

Providing Ohio's 21st Century Learners With 21st Century Resources: Funding Sources

INFOhio continues to pursue tools that enhance the teaching and learning experience for all students, parents and teachers in Ohio. While INFOhio's funding cannot provide for all the resources schools need at a state level, including *SchoolRooms*, **there are programs that allow Ohio schools to use federal funding to pay for *SchoolRooms* and other projects you wish to implement.**

District Funding Available for SchoolRooms + More!

During 2009-2010 districts will receive Title I funds and Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA) funds. Many will receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, also known as the federal stimulus package. **These funds can be used to purchase *SchoolRooms*.**



This year concludes the two-year *SchoolRooms* preview period SirsiDynix provided to all Ohio K-12 schools. Districts that wish to continue using

SchoolRooms can purchase access at the substantially discounted rate for the 2009-2010 school year. See [INFOhio's Core Collection Plus Price List 2009](#) for prices and ordering information. (Districts not automated with INFOhio will need to be automated with SirsiDynix software through an ITC in order to subscribe to *SchoolRooms*.)

New in 2009-2010: Customized Rooms and Enhanced Searching

This year's planned improvements to *SchoolRooms* will enhance Ohio students' and teachers' search experience both on the Web and with existing resources:

- Building level library catalog search
- New rooms with Ohio resources
- Continued statewide customization

Additional Features to Be Added:

- Standards-based searching
- New rooms for Health and ESL/ELL
- Improved search capabilities

Title I and the State of Ohio

Title I addresses socio-economic inequity through schoolwide intervention programs focused on reading and mathematics. Title I also addresses achievement gap support for English Language Learners and early intervention for those who have an elevated risk of school failure.

In a letter, Governor Ted Strickland and State Superintendent Deb Delisle state that:

Districts will be held accountable for spending these resources in compliance with the requirements of the federal stimulus bill itself – requirements which expressly include a demonstration that they are advancing educational reforms and having an impact on enhancing student achievement. The U.S. Department of Education has reminded us on many occasions that they view the purpose of the stimulus monies as “reform not conform.”

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/DocumentManagement/DocumentDownload.aspx?DocumentID=65870>



SchoolRooms was awarded the prestigious Scholastic “Best in Tech” Award

2009 and will be recognized at a formal awards ceremony during the 2009 National Educational Computing Conference in Washington, D.C., later this year.

The Librarian's Mission

Call or e-mail the person responsible for Title I and ARRA in your district and offer your expertise in critically analyzing and evaluating resources. Your help is important so that all funds are used wisely.

Librarians can play a key role by doing what librarians do best – connecting the right person to the right resource, at the right time.

Ohio Funding by District

County-by-county lists of individual schools and how much Title I and IDEA money individual Ohio districts are slated to receive:

District by district analysis:

<http://www.ohr.state.oh.us/presrelease/HouseEducationProposalsproposed.pdf>

Fully funded:

<http://www.ohr.state.oh.us/presrelease/HouseEducationProposalsFullyFunded.pdf>

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Matching Title I Requirements With SchoolRooms' Capabilities

- (1) *Title I purpose:* ensuring that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging state academic standards so that students, teachers, parents and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement

SchoolRooms was built around the Ohio Standards and is matched to the Ohio Content Standards for Language Arts, Reading, Math and Science. *SchoolRooms* is aligned with Ohio Academic Content Standards.

- (2) *Title I purpose:* meeting the educational needs of low-achieving children in our Nation's highest-poverty schools, limited English proficient children, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of reading assistance

SchoolRooms provides reading assistance on ability-appropriate levels.

- (3) *Title I purpose:* closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and non-minority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers

SchoolRooms provides cross-cultural resources and allows students and teachers to access materials from many resources. Combining print, Web and database tools allows students to find materials that will help them achieve success.

- (4) *Title I purpose:* distributing and targeting resources sufficiently to make a difference to local educational agencies and schools where needs are greatest

SchoolRooms cross platform searching and targeted content provides access to materials that are otherwise hidden from students and teachers.

- (5) *Title I purpose:* providing children an enriched and accelerated educational program, including the use of schoolwide programs or additional services that increase the amount and quality of instructional time

SchoolRooms contains high-quality materials for math, science and reading that are organized in an efficient manner. This decreases the time spent locating information and increases the instructional time critically evaluating and utilizing resources.

- (6) *Title I purpose:* coordinating services under all parts of this title with each other, with other educational services, and, to the extent feasible, with other agencies providing services to youth, children and families

SchoolRooms coordinates information resources provided by the local district and state-supported INFOhio into one easy-to-access portal for students and families.

- (7) *Title I purpose:* affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children

SchoolRooms provides direct assistance to parents in the education of their children through the Parent Room.

Stimulus Package Spending Guidelines

Districts are faced with the daunting task of spending a large influx of money in a very short time. According to the guidelines:

- Local educational agencies **must obligate 85 percent of their ARRA funds by September 30, 2010.**
- **Districts must use ARRA funds to supplement, not supplant.** This means funds must be used to pay for goods and services that are not being financed by local or state money. These funds should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires. The priorities of ARRA are:
 - Adopting rigorous **college- and career-ready standards** and high-quality assessments
 - **Establishing data systems** and using data for improvement
 - **Increasing teacher effectiveness** and equitable distribution of effective teachers
 - **Turning around the lowest-performing schools**
 - **Improving results for all students**, including early learning, extended learning time, use of technology, preparation for college and school modernization
- Potential uses of ARRA Title I, Part A, funds that are allowed include:
 - Providing new opportunities for Title I schoolwide programs for secondary school students to use high-quality, online courseware as supplemental learning materials for meeting mathematics and science requirements
 - For additional examples: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>
- For a succinct article on ARRA Title I, Part A, read the article *Sleepless in Washington*.
http://www.thejournal.com/articles/24238_1
- The American Library Association provides *ARRA 101* at
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101.cfm#101>
This site is filled with information for librarians on ARRA.

Conclusion

Help your district use both federal and district dollars to best meet student needs. As you consider your budgets for 2009-2010, keep in mind that you can split costs of products by using federal dollars to pay for some buildings and district dollars to pay for the rest.

Librarians are an essential part of any community. By familiarizing yourself with the available funding, you can assist administrators in the daunting task of quickly and efficiently identifying available funds and programs that can improve the educational experience of all your students.

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