META SOLUTIONS
OHIO'S LARGEST INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Serving school districts and other public entities, through premier solutions, services, and support.

Why We Exist

META Solutions is an Information Technology Center serving more than 350 school districts in Ohio, which amounts to roughly 486,000 students.

We function as a cooperative. Member schools have a voice in how META operates and the services it provides.

META is proud to provide the most secure network, working with the Ohio Cyber Reserve and top state agencies, to keep your network safe and functioning effectively for your district.

Our support staff members are ready to provide the highest quality customer service to answer your technology and software questions.

Who We Are

Our Mission
To provide the highest quality services to our clients at the most efficient cost.

Our Vision
To be the premier technology solutions provider, supporting school districts and other public entities to achieve maximum success in an increasingly digital world.

Our Core Values

Integrity - We conduct ourselves with honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior.
Customer-Centric Approach - We prioritize the needs and satisfaction of our clients.
Excellence - We strive for excellence in all aspects of our services and operations.
Innovation - We continuously seek innovative solutions to address evolving technology needs.
Collaboration - We foster collaboration among stakeholders to achieve common goals.
Accountability - We take ownership of our actions and deliver on our commitments.

Our Offices

Athens
221 Columbus Road
Athens, OH 45701
740-594-7663

Columbus
2100 Citygate Drive
Columbus, OH 43219
614-473-8300

Dayton
225 Linwood Street
Dayton, OH 45405
937-223-1112

Marion
100 Executive Drive
Marion, OH 43302
740-389-4798

Piketon
175 Beaver Creek
Road, Suite C
Piketon, OH 45661
740-289-2908

Our Services

Core Services
-EMIS, including EMIS CrossCheck
-Fiscal: State Software / eFinancePlus
-SIS: ProgressBook, including
 GradeBook & VirtualClassroom
-SIS: PowerSchool, including
 PowerTeacher Pro, Public Portal,
 & META Customizations Catalog
-SIS: Infinite Campus

Technology Services
-Application Data Backup
-Application Development
-Application Hosting
-Content Filtering
-Cybersecurity Services
-Disaster Recovery
-EDR and Antivirus
-Extended Tech Services
-Internet & Connectivity
-Mobile Device Filtering
-Network Access
-Network as a Service
-Server Hosting
-SPAM Filtering
-Virtual Firewall
-Voice Over IP
-Wireless AP Management

Additional Services
-META Purchasing Cooperative
 (includes META bids and national
 AEPA bids)
-Cisco Networking Academy
-Dropbox Sign
-FinalForms
-IEP Anywhere
-INFOhio Library Services
-LastPass Password Manager
-School Hotline/Anti-Bullying
-Symphony Web
-Utility Auditing
-Zoom

We're Here to Help

Reach out to META first, before calling a third-party vendor, as we have your best interest in mind and will work with you to find the best solution.

Ways to Join

Full Membership
A Full Member is defined as a city, county, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district or education service center. These members must subscribe to both fiscal and EMIS services, or at least three of the five Core Services offered by META.

$20.25/ADM (If receiving all core services)

ESC Pricing:
(Based on Average Local School District ADM)
< 1000 ADM - $4,680
1001-1750 - $6,720
1751-2500 - $8,250
2501-3250 - $10,560
3250+ - $12,600

What's Included in the $20.25/ADM fee?:
- **EMIS Core Services** (including EMIS CrossCheck)
- **Fiscal: Redesign or eFinancePLUS**
- **Fiscal: $0.50/ADM MCOECN Fee**
- **SIS: ProgressBook** (including GradeBook & VirtualClassroom),
  PowerSchool (including META Customizations Catalog), or
  Infinite Campus
- **Disaster Recovery** (Core Services)
- **META Purchasing Cooperative**
- **Cisco Networking Academy** (Support)

Associate Membership
An Associate Member is defined as a school district that does not meet the definition of Full Member, such as a community school, charter school, parochial school or any other educationally related entity or political subdivision. *Please note that these districts are not eligible for full membership.*

Purchasing Membership
META Solutions' Purchasing Cooperative analyzes costs, negotiates with vendors, and makes recommendations for products and services that have been submitted for competitive bidding. Our number one goal is to save schools time and money, and we do so by effectively providing an online marketplace of quality goods and services at substantially lower prices.

Purchasing is free to all K-12 educational entities.
Counties/Cities - $500/year
Libraries - $300/year
Villages/Townships - $300/year
Health Alliance Members - $300/year

Members receive special discounted rates on many services and products! META also customizes services as needed for our member districts.

Student Information Systems (SIS)

META Solutions provides the highest quality customer service and support for ProgressBook, PowerSchool, and Infinite Campus through **phone calls**, **emails**, **help desk cases**, **trainings**, **meetings**, and **regular communications**.

ProgressBook

ProgressBook Student Information is an integrated, web-based K-12 student information system (SIS) built for Ohio districts to meet the needs of the entire school community.

ProgressBook has many modules for districts to manage their operations including:
- Student enrollment and contact information
- Medical records
- Fees
- Calendars
- Discipline
- Transcripts
- Report cards
- Attendance
- Graduation eligibility
- Proficiency assessments
- State reporting
- Course scheduling
- Third-party application integration

GradeBook (Included)
The GradeBook module makes managing the classroom and monitoring student progress much easier for teachers and administrators. GradeBook can be administered centrally and is equipped with online lesson plans, online grade book, attendance tracking, report cards and much more. It also includes control of ProgressBook Parent Access which allows parents and students to see student progress and grades online.

DataMap (Add-on cost)
As part of the ProgressBook Suite, DataMap is offered as a student analytics tool that collects years of trending and historical assessment data to provide teachers with specific, actionable benchmarks to teach and emphasize to students. Not only does this data help students gain differentiated instruction, but it also helps to improve standardized test scores and much more.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool SIS empowers educational institutions with a comprehensive, user-friendly Student Information System (SIS) that revolutionizes data management. Designed to streamline administrative tasks and enhance communication, PowerSchool SIS provides educators, administrators, and families with real-time insights into student performance, attendance, and behavior.

PowerTeacher Pro (Included)
PowerTeacher simplifies lesson planning, grading, and communication, empowering teachers to focus more on inspiring learning and less on administrative tasks.

PowerScheduler (Included)
Designed to meet the diverse needs of schools, PowerScheduler offers powerful tools to streamline course scheduling, maximize resource allocation, and enhance student placement.

Parent and Student Portal (Included)
Offering seamless communication and transparency, the Portal enables parents and students to stay informed about grades, attendance, assignments, and school announcements from any device.

META Customizations Catalog (Included)
With an extensive array of customizable modules and plugins, the Customizations Catalog empowers administrators to personalize their PowerSchool platform to meet specific needs, from unique reporting requirements to specialized data integrations.

PowerSchool Migration Services (Add-on cost)
META seamlessly migrates your institution's data to PowerSchool, ensuring a smooth transition without disruption. Our comprehensive approach includes meticulous data validation, tailored mapping strategies, and dedicated support, guaranteeing your school's historical and current information is securely transferred and optimized for immediate use.

OUR MISSION is to provide the highest quality services to our clients at the most efficient cost.

Student Information Systems (SIS)

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Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is the largest American-owned student information system (SIS). For over 25 years, Infinite Campus has provided districts with tools to streamline student administration, enable stakeholder collaboration, and personalize learning.

Core Services (Included)
- Academic Planner
- Ad Hoc Reporting
- Attendance
- Behavior
- Federal Reporting
- FRAM
- Grade Book
- Health
- LMS Tools
- Mobile Apps for
  Students & Parents
- Scheduling
- Special Education
- State Reporting
- Text & Email Messaging
- & More!

Premium Products (Add-on cost)
Campus Analytics Suite - A dropout prevention tool that identifies students at risk of not graduating.
Campus Data Suite - Improve data quality, visibility and integrity for your district.
Campus Learning Suite - Connect teachers to new, powerful
tools for digital learning.
Campus Payments - Reliable and secure payment processing.
Campus Passport - Online Training subscription for on-demand learning.
Campus Workflow Suite - Modernize attendance, digitize hall passes, and improve operational efficiencies.
Food Service - Streamlined cafeteria and POS options.
Messenger with Voice - Phone Communication to staff, students and parents.
Report Translation Module - Support multiple languages when building report cards and grading tasks, standard and courses.
Online Registration - New Student and existing student registration app.
Staff Evaluations - Tools for staff performance.

Fiscal Support Services

META Solutions provides the highest quality customer service and support for State Software and eFinancePLUS through **phone calls**, **emails**, **help desk cases**, **trainings**, **meetings**, and **regular communications**.

State Software
META's State Software Fiscal Services Support Team will work closely with your staff to assist with local and state supported software needs, including:
- Uniform School Accounting System (USAS) and Uniform School Payroll System (USPS)
- Staff and financial reporting (EMIS)
- Employee Self Service (ESS)
- Inventory
- All required local, state and federal reporting of support software
- Automatic check reconciling with financial institutions
- Spreadsheet loads – USAS, USPS and Inventory

eFinancePLUS
eFinancePlus (PowerSchool ERP) is a comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning Software that optimizes finance, payroll, recruitment and onboarding processes in a user-friendly platform. This system equips schools with the capability to plan, administer, and streamline operations with unparalleled accuracy.

META's eFinancePlus Fiscal Services team will work closely with your staff to support their Finance and Payroll needs, including:
- eFinancePlus modules such as: Fund Accounting, Purchasing, Human Resources, Budget Preparation, Fixed Assets, EMIS, System Administration and eForms & Tools.
- Employee Access Center – District designed portal that allows demographic updates, leave entry/approval, electronic paystubs and W2's and more.
- Staff and Financial EMIS reporting
- Regularly occurring trainings such as Monthly Training/Roundtable meetings for both Payroll and Fund Accounting, Monthly Office Hours meetings, and annual meetings for Fiscal Year End, Calendar Year End, and User Group Meetings.

Library Services / INFOhio

As an add-on service, META districts can opt-in to receive direct Library support through INFOhio. INFOhio provides library help desk support, library software training workshops, and professional development on the most critical education trends.

EMIS Services

Basic EMIS Support

As part of our core service offerings, META provides our members with the knowledge, tools and expertise they need to report accurate and timely EMIS data at both the state and federal level.

Our EMIS core services include:

Helpdesk: Our Salesforce ticketing system is available to request assistance for any questions you may have.

Training Workshops: These informative training sessions are open to all member district staff and are scheduled by META.

Work Sessions and Open Labs: These are held at all five META locations including sessions in the Elyria area. These sessions provide Q&A, group discussions, and hands on help with EMIS reporting.

Updates: META provides relevant and timely updates regarding EMIS reporting. Updates are provided regularly, via established mailing lists.

Documentation: META provides an extensive library of EMIS training materials and videos for the exclusive use of our META members

EMIS Extended Services

Contracted EMIS Coordination: Our EMIS Specialists can provide contracted EMIS Coordination services for META districts. The contracted EMIS Coordination can be long or short term.

New EMIS Coordinator Cohort: META is proud to offer the New EMIS Coordinator Cohort, a training program for new EMIS Coordinators. We recognize that having an experienced EMIS person in each district can sometimes be challenging. We also understand the importance of having a qualified EMIS person who can help insure proper funding and accurate reporting for the Local Report Card.

The New EMIS Coordinator Cohort is a contracted service providing an intensive year long, hands on, structured training program.

- Guidance in the review of data being submitted for processing collection
- Hands on work sessions and one-on-one training
- Access to the trainers of the META EMIS cohort for support

If you don't see something you're looking for, reach out to us.
We can work with you to find a solution!

CrossCheck

CrossCheck is an EMIS analytic application used by districts to verify data, to find potential data issues, and to simplify the process of analyzing EMIS data. CrossCheck takes the most recent prepare or submission of EMIS data from the data collector and runs a series of checks on the data. Elements that meet rules for the checks will appear in each area for the district to review. CrossCheck is included for all META members and is available to any Ohio district through their ITC.

In addition to checks, CrossCheck contains dashboard reports and merged files (aka enhanced reports) to make data verification faster and easier by adding names to IRNs and definitions to specific codes. These tools can answer frequently asked questions like "Who are we serving in gifted?", "Are my Staff EMIS data up to date?"

The CrossCheck Development Team is always looking for new checks and enhanced reports to add to CrossCheck. We have the ability to react quickly and add checks when new reporting requirements are released.

Technology Services

Internet Service Provider

META is an Internet service provider to school districts throughout the State of Ohio, using dedicated fiber optic tranport to ensure students have high-speed Internet connectivity. We offer services ranging from 10Mbs to 10Gbs. Services are monitored 24/7 with an average uptime of 99.96% annually. META uses OARnet as our primary ISP. OARnet offers many benefits to users such as security protection from DDoS attacks and cyber threats.

Network Monitoring

META offers Enterprise network monitoring services to district owned network devices. This service will collect data on hardware health, up/down status, and network saturation. The data collected is available via a web interface, displayed in graphs, and can provide periodic reports via E-Mail. Most network devices that support SNMP can use this service. Basic services can be provided for IP and application monitoring. Network monitoring is included in Managed Network and Wireless Services.

Network Equipment Purchasing

Leverage META's extensive partnerships to access some of the deepest educational and volume discounts on a wide range of network hardware from leading manufacturers. E-Rate eligible purchases can be made under Category 2 Internal Connections.

Network and Wireless Engineering

Tap into META's team of seasoned Network Engineers for expert consultation, design, and installation of switches, firewalls, access points, and battery backup solutions. Our team will assess your current network, physical, and wireless infrastructure, offering recommendations tailored to your needs informed by the latest industry trends. Ongoing network support is available through MIBS.

MIBS (Managed Internal Broadband Service)

MIBS extends META Solutions' support umbrella beyond our ISP services, reaching into your local networks to provide comprehensive coverage. This service is adaptable to both new and existing networks and is E-Rate eligible under MIBS (Managed Internal Broadband Service). With META engineers managing your entire network, your school can enjoy a hands-off experience. Our comprehensive MIBS service provides 24/7 monitoring and alerts, management, and backups of eligible hardware ensuring optimal network performance. Additionally, META will maintain detailed network documentation, including hardware lifecycle management aligned with your school's policy. To minimize downtime in the event of hardware failure, META employs an automated backup system that collects configuration backups at all times. Your technology department can easily reach META's support team at any time via telephone, email, or helpdesk for prompt assistance.

On-Site Technician Services

Our tier 1 service is designed to help with basic "break/fix" services for desktops, laptops and printers, and our tier 2 service meets the needs of networking and server requirements. Each tier can be customized to meet your needs. Districts can choose a schedule of 1-5 days per week, a blend of each tier and/or have multiple technicians on-site.

Server Hosting

META offers cloud server hosting that allows districts to store all materials in the cloud. This provides easy access to users no matter their location.

META builds, manages and licenses the appropriate Windows and Linux server, and provides off-site backup and recovery for all non-critical business data. META also provides co-location services that offer physical rack space in our datacenter.

VoIP

META provides a variety of hosted VoIP solutions, including but not limited to Cisco™, Zoom™, GoTo Connect™ and Grandstream™ VoIP systems. These enterprise grade VoIP systems bring the latest in IP telephony technologies and ease of management to your school or business.

Using VoIP services, you can eliminate the majority of your current PRI/POTS line expenses. All servers required for your system will be housed at META's data center, where they are maintained by trained professionals and monitored around the clock.

META also provides SIP services and eFaxing solutions, as well as a hosted IP Clock/PA and bell system that ties in with the VoIP system to bring you a fully unified communications platform.

If selected as your VoIP solution provider, META will engineer your service according to your school's needs and expectations.

E-Rate Service Provider

META is a service provider under the guidelines of USAC's E-Rate Program. META offers both Category 1 and Category 2 eligible services as outlined in the program. META offers competitive rates based on USAC guidelines.

Category 1 - META offers internet access and data transmission services to each of its five datacenter locations. In addition, dark fiber services are also available.

Category 2 - META offers internal connections services that can upgrade your network with enterprise grade firewall, switching, UPS, or wireless hardware. META will perform a free walk through of your school network to identify needs and provide your school with competitive pricing. META has a team of dedicated IT professionals to handle installation of these services.

META Cybersecurity -
Managed Service Provider (MSP)

Managed Services

Managed Detection and Response (MDR)
Workstations and servers are monitored 24/7 with alerts being sent to the district.
Sentinel One

Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)
SIEM will ingest event logs from Windows / Linux servers, Windows workstations, switches, firewalls, etc. Logs are monitored 24/7 with alerts being sent to the district.
Chronicle / SOAR

Remote Monitoring and Management (RMM)
Servers and workstations are managed remotely. Troubleshooting, patch management, monitoring devices, etc.
ConnectWise

Vulnerability Scans with RMM
RMM servers and workstations are scanned for vulnerabilities such as OS versions, port access, etc.
ConnectWise

Managed Security Training and Phishing Campaigns
Monthly or quarterly staff trainings and phishing campaigns are setup and monitored.
TechGuard

Email Scanning
Email is scanned for malicious activity and quarantined before it hits the inbox.
Abnormal Security

Managed Internal Broadband Service (MIBS)
Configure, review, and manage firewall, switches, and APs. MIBS is E-rate eligible.
META

Physical Security
Security cameras and environmental controls.
Verkada

Secure Backups
META offers secure offsite backups to districts. Backups are immutable for protection against ransomware.
Veeam

Hosted Servers
META offers virtual servers built to your specs. The hosted environment is monitored in a secure environment.
META

Additional Products

Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)
Stand-alone EDR is available for districts who manage their devices.
Sentinel One

Security Training and Phishing Campaigns
Staff trainings and phishing campaigns.
TechGuard

Multifactor Authentication (MFA)
MFA is required to meet compliance standards as well as insurance requirements.
Duo

MFA Tokens
Tokens are used when a secondary device such as cell phone is not available.
Duo / Feitian MFA Tokens

Password Vault
Secure the many passwords required in a password vault. No need to write down passwords on post it notes!
LastPass

Digital Signing Application
Send documents for digital signatures.
Dropbox

Content Filtering
Filter content for classrooms.
Securly / Lightspeed

Classroom Management
Cloud based classroom tool for teachers to manage students during class.
Classroom

Behavioral Monitoring
Real-time email, docs, and drive scanning with AI-based notifications for nudity, cyberbullying, suicide, and violence.
Auditor

META Purchasing Cooperative

META Solutions, aside from the ITC, is a purchasing cooperative that analyzes costs, negotiates with vendors, and makes recommendations for products and services that have been submitted for competitive bidding. **The META Purchasing Cooperative is included with a full META membership and is free to all K-12 educational entities.**

Advantages of a META Solutions Purchasing Cooperative Membership:
- A reduction in the District's administrative time in procuring goods & services
- A higher quality of products with more favorable pricing
- New menu items
- The opportunity for a wider range of products
- Increased purchase power & volume
- Networking opportunities & expert leadership

Our number one goal is to save schools time and money. META purchasing members are able to leverage the collective buying power of a consortium of schools serving more than 450,000 students across the state of Ohio. All members have equal standing for their purchases, regardless of size.

AEPA (Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies) - META Solutions' partnerships with organizations such as the AEPA and the Ohio Council of Educational Purchasing Consortia (OCEPC) bring national purchasing power to META's members, allowing them to take advantage of discounts offered through these affiliated organizations. The contracts obtained through these partnerships offer the best prices on quality products and premier services based on the needs of more than 35 million students in this national effort. Additional benefits include extensive school savings and a large variety of quality products and services that span across 45 commodity groups.

Cisco Network Academy Support

Academy Support - The role of our Academy Support Center (ASC) is to promote the sustainability and success of its aligned Cisco Member Academies. Our goal is to create a resilient Cisco Academy Community that shares information and ideas, enhances our members' skill sets, and improves the education of Cisco Academy students. The ASC Alliance is a team of highly qualified individuals who are knowledgeable within all areas of academy operations. Cisco provides educational opportunities and ongoing communication to ensure that advisors provide top-level support.

Instructor Training - META Solutions' Instructor Training Center (ITC) offers initial training, and follows up with 12 months of technical support. Our center provides ongoing Instructor Professional Development (IPD). Each academy may choose any ITC to meet their training needs.

META Energy Program

Utility Auditing
Utility auditing and energy reporting provides districts with the assurance that their utility bills are correct, rates are favorable, and that there are no building inefficiencies. As part of this program, META creates a historical database of consumption and cost for electric, natural gas and water. We then search for errors and overcharges.

Our Energy Department has a proven procedure for verifying the billing accuracy and securing the proper utility rate via a utility cost recovery system. The procedure includes:
- Finding billing errors and recovering overcharges
- Changing utility rates when applicable
- Communicating abnormal energy use on a monthly basis
- Recommending deregulated electric and natural gas suppliers
- Verifying deregulated electric and natural gas savings

In an effort to achieve the goal of Energy Star (National Efficiency Standards), this program also provides an annual utility report to review how your buildings performed compared to prior years, and compared to similar buildings within other districts.

Electric Program
The META Electric Program has become one of the most successful electricity supply purchasing opportunities in the State. More than 150 school districts and related education organizations currently are taking advantage of this program.

Energy & Building Projects
With the continual increase in operational costs and decrease in budgets, it is more important than ever that energy projects are completed successfully and effectively. The purpose of the energy and building projects program is to ease phone calls, simplify the process, ensure maximum savings, and bring peace-of-mind to our purchasing members.
A selection committee consisting of representatives from twelve member districts awards the Energy Savings Master Contract for R.C. 167.081 Procurement.

Natural Gas Program
This program allows the member school districts and other purchasing entities to lock in forward fixed prices at historical lows through a hedging program, allowing price certainty for each participant. The gas supply is also 100% firm, which allows the Districts to get billed for only the gas they consume. More than 250 school districts and related education organizations are currently taking advantage of this program. This approach has protected school district budgets and maximized savings.