What is a LMS?

A Learning Management System is an online platform that supports student learning in the classroom. At its most basic function, a LMS supports the workflow of information between teachers and students. This includes day to day housekeeping information as well as the delivery of instructional materials.

Survey says...

According to Indiana’s Tech Plan data, there are 30 Indiana districts without an adopted LMS.

The top 4 LMS companies represented in Indiana are:

Google Classroom, Canvas, Schoology, and Blackboard.
Other perks of using a LMS include the ability to: track and report student data to guide instruction, offer individualized instruction, allow students to work at their own pace, keep students organized with calendar features and folders, and collaborate with colleagues and share digital materials.

Choosing a LMS

If your district is currently shopping for a LMS be sure to spend time evaluating your options. Some districts prefer to use a rubric when evaluating various platforms.

During the evaluation period, it is important to request feedback from a variety of stakeholders and potential users (eg: admin staff, classroom teachers, students, and even parents). Most companies will offer free trials or pilot opportunities for teachers, so take advantage and recruit some volunteers to help out with the process.

Lastly, do not rush into making a decision because a quality LMS has the potential to support a highly engaging and student-centered environment for your students and teachers.

To hear from everyday users about why they love their respective LMS, view our archived webinar titled: What’s So Great About Learning Management Systems?

TEACHER TALK

“Students aren’t usually very chatty with their parents about what they’ve got going on in their classes, so I love that Canvas allows parents to ‘be in the know’ about their students’ progress and upcoming assignments.” -Enid Baines, HS English

“I LOVE Google Classroom because it integrates with the rest of G Suite so well!” -Kyle Kline, HS Math

“I love how Canvas allows me to customize a course to whatever content or grade level, whether first or fourth grade.” -Mitch Mosbey, Elementary