in FY 2003. The two main objectives of this line item are to ensure the access of all Ohio schools to educational television programming and to provide them with a variety of instructional media. Educational television programming and instructional media are provided through Educational Technology Corporations (ETC's) and Area Media Centers (AMC's). Funding for the ETC's for this current biennium is \$5,200,000, a drop of nine percent. The contract with AMC's will increase by \$4,550 in FY 2002, but will face a \$250,000 drop in FY 2003.

## BUDGET ISSUES

### *EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUND*

The Education Technology Trust Fund was created by Am. Sub. S.B. 192 in the 123<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly using profits from the Tobacco Settlement. This act originally allocated funds for FY 2001 and FY 2002. Since the Tobacco Revenue Budget is on a separate biennial budget cycle from the state's main operating budget, this budget for FY 2002 and FY 2003 does not contain any proposals for using the tobacco revenue. The trust fund money is to be used to pay costs of new and innovative technology for both primary and secondary education (including chartered nonpublic schools) and higher education including state institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education certified by the Board of Regents. Currently, there is \$24 million in available funds for FY 2002 for the SchoolNet Commission, which can be spent at any time. This amount receives interest compounded annually which is then credited back into the account. 

**FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Groups**

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 1999:</i>	<i>FY 2000:</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2001 to 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2002 to 2003:</i>
<b>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>			<b>Version: Enacted</b>						
<b>NET SchoolNet Commission</b>									
GRF	228-404	Operating Expenses	\$ 17,183,727	\$ 5,185,265	\$5,133,715	\$ 7,255,189	41.32%	\$ 7,117,741	-1.89%
GRF	228-406	Technical & Instruc. Professional Devel	\$ 0	\$ 11,652,778	\$12,929,548	\$ 10,475,898	-18.98%	\$ 10,172,630	-2.89%
GRF	228-539	Education Technology	\$ 6,550,072	\$ 6,707,421	\$6,732,881	\$ 6,161,096	-8.49%	\$ 5,910,596	-4.07%
GRF	228-559	RISE-Interactive Parenting	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 24,933,799</b>	<b>\$ 24,745,464</b>	<b>\$ 25,996,144</b>	<b>\$ 23,892,183</b>	<b>-8.09%</b>	<b>\$ 23,200,967</b>	<b>-2.89%</b>
5L3	228-601	E-Rate Program	---	---	\$31,080	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
5D4	228-640	Conference/Special Purpose Exp	\$ 15,064	\$ 697	\$291,975	\$ 510,700	74.91%	\$ 521,382	2.09%
5G0	228-650	Interactive Distance Learning	\$ 4,094,643	\$ 5,090,232	\$2,923,949	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 4,109,707</b>	<b>\$ 5,090,929</b>	<b>\$ 3,247,004</b>	<b>\$ 510,700</b>	<b>-84.27%</b>	<b>\$ 521,382</b>	<b>2.09%</b>
3S3	228-655	Technology Literacy Challenge	\$ 16,736,049	\$ 14,700,072	\$13,559,153	\$ 15,918,780	17.40%	\$ 15,918,780	0.00%
<b>Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 16,736,049</b>	<b>\$ 14,700,072</b>	<b>\$ 13,559,153</b>	<b>\$ 15,918,780</b>	<b>17.40%</b>	<b>\$ 15,918,780</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
4W9	228-630	Ohio SchoolNet Telecommunity	\$ 2,051,413	\$ 1,444,081	\$1,060,940	\$ 547,615	-48.38%	\$ 447,615	-18.26%
4X1	228-632	Distance Learning/Admin	\$ 38,037	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
4X1	228-634	Distance Learning	\$ 3,550,867	\$ 5,101,593	\$3,122,888	\$ 2,930,000	-6.18%	\$ 2,930,000	0.00%
4Y4	228-698	SchoolNet Plus	\$ 72,209,307	\$ 20,635,786	\$68,291,312	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
<b>State Special Revenue Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 77,849,624</b>	<b>\$ 27,181,460</b>	<b>\$ 72,475,140</b>	<b>\$ 3,477,615</b>	<b>-95.20%</b>	<b>\$ 3,377,615</b>	<b>-2.88%</b>
017	228-690	SchoolNet Electrical Infrastructure	\$ 6,929,621	\$ 6,564,125	\$4,109,194	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
<b>Lottery Profits/Education Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 6,929,621</b>	<b>\$ 6,564,125</b>	<b>\$ 4,109,194</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>SchoolNet Commission Total</b>			<b>\$ 130,558,800</b>	<b>\$ 78,282,050</b>	<b>\$ 119,386,634</b>	<b>\$ 43,799,278</b>	<b>-63.31%</b>	<b>\$ 43,018,744</b>	<b>-1.78%</b>