



SPRING 2018

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope everyone has been staying safe and warm during these cold winter months. I'm happy to finally be able to say that spring is just around the corner!

The NEOnet team has been staying busy over the last couple of months to ensure our districts are equipped to improve student education through the use of technology. We are committed to providing the needed technology support and resources so districts are able to prepare students to compete in the modern world.

This newsletter contains a lot of exciting updates and resources that I believe you will find quite useful.

I know many of you have had the new House Bill 410 requirements on your mind. On page 3, you will find an article discussing DASL's release of new screens to assist you with the change. Furthermore, on page 4, you will find an essential function provided by DataMap that will allow you to create custom templates.

On page 10, our fiscal team walks through how to use the 'Paste Value' to copy formula values. This is a great function to use that will allow you to avoid having links moved between spreadsheets.

INFOhio recently released a great resource portal that contains a collection of free, or affordable, websites and apps that can be used for students ages three to five. Learn more about the resource portal on page 14-15.

Is your district considering moving from an Exchange based email to Google but concerned about how your unified voicemail will be affected? Learn about some options available to lessen the impact on page 16.

I have only highlighted a few of the important items that this newsletter includes. Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 330.926.3902 or by email at gdovin@NEOnet.org with any questions or concerns.

Remember, that without you, there would be no NEOnet! Take care and happy (almost) spring!

Matthew Gdovin, Executive Director



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FROM THE TECH DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year. We have a few projects of significance that we have completed and some that require our consortium member's feedback as we prepare for next school year.

In a proactive effort to protect NEOnet's network from distributed denial of service attacks, we recently adjusted the policies used on the DDoS appliances. This change came as a result of a few large attacks experienced in late November. The changes that were made create a better district-based approach to the attacks by allowing policies that not only protect the firewall from being consumed by the large number of connections, but also limit the attack to affecting only the intended target rather than the entire consortium. Our team is continuing to monitor these changes and make adjustments to ensure the proper protections are in place. We are confident this will help better mitigate, if not eliminate, the impact of future attacks.

In addition, NEOnet recently transitioned to an aggregate 20 Gigabit dark fiber circuit for our disaster recovery site. This new dark fiber circuit allows our team to use dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) to increase the amount of bandwidth we can utilize between our two data centers. This will allow NEOnet to leverage multiple 10, 40 or even 100 Gigabit circuits on only a piece of physical fiber. This additional connectivity and bandwidth are important pieces of the puzzle to support the future growth NEOnet's consortium is experiencing.

This quarter we began testing a new content filter. In Oct. 2017, NEOnet issued a request for proposal (RFP) for content filtering. Three companies responded to the RFP and each were given a two-hour window to present their solution and answer questions. At the conclusion of those presentations, the consortium decided to pursue a proof of concept with Securly, not only for the Cloud based solution and close integration with Chromebooks, but also in favor of their child safety features. There

are currently eight districts testing the solution, but we encourage all districts to get involved. This is one of the largest decisions NEOnet's consortium will make this year and arguably has the most impact on student education. This affects our customers directly, therefore we want to ensure we choose the solution that best fits your needs. The more feedback received increases the probability that the best solution is chosen.

As we move forward throughout the rest of the school year, NEOnet will continue to make improvements in the network and server infrastructure to meet the needs of all customers and to fulfill our purpose of improving

In addition, NEOnet recently transitioned to an aggregate 20 Gigabit dark fiber circuit for our disaster recovery site. This new dark fiber circuit allows our team to use dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) to increase the amount of bandwidth we can utilize between our two data centers.

student education through the use of technology. We thank you for your continued support and participation and look forward to a successful online testing window.

In the recent DASL release, new screens were added to assist with the new House Bill 410 requirements. Now, with appropriate security settings, users can quickly view a summary of a student's excessive absences, habitual truancies and the total hours missed. Also, the new screen now allows users to create and update absence intervention information necessary for the Ohio Department of Education requirement for EMIS Reporting. This new screen can be found at SIS>Student>Attendance>Student Absence Intervention. Below is more information on what form the Student Absence Intervention screen sends over for EMIS reporting.

A) Student has crossed an Excessive Absences threshold (monthly or yearly). Parent involvement record exists with Written Notification and Excessive Absences where the date is on or after when the student crossed the threshold. The earliest involvement record on or after the threshold is reported.

B) Student has crossed any of the Habitual Truancy thresholds (consecutive, monthly or yearly). The earliest threshold date is reported.

C) Student has crossed any of the habitual truancy thresholds. Judicial involvement record exists with Violates a Court Order and Habitual Truancy where the date is on or after when the student crossed the threshold.

D) Student has crossed any of the Habitual Truancy thresholds (consecutive, monthly or yearly). An intervention team Plan Created On date has been entered (can be before threshold date). The Plan Created On date is reported

Please note that there are no hours that are reported through the FT record

HOUSE BILL 410 ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION

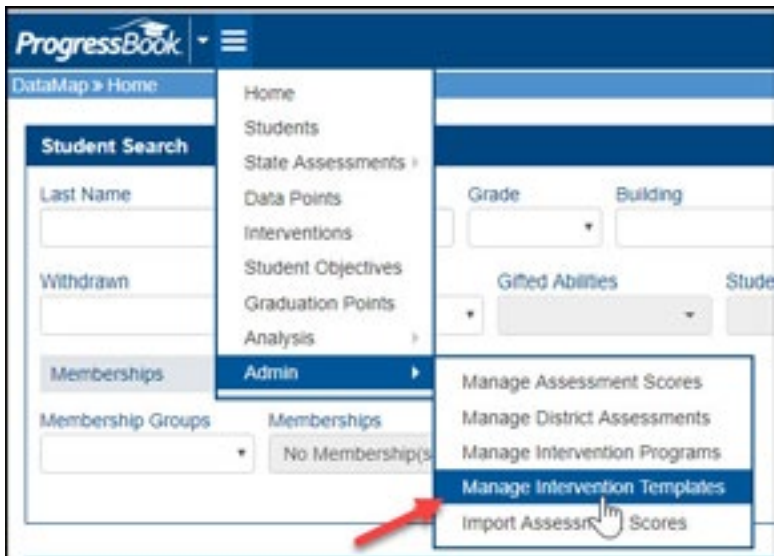
House Bill 410 Attendance Intervention is a hot topic for all school districts. DASL now has a page for recording actions regarding a student's Attendance Intervention; however, DataMap has the functionality to allow districts to create their own custom template for an Attendance Intervention Plan.

In addition, NEOnet has a sample Attendance Intervention templates that can be pre-loaded into a district's DataMap and can be used and modified to each district's needs.

Creating an Intervention Template is fairly simple. Below are a few easy steps to create one today.

A. Users must have the role of DataMap – Intervention Admin in order to have access to create a template.

B. Go to: DataMap > Admin > Manage Intervention Templates



C. Click **Add New Template**

D. Give the Template a Name

- The template name will not display anywhere other than on this page.
- You will notice each of the sections of an Intervention will display.
- Click in a section for the editing tools to display text formatting options and to create tables.
 - o If you have a 'form' you are currently using in MS Word or Google Docs, you can copy and paste from each document directly to each section within the template.

Continued on next page

ProgressBook - NEOnet District

DataMap > Admin > Edit Intervention Template

Name: Intervention - Habitual

Content | **Programs**

Area of Need

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, when a students' absences surpass the threshold for habitual truancy, the following must be implemented:

- Absence Intervention Plan will be initiated and parents/guardians notified when a student falls within 42 hours (month) or 72 hours (school year) of the definition of habitual truancy (below).
- Absence Intervention Team developed (within 7 days of meeting the definition of habitual truancy). The team will include a teacher, school administrator, school counselor and parent.
- Absence Intervention Plan will be implemented (within 14 days of meeting the definition of habitual truancy).

Habitual Truancy is defined as: any student who is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 hours in one month or 72 hours in a school year.

The NEOnet City School District will file a complaint in juvenile court no later than 61 days after implementing the Absence Intervention Plan when satisfactory progress is not made. The district will provide parents/guardians with a copy of the intervention plan below within 7 days of development.

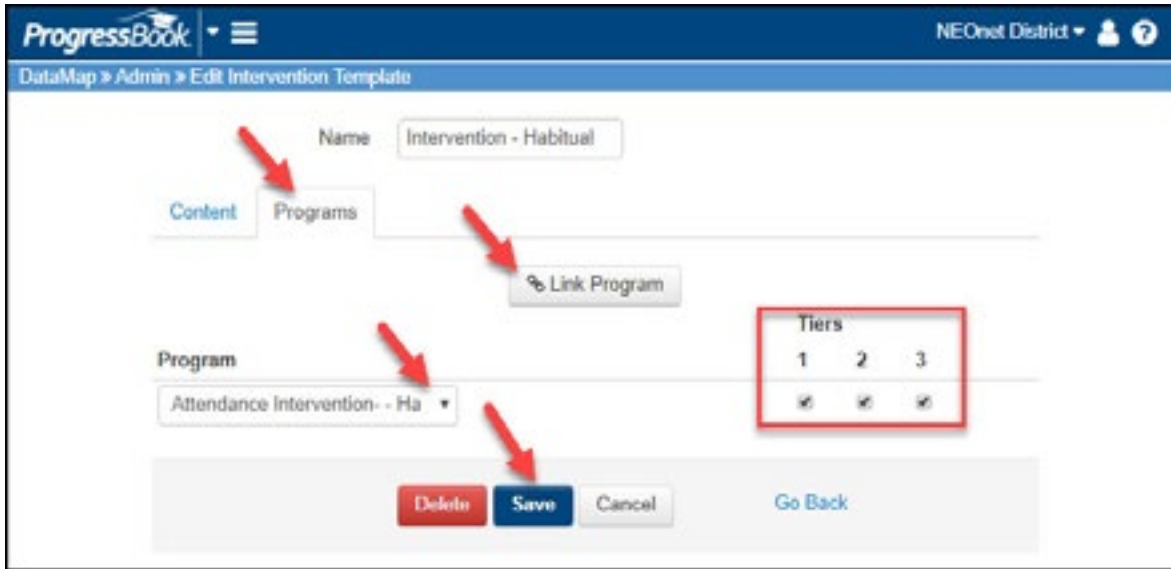
Mark	Behaviors
	Student has frequent absences
	Student frequently comes to school late
	Student has a history of attendance problems
	Other:

Mark	Objectives
	Student will daily come to school on time

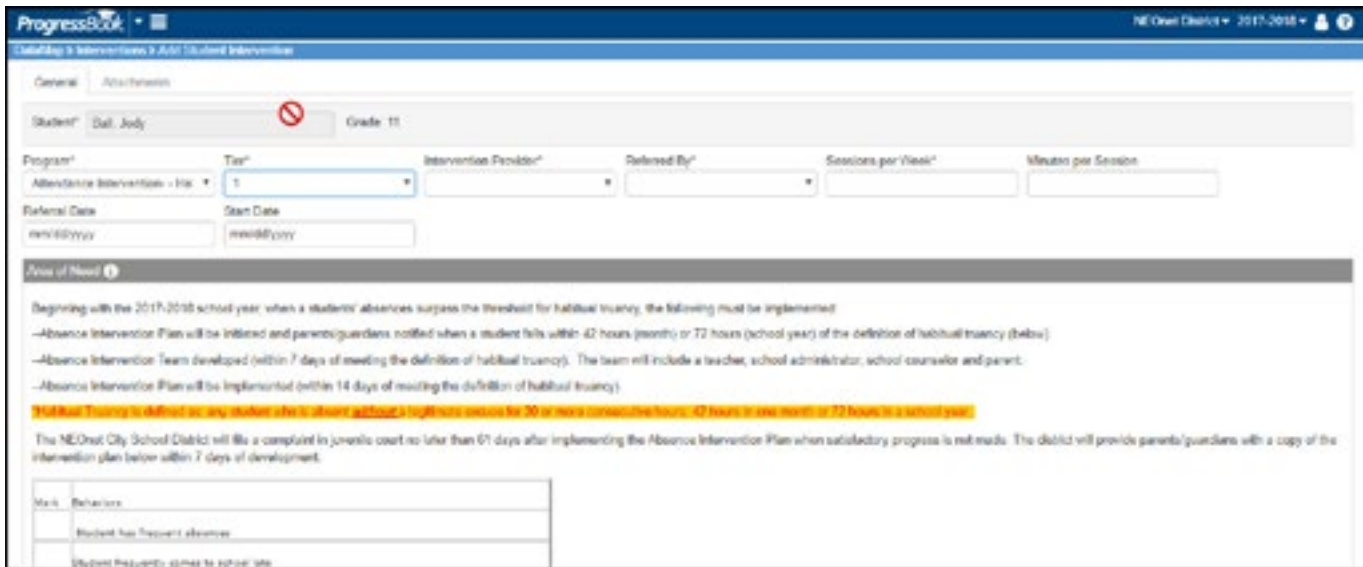
E. Click Add

F. Now you need to select which Intervention Program(s) should have this template

- Click the Programs tab
- Click Link Program
- Select the Intervention Program
 - If additional Intervention Programs should have the template as well, repeat steps a and b
- Select the Tier(s) that apply for the template
- Click Save



Now when adding a student or student's to an Attendance Intervention Program the template created will automatically display. This is a great feature to allow districts to store all the information regarding the student's Attendance Intervention, as well as to keep the history with the student.



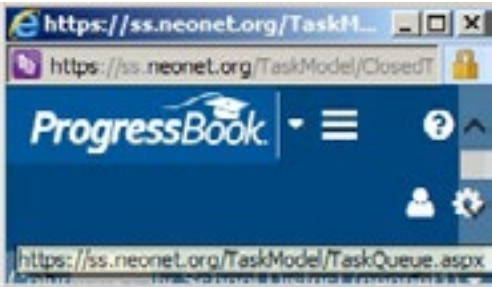
For more information on how to use Interventions, how to create an Intervention Template or to receive a sample Attendance Intervention template loaded in your district, more please contact Janet Hayes by email at Hayes@NEOnet.org or by phone at 330.926.3900, ext. 601112.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Regular Education teachers who have students on an IEP, ETR, WEP, Behavior Intervention Plan or 504 Plan with Special Services Security Level 100, can view all 'Task' forms online by clicking on the paper with eyeglasses link next to the student's name in their Gradebook. A new screen will pop up for 'Special Education.'



After clicking on the paper with the eyeglasses link, a screen will pop up with access to 'Completed Tasks.' You will need to maximize the screen.



A list of the student's 'Completed Task' will display. To view a PDF that includes all pages of the 'Completed Task,' click on the name of the task. **Please note you may need to disable any pop-ups.*

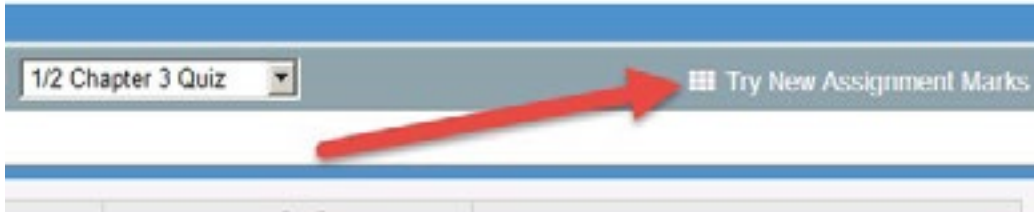
Student	Completed Tasks	Task Type	Completed Date	Event Date	Include In Emis	CPE	Action
School: NEOnet Elementary Schol Last Name: [Search] Student: HUTHMAKER, DANIELLE Student Roadmap	2016-2017 - Grade Two						
	> 2016-2017 AEP - Amend 1021/2016	AEP	9/8/2016	9/26/2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	> 2016-2017 IEP	IEP	9/8/2016	9/26/2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	> 2016-2017 IETR	IETR	9/8/2016	9/26/2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	2015-2016 - Grade Two						
	> 2015-2016 504E	504E	12/16/2015				
	> 2015-2016 504P	504P	10/13/2015	10/13/2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

THE NEXT SPECIAL SERVICES MEETING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:
Friday, March 9, 2018 // 9-11 a.m. // NEOnet Room B and via webinar

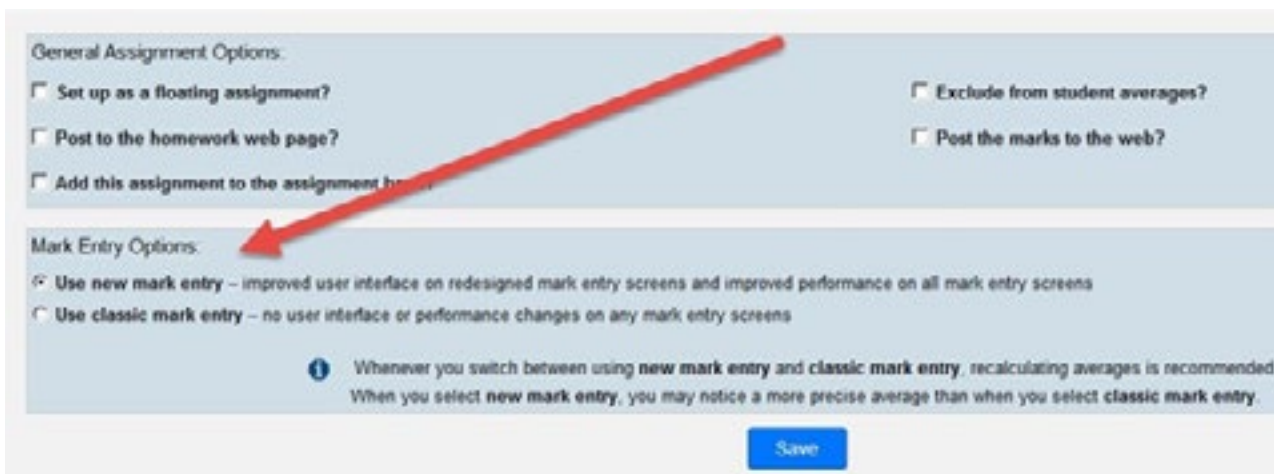


A new version of the 'Assignment Marks' screen has been added to GradeBook **INCLUDING AUTOSAVE**.

The performance and user interface have been improved. To access the new screen, at the top right of the classic 'Assignment Marks' screen, click 'Try New Assignment Marks.'

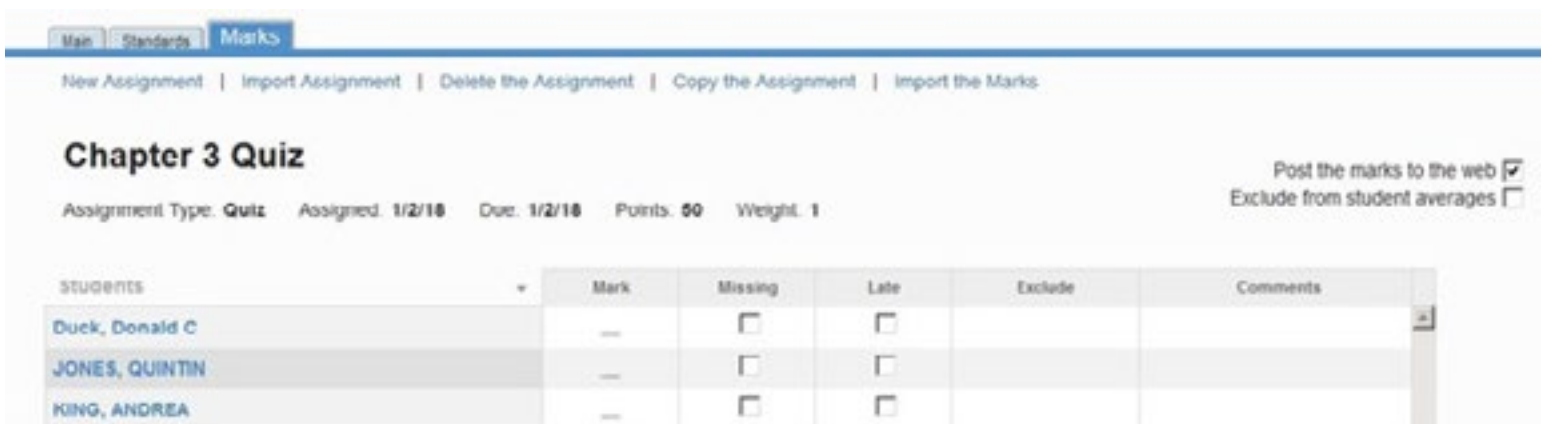


Clicking this link sets the new 'Assignment Marks' screen as the default when you click the 'Assignment Details' screen 'Marks' tab. You can also select 'Use new mark entry' on the 'Teacher Preferences' screen to set it as the default.



The 'New Assignment,' 'Import Assignment,' 'Delete the Assignment,' 'Copy the Assignment' and 'Import the Marks' links are located at the top left of the screen. The 'Date Assigned,' 'Date Due,' 'Points' and 'Weight' fields have become read-only fields at the top of the screen, with 'Date Assigned' changed to 'Assigned' and 'Date Due' changed to 'Due.' The 'Post to the web' and 'Exclude student averages' check boxes have been moved to the top of the screen.

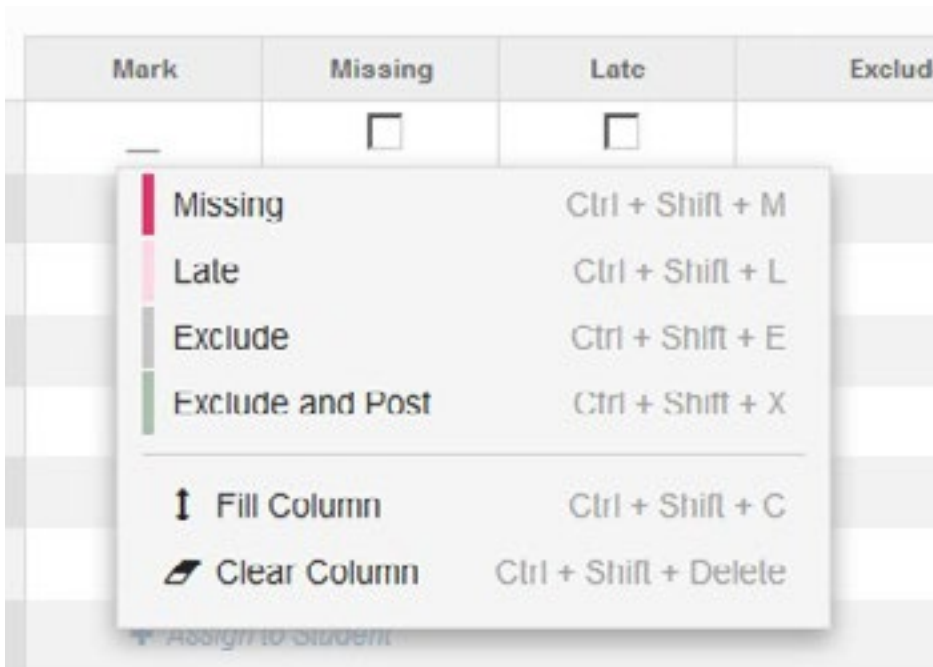
'Marks' are now **SAVED AUTOMATICALLY!**



Continued on next page

On the new 'Assignment Marks' screen, you can now right click inside of a cell in the grid to perform the following actions:

- Fill column with the mark in the current cell.
- Fill row with the mark in the current cell for Custom Setup 2 assignments.
- Fill all rows with the marks in the rows of the current column for Custom Setup 2 assignments.
- Clear column, row, all
- Mark assignments missing, late or excluded.
- Filter the screen by student or student group.



When a student joins a class after assignments have been given, an 'Assign to Student' link displays in the column of any assignments that student has not been given. Once the teacher clicks the link, the student is now responsible for completing the assignment(s).



You can return to the classic 'Assignment Marks' screen by clicking 'Use Classic Assignment Marks' at the top-right of the screen. The 'Classic Assignment Marks' screen will no longer be available in a later release.

EMIS UPDATES

NIEP Funding – The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has noticed that some NIEP's reported with Non-Compliance '10' (Student newly transferred in, Individualized Education Programs (IEP) adoption determination not complete) and '11' (IEP expired, new IEP not in place) sit for a long time, as a result ODE is making a tweak for funding. This does not include NIEP's reported with Non-Compliance '12' (forgot to report their IEP in the prior year). ODE is going to start funding for only 30 days for any NIEP being reported with Non-Compliance '10' or '11.' If the NIEP goes beyond 30 days, districts can report a second NIEP with a new date to continue funding until they get the renewal IEP done, but the Office for Exceptional Children will monitor how often this is happening to be sure proper IEP's are in place and NIEP codes are not just being reported to get funding. This new check will be in place within the next few weeks, and districts will start seeing IEP No Fund errors on those NIEP's older than 30 days. Districts will have to report a new NIEP or get the renewal IEP event reported. Additional details will be included in the EMIS Newsflash. Again, this will not impact NIEP's with Non-Compliance code '12.'

FY18D CTE March Follow up – ODE recently released the FY18 Follow Up files. An appeal window is open and is scheduled to close Feb. 23. This appeal is the opportunity for the Local Education Agency (LEA) to check who they expect to be in their file and appeal only if they need students added. Education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/EMIS/Reporting-Responsibilities/Data-Appeals

Principal Assurance Report – Be on the lookout for the new Principal Assurance report in the near future. When released, the report will be found in the Data Collector Reports tab. EMIS Coordinators should share the report with building principals. There will be one report per building based on HQT IRN values and will include those courses that are HQT. This is the same data that was listed on the TLC report.

CTE FTE Reports – ODE has rolled out several additional checks and plans to have all the checks in place soon. LEA's should work within their Career Tech Planning District (CTPD) to make sure they have approvals. If you have any discrepancies, please speak with the CTE program office. CTE26 forms are approved from the CTE program office.

Outstanding CTE FTE issues being worked on:

1. *Some courses still appear as funding category zero. ODE has figured out what is wrong and it should be resolved this week. These will not appear on an error report but they will appear when LEA's add up categories and they may ask why they aren't being funded for those.*
2. *Correlated course checks that have not run in prior years.*
3. *Mapping (Course 'A' mapped to course 'B,' but course 'A' is mapped for correlation). Checks that have been run the past three years are not sensitive to mapping. Putting several additional checks in place creates a bigger issue for mapping and this needs to be looked into. Districts who have not been submitting Correlated or Mapped records, as ODE rolls these checks in, will see errors they didn't expect.*

Continued on next page

ECOT Suspended as of January 19 – As of the last data submission, all students were not withdrawn. ODE made an adjustment on the EMIS side, putting Jan. 19, 2018 as their withdrawal on any ECOT student still enrolled. There is potential for conflicts because ECOT did not update all of their withdrawal data in their last submission. ODE has asked ECOT to update their data to resolve the issues. Districts should work as usual by sending transcript requests, etc., to ECOT. ODE has not been able to override data in ODDEX yet, so districts that enroll an ECOT student will get an EPCT conflict and admission/withdrawal IRN conflict. For now, those issues will appear in ODDEX, but FTE issues have been fixed. Until ECOT submits updated data, there will be ODDEX conflicts that districts can ignore as long as their FTE report is correct.

NEW WEBSITE

The NEOnet EMIS services team is proud to present the EMIS Connections workshops page. This is your one stop shop to keep EMIS coordinators connected to all the possible professional development opportunities presented by NEOnet, ODE, the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (MCOECN), Ohio Association of EMIS Professionals (OAEP) and more! There are sessions geared towards new EMIS coordinators to monthly workshops to keep everyone’s knowledge maintained. Keeping yourself updated and connected to EMIS requirements is the best way to get your school district’s data accuracy and funding.

portal.neonet.org/content/emis-connections-workshops

The screenshot shows the NEOnet website navigation menu. The 'Services' tab is selected and highlighted in yellow. Below the tabs, there are five main categories: EMIS, Fiscal, Technology Integration and Library Services, Student Services, and Technical Services. Each category has a list of sub-items. The 'EMIS' category is highlighted in yellow, and the 'EMIS Connections Workshops' item is also highlighted in yellow with a blue arrow pointing to it.

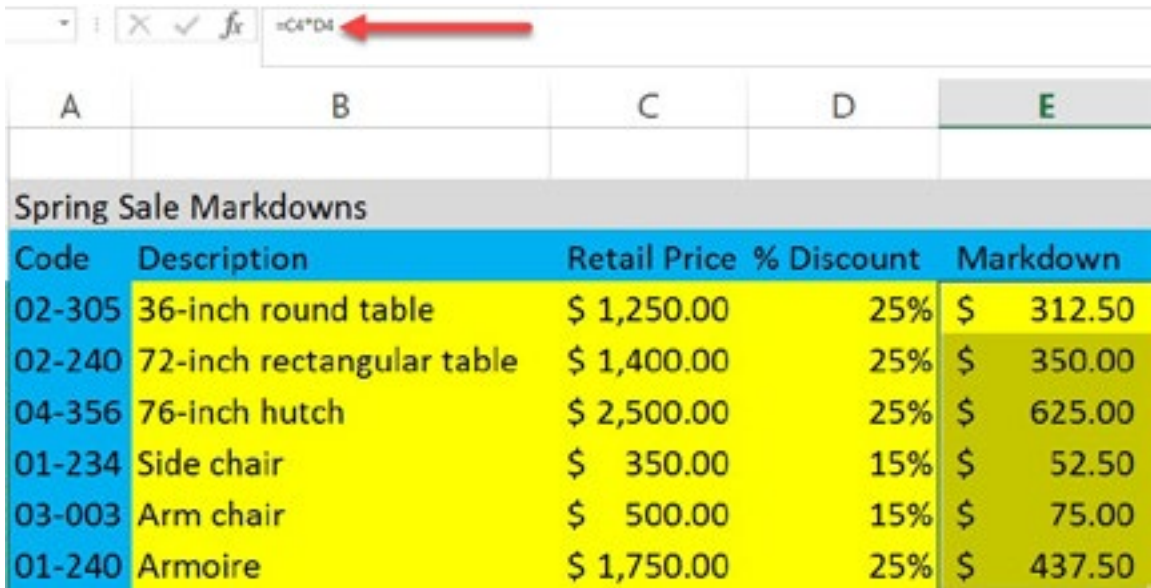
About Us	Applications	Contact Us	Services	Support	Search
EMIS <ul style="list-style-type: none">District ContactsDocumentationEMIS ReportsEMISFFE (Flat File Editor)v2EMISWebEMISrODE/EMIS LinksEMIS Connections WorkshopsMonthly Updates	Fiscal <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fiscal Web ApplicationsFISCWeb Main MenuFiscal ApplicationDocumentationFiscal LinksTreasurer WebUSAS MeetingsUSPS MeetingseFinancePLUSMonthly Updates	Technology Integration and Library Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Technology IntegrationWebinarsResourcesLibrary ServicesNEOnet Annual LibraryConferenceTips, Tricks and ResourcesMedia Services AdvisoryCommitteeMakerspaceMonthly Updates	Student Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">DASLCustom ReportsDocumentationDASLrDASL TRAIN LoginDataMapProgressBook GradeBookDocumentationSps Special ServicesDocumentationLinksMonthly UpdatesHouse Bill 410	Technical Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cyber SecurityTechnical LinksOETC 2017Monthly Updates	Search

EXCEL TIPS – HOW TO USE THE PASTE VALUE TO COPY FORMULA VALUES

When copying formulas from multiple spreadsheets, you run the risk of having linked spreadsheets moved. As a result, the values of the formulas could return a !VALUE error message, since once or several formula elements may be pointing to a cell value or range that no longer exists.

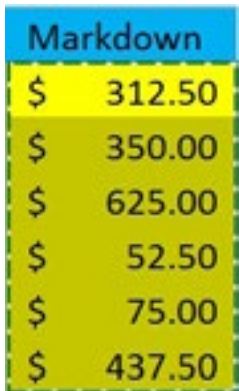
To avoid this issue, you can use the Paste Values option in Excel by following these steps:

1. Select the cell or range of cells that you wish to copy (note the formula in the formula bar).



Code	Description	Retail Price	% Discount	Markdown
02-305	36-inch round table	\$ 1,250.00	25%	\$ 312.50
02-240	72-inch rectangular table	\$ 1,400.00	25%	\$ 350.00
04-356	76-inch hutch	\$ 2,500.00	25%	\$ 625.00
01-234	Side chair	\$ 350.00	15%	\$ 52.50
03-003	Arm chair	\$ 500.00	15%	\$ 75.00
01-240	Armoire	\$ 1,750.00	25%	\$ 437.50

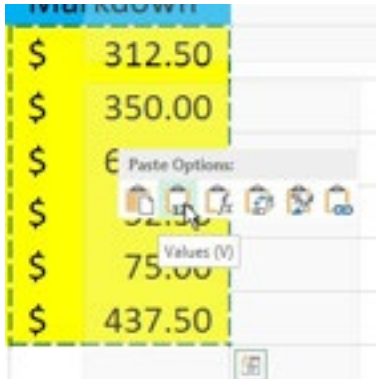
2. Copy the cells by pressing Ctrl-C. The cell range will be highlighted with a dotted line.



Markdown
\$ 312.50
\$ 350.00
\$ 625.00
\$ 52.50
\$ 75.00
\$ 437.50

Continued on next page

3. Right-click to view paste options and select the values icon.



4. After clicking the values icon, check one of the cells in the range. The value will appear in the formula bar instead of the formula.



TOTAL DAYS/HOURS REPORT (RPTSUM)

Are you trying to find out how many days your staff has in SERS/SERS, ODJFS weeks, and/or EMIS attendance and absence days with the percentage of attendance for employees in a time period? There is a report called RPTSUM that can be a helpful tool in determining

There is a report called RPTSUM that can be a helpful tool in determining and verifying reporting requirements for the retirement, ODJFS and EMIS data submission.

and verifying reporting requirements for the retirement, ODJFS and EMIS data submission.

The Reporting Counts Summary program generates a report that displays service days, ODJFS weeks, and/or EMIS attendance and absence days with the percentage of attendance for employees by selected time periods. This report has several sort and selection options that provide flexibility in generating a report for a wide range of employees or a specific group or individual. The options to include employees reportable to EMIS, not reportable, or both are also available.

The report also includes long term illness days for EMIS staff reporting verification and the teacher attendance rate. This percentage is

STATE SOFTWARE REDESIGN UPDATE

On January 11, the pilot districts officially began operating on the Redesign system. The next round, called the “first-wave,” will include three ITCs and eight school districts. Full operation will take place January-May. NEOnet will begin training in May to support second-wave districts. At that time, NEOnet would like to implement a smaller district as our pilot, aiming for a live date somewhere between July and December 2018. If you would like to implement the Redesign system, please notify the fiscal department at 330.926.3900, ext. 601130.

If you are interested in seeing demonstrations of the Redesign, State Software Development Team (SSDT) webinars have been posted on the SSDT’s wiki at wiki.ssdtohio.org/display/RPP/Redesign+Support+Resources.

Project updates will be sent to treasurers through Classic. The updates can also be found in the SSDT and OASBO newsletters.

used for EMIS staff reporting as calculated by the Ohio Department of Education and is used in various aspects of EMIS.

For more information, visit wiki.ssdt-ohio.org/display/usps/RPTSUM+-+Reporting+Counts+Summary.



OHIO EFINANCEPLUS SPRING 2018 USERS GROUP MEETING

This May, MCOECN will host its second Ohio eFinance Users Group meeting. The meeting is developed by and for eFinancePLUS users and will be conducted by eFinancePLUS users from school districts and ITCs.

Some users are well into their journey with eFinancePLUS, while others are just at the beginning. No matter what, we are all in this together. Like anything else in the world of school finance, the best answers often come from asking questions and learning from one another.

Some users are well into their journey with eFinancePLUS, while others are just at the beginning. No matter what, we are all in this together. Like anything else in the world of school finance, the best answers often come from asking questions and learning from one another. This will be a great opportunity to network, share and learn from each other, as well as gather contact information that will allow for further collaboration throughout the year.

Users may not walk away as experts with every question answered but they will walk away with ideas on how to make eFinancePLUS work better for their districts.

The exact date, time and location for the meeting are still being planned. NEOnet will share the details once they have been set. District staff members who are involved with eFinancePLUS are strongly encouraged to attend.

DATA RETENTION

Every few years it's important to make room for the new. You may have already noticed that PRIOR_YRS is a few years lighter. Per the NEOnet Data Retention Policy, we are required to maintain only seven years of records and therefore have packed up and removed all years prior to Calendar Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2010.

PRIOR_YRS
Feb 05 18

Prior Years Information

Prior Years - Informational Only

-
- 1. CY2010 Calendar Year 2010 - Informational ONLY
 - 2. CY2011 Calendar Year 2011 - Informational ONLY
 - 3. CY2012 Calendar Year 2012 - Informational ONLY
 - 4. CY2013 Calendar Year 2013 - Informational ONLY
 - 5. CY2014 Calendar Year 2014 - Informational ONLY
 - 6. CY2015 Calendar Year 2015 - Informational ONLY
 - 7. CY2016 Calendar Year 2016 - Informational ONLY
 - 8. CY2017 Calendar Year 2017 - Informational ONLY
 - 9. FY2010 Fiscal Year 2010 - Informational ONLY
 - 10. FY2011 Fiscal Year 2011 - Informational ONLY
 - 11. FY2012 Fiscal Year 2012 - Informational ONLY
 - 12. FY2013 Fiscal Year 2013 - Informational ONLY
 - 13. FY2014 Fiscal Year 2014 - Informational ONLY
 - 14. FY2015 Fiscal Year 2015 - Informational ONLY
 - 15. FY2016 Fiscal Year 2016 - Informational ONLY

Additionally, it has been a few years since we last purged districts' live files. Currently, payroll files have data back to 2010, while your Budget Accounts have data back through 2012. We will be purging these in the near future. Please begin the process to make sure ALL checks that can be reconciled are reconciled on the system.



INFOHIO RELEASES INFOHIO EARLY LEARNING PORTAL

INFOhio released the INFOhio Early Learning Portal (the portal can be found at www.infohio.org/early-learning) in January 2018. This resource is a collection of 50, free, or affordable quality websites and apps for children ages three through five. While the resources were chosen and evaluated specifically for early learners, the INFOhio Early Learning Portal is designed for educators and parents to use with children.



In a time when at least 75% of children younger than eight live in a home with mobile technology present, the INFOhio Early Learning Portal brings not only quality resources aligned to Ohio Early Learning Standards, but also simple tips on how parents and educators can integrate learning with technology into the daily cycle of growth and discovery for preschoolers.



No device can ever take the place of the simple interaction between adult and child. The tips provided on the Early Learning Portal strive to provide ideas for quality interactions, both while using the websites and apps, as well as during technology-free time. The INFOhio Early Learning Portal is just one of the ways to help early learners play, read, sing and create. Using the portal with guidance and support from adults, Ohio's preschoolers will be one step closer to kindergarten ready and one step closer to future success.

Cognitive

- Bedtime Math**: This website and app includes daily math stories for families to enjoy. Stories based on a fun fact or current event challenge young learners to adults.
- Breathe, Think, Do**: This app from Sesame Street helps kids stop, think, and problem solve when things get tough. A fun monitor practices breathing and making choices with children.
- Code-a-pillar**: This app helps early learners develop basic coding skills. Children will use critical thinking and problem solving to move the caterpillar to the right spot.
- LumiKids Park**: This app helps with learners' sort, match, remember, and master fine motor skills.
- Peep and the Big Wide World**: This website has games and videos featuring Peep, a small chick who loves science. Children will learn more about sounds, lights, animals, and scientific thinking.
- Peg and Cat**: This website has video clips and games that teach children to problem solve. They will learn to think about numbers and math concepts.

Read, Write, Talk, Sing

- ABC Kids Tracing and Phonics**: This app lets the learner trace upper and lower case letters while the letter is sounded out. There is a "touch the letter" game to reinforce letter recognition.
- BookFLix**: This website lets children read along with 121 different titles from Scholastic. Listen and play games to build reading skills. Some titles available in Spanish.
- Draw and Tell**: This app includes absorbing tools to draw, color, text and share. Work with colorful backgrounds and characters. Children record or write a story or their own or with an adult. Save the story or drawing and share with friends.
- Early World of Learning**: This website helps little learners find out about the world, animals, and nature. Use the children's encyclopedia. Then learn more with images, audio, games, and videos. Some titles available in Spanish.
- Ezra Jack Knits for Kids**: This website features the work of author Ezra Jack Keats. Children listen to and watch his books, and play games that encourage critical thinking and imagination. Activities are included to take the learning off the screen with crafts, play, and free talk.
- Little Bird Tales**: This website and app relies on a child's artwork or photos and imagination to create a book.

Share the INFOhio Early Learning Portal with an early learner in your life and be an active part of helping them be an INFOhio Early Bird! The INFOhio Early Learning Portal was developed in partnership with the Office of Governor John Kasich, Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and is maintained by INFOhio, which is optimized by the Management Council.

VOICEMAIL AND GOOGLE

As many of NEOnet's customers consider the move from Exchange based email to Google for their staff, one question seems to pop up at the end of the list. How will moving to Google affect my unified voicemail experience? Well the short answer is, it breaks it, and it appears it will remain broken for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, Cisco does not provide, nor have they

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hinted at, any plans to provide an out of the box unified messaging experience with Gmail; however, there are a few third-party products on the market that offer users a similar experience to the Unity/Exchange integration we have now. Unfortunately, these products are rather costly.

The following are a list of options currently available if you are going to make the switch to Gmail.

1. *No email integration; all voicemail is managed via the handset using the TUI. Your phone's message waiting indicator will illuminate and you will check your voicemail with your phone.*
2. *Voicemail copy. Your phone's message waiting indicator will illuminate like normal and a copy of the voicemail message will be forwarded to your Gmail account. This preserves the functionality of the message indicator light on the phone. Unlike unified messaging with Exchange, the copy of the voicemail*

in Gmail does nothing. If you listen or delete it, the state of the message on the voicemail server will not be altered. Users will be required to manage their voice messages via their phone as well. If voicemail is not managed (deleted/saved) from the phone, the inbox will fill up and create problems. Additionally, voicemail emails will be captured by email archiving technology.

3. *Email delivery only. The voicemail is sent to Gmail and is the only copy that is kept. An actual voicemail message is never created and the light on the phone never illuminates to indicate there is a message waiting. Voicemail emails will be captured by email archiving technology and will be managed in email only.*
4. *Third party integration tools. There are third party tools that will make the integration between the voicemail server and Gmail function but they are pricy and require annual renewals.*

WHAT IS BITLOCKER?

BitLocker is Microsoft's implementation of full disk encryption which ensures data cannot be read without some form of authentication to unlock it. This is especially useful in the school environment as student or financial data may sometimes be stored on a mobile device that can easily be misplaced, lost or stolen. If that device were to fall in the wrong hands and BitLocker was enabled the data on the device would be nonviable to harvest by anyone who came into possession of it. Most PC's running modern versions of Windows Professional or Enterprise support the use of BitLocker. Just like Antivirus and malware protection, BitLocker is another useful tool to help protect student data.

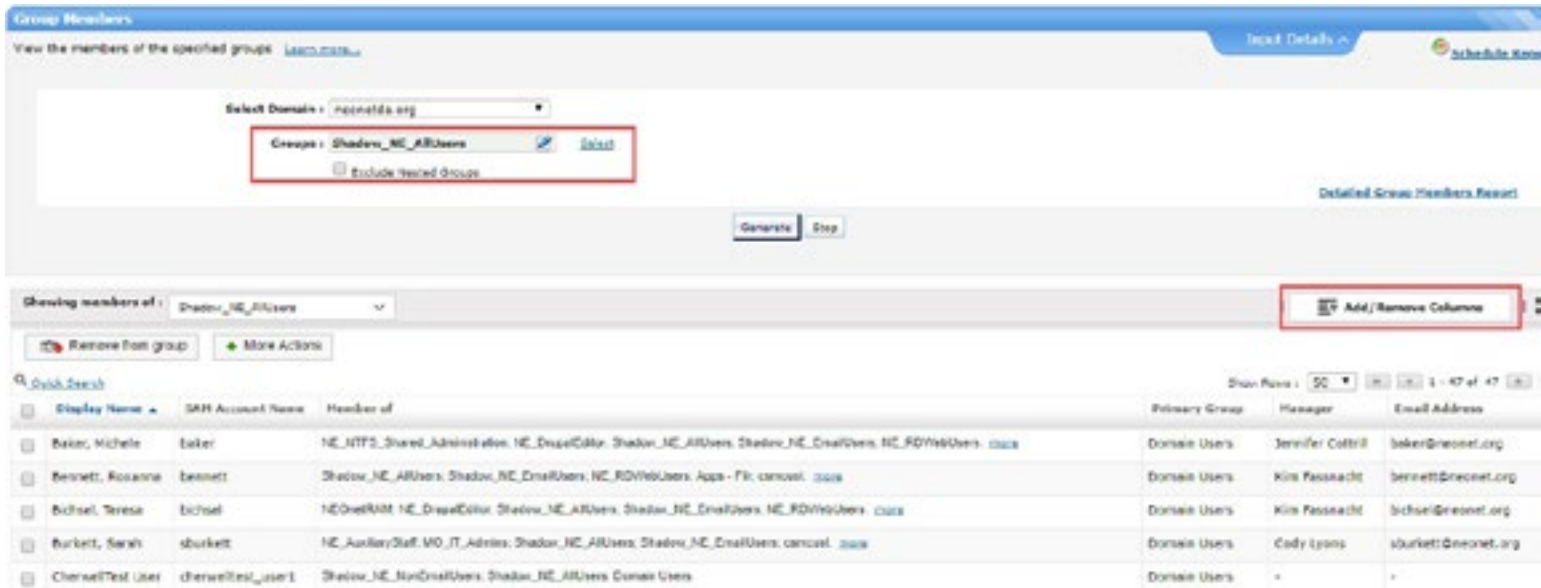
GROUP MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

AD Manager’s reporting functionality allows you to gather data on a number of users and groups. Sometimes, you need to review group membership and or manipulate data in Excel from group data. With AD Manager, you can generate membership reports for any of your distribution or security groups.

You can find the group reports under the ‘AD Reports’ tab, and then select ‘Group Reports’ on the left:



The basic “Group Members” report will simply return a list of the members of a group. You can add or remove any attributes associated with the member types (user/computer) to generate your report. The reports can then be exported to various file types, as well as scheduled if you wish to receive recurring reports.



IBN

IBN does not stand for Inspired by NEOnet. IBN stands for Intent Based Networking. IBN is a technology that is designed to collect information about a network and compare it against policies of how the network is intended to be used. Cisco has been developing this technology for the past several years and recently added a big piece to the IBN puzzle.

IBN is meant to address two of the largest issues that cause disruptions in a network. These issues are being reactive to change and not having the ability to predict what happens when a change is made. The challenge that comes with being reactive is that you must scramble to resolve an issue because customers are already experiencing degraded service. Managing a network proactively is the best way to deliver a consistent and stable network to customers. IBN takes proactive network management to the next level, which is beyond what any person could do.

Cisco is enhancing proactive network management with a new product in its IBN portfolio called Network Assurance Engine (NAE). This product is designed to dynamically make changes to a network that will prevent issues before they occur. By collecting and analyzing network traffic data, the NAE will compare trends in the network against policies that state how networks should perform. If traffic does not conform to the network policies, the NAE will begin to proactively make changes to the network. The goal is to ensure that the network performance meets the intended use.

Predicting the outcome of network change has always been a challenge. The NAE has the ability to predict the outcome of a change in the network. Think of a single change to a computer network like a single match to a forest fire. One small change can disrupt the entire network. Due to the potential impact a change can have on a network, risk must be minimized. NAE allows users to stage changes to the network and test the impact without ever affecting the network. Having the ability to predict the outcome of change lowers the risk and cost of a potential network outage.

NEOnet is inspired by this technology because it has

the potential to enhance the network we deliver to our customers. Our goal is to provide a network that is stable and exceeds the users' expectations. IBN is the technology that could take this goal to the next level.

WIRELESS STANDARDS AND KEEPING AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Every few years, new AP models are being released and standards are ratified to support newer features to give clients a better network experience. The current wireless standard, AC, focuses on high thorough output and reduced interference, which is paramount to a smooth 1:1 experience. Many districts have wireless setups designed for coverage before large BYOD and 1:1 initiatives were put into place, leading to suboptimal coverage and issues in high density areas, such as libraries. Having too many clients in use in one area without newer standard APs and devices can severely slow utilization leading to connectivity issues.

When planning to refresh the network and student devices, always keep in mind what type of wireless radios and standards they support. AC standard is the way to go, as the N standard is now almost ten years old. Doing a wireless survey to redesign building coverage is also a great way to be certain the wireless coverage is dense enough for a 1:1 deployment. Even things as simple as metal cabinets in a science lab or microwaves in a break room can lead to wireless coverage issues without a well thought out survey.

If the district is planning to start deploying 1:1 or is running into issues in high traffic areas, please keep these factors in mind. Staying up to date and ahead of the technology curve will help to maintain a smooth network and a great learning environment for students.

NEONET TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The Technology Integration Department at NEOnet is having a very positive and busy kick-off to 2018. We have seen a wide variety of teachers come in for our trainings and we have been out to districts during the first month of the year. Below, you will see a breakdown of how we spent the last two months of 2017 and how we spent the first month of 2018.

Our newest addition to the team, Amanda O'Mara, has been making it possible for us to provide two sessions of professional development per week. These sessions cover everything from Google Apps to Robotics in the classroom and everything in between. If your school district is interested in seeing what we have to offer, please check out our website at training.neonet.org and click on the newly redesigned calendar tab. There is a month view of every session that we offer up until the end of June. Also, notice that on every other Wednesday we are offering a webinar to our participating districts. These webinars are online only and simply require an internet connection to attend. All of our webinars are broadcasted online only. Most of our sessions at NEOnet are also broadcasted online.

Another big staple of the Technology Integration Service is our ability to visit our participating districts directly for customized professional development. We have seen an uptick in usage of this particular part of our services and we really appreciate the opportunity to provide high quality professional development in the districts. Any districts interested in utilizing our services, please let us know!

November – January Statistics:

Nov 1 – Jan 31: Number of Professional Development Sessions offered at NEOnet: 26 sessions

Nov 1 – Jan 31: Number of attendees at Professional Development Sessions offered at NEOnet: 81 people

Nov 1 – Jan 31: Number of times at districts providing Customized Professional Development: 12 days in districts

In other news, we would like to offer some tips and tricks to better utilize the technology in your classroom. With winter break now behind us, we would like to remind you that we have plenty of school year left and it is exciting to know that Google is always getting better, coding in the classroom is at an all-time high and schools going to 1:1 is becoming a norm. With that being said, we still need to make sure we are cognizant of how to best serve our students amidst all of the wonderful technology around us. Please continue reading to discover our top three tips for a successful and engaging push to spring break!

TIP #1: CHECK OUT GOOGLE TEAM DRIVES

Team Drives allows documents and files to be shared (within the Team Drives location) with the members of the Team Drives. Do not worry though; you can assign access permissions as you would in Google Drive or Classroom. In theory, the Team Drives work as a shared space. Even if people come and go, the files will all remain in the Team Drives. It does not matter who creates the files, they belong to the "Team." We have seen teachers use the Team Drives as a more organized style of Google Classroom, where students have 'View' access to the files and are simply taught to Make Copies and stay organized. Team Drives lacks simple things like Due Dates and Grading, but that is not the point of Team Drives. Team Drives is the new way of sharing files.

Continued on next page

TIP #2 WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PRACTICE!

With state testing right around the corner, it is important to know where students stand with their computer skills. The last thing we would want is for our students to struggle on a state test because they weren't familiar with the testing website. Luckily, ODE has a practice test site available for all students to use to get familiar with the testing website. The link is here. (oh.portal.airast.org/users/students-and-families.shtml) Alternatively, you can Google "Ohio State Tests Practice" and it is usually the first result.

TIP #3 DON'T BE AFRAID

Technology is here to help. Don't be afraid! The best advice we can give anyone who is uncomfortable with technology is to simply try it out and see what it does. We recommend reading up on the technology or software, trying out the buttons, and asking for help. Usually, students are excited to try out technology even if it isn't being used properly. Technology is a tool that we need to put in our tool box to aide us in creating a content-rich lesson that will excite students.

If you have any questions about any type of technology, do not be afraid to reach out to your Technology Integration Department at NEOnet by contacting JC Williams at williams@neonet.org or Amanda O'Mara at omara@neonet.org or by calling 330.926.3900 ext.601160



NEOnet and its member schools are excited to present the 9th Annual NEOtech Conference on March 22, 2018, at the Kent State University Student Center. The conference is designed for teachers, administrators, and anyone interested in the use of various teaching and learning technologies in grades K-12. Best of all - it is FREE!

For more information, please visit www.neotechconference.org.

NEWSLETTER



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