

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is an Executive Summary for the contract for the recommended Learning Management System (LMS) for the School Board of Broward County Schools Florida, in which BCPS teachers and students can go to access quality content, collaborate with their peers, demonstrate progress – all in one place, following the student through his or her learning paths.

Status	<p>The need for a gateway for teachers and students to access the many digital resources and applications in the BCPS ecosystem was initially addressed by the Schoology Pilot.</p> <p>After more than 18 months of extensive research and review of learning management systems and learning object repositories, the Office of Academics and the Information & Technology Department have determined that Instructure’s Digital Classroom Platform, entitled Canvas, best meets the current and future needs of teachers and students in their daily activities related to teaching and learning.</p>
Funds Requested	\$1,137,365 for year one.
Financial Impact Statement	<p>The financial impact to the District will be \$5,304,045 over a five- year period. The annual allocation by the Florida Department of Education for the state’s Digital Classrooms Plan for school districts will be the source of funding for the learning management system.</p>
Schools to be Added	<p>Schools have been identified based on their current use of a learning management system and their involvement with specific digital programs: e.g., Digital Classrooms (D3, D4, D5), LEEO schools, teacher websites. Other participants will be obtained through an application process.</p>
Managing Department/School	Innovative Learning and Arts
Source of Additional Information	<p>BCPS/ Instructure Contract, BCPS/ Instructure Statement of Work (SOW) and the Digital Classrooms Plan, Digital Classroom Platform Selection Power Point.</p>
Project Description	<p>A learning management system is an online software environment that can be used by educators and students to give everyone involved in a child’s education the information, digital tools, and resources they need to learn together — both inside and outside the classroom.</p> <p>The BCPS Learning Management System (LMS) will serve as the place where BCPS teachers and students can go to access quality content, collaborate with their peers, demonstrate progress – all in one place, following the student through his or her learning paths.</p> <p>A “platform” approach will ensure BCPS is never locked into a closed solution that cannot exchange information. Canvas is a quality product that will be provided to schools in two phases: Phase 1 will be to selected schools based on their specific digital programs, and then in year 2 to all</p>

schools. Funds that were previous spent by schools on their own independent solutions can now be reallocated to other educational needs.

Currently, Broward County Public Schools utilizes multiple learning management systems to deliver blended and online courses to students and teachers. The decision to standardize on a single platform across the District will enable us to conserve financial and human resources while delivering unified training and support. For the past 18 month both a Learning Management System Task Force and a Steering Committee, along with District educational technology partners, identified needs and determined requirements for the implementation of a district-wide learning management system.

We assessed the market for the appropriate learning management system through a Request for Information (RFI). The RFI was designed to collect information from suppliers and vendors focusing on the vendor capabilities, skills and experiences. The purpose of the RFI was to share digital classroom foundational activities currently underway across BCPS and to share our vision for technology enabled teaching and learning. The RFI allowed us to discover the landscape of interested vendors and learn about how their applications support and enhance teaching and learning. We then used the information provided by the vendors to determine the appropriate “solution scenario options” that would include types of applications that could be included in the future landscape.

There were about 70 vendors and organizations that responded to the RFI, with 46 offering digital tools/applications/platforms. We gathered vendor product development plans, technical architecture, and implementation approaches to better predict implementation, cost, and professional development support.

Based on our needs, a short list of vendors were invited to participate in the RFI. Factors that were taken into consideration were: the learning platform itself, Office 365 integration capabilities, standards-based gradebook, assessment management, application center, learning object repository, curriculum management, ePortfolio, and current use in BCPS classrooms. These vendors included:

- Blackboard
- Edsby
- Desire2Learn
- Mobiliya
- Instructure (Canvas)
- Itslearning

- Schoology

We prioritized our needs into three categories: (1) Vendor Mandatory Requirements, (2) Functional Mandatory Requirements, and (3) Technical Mandatory Requirements. Vendor mandatory requirement included the ability for the learning management system to be deployed to all teachers and students, that the vendor has experience with the intricacies of large school districts, and that they would provide implementation support. The functional requirements included the vendor's ability to support teacher and student needs, to support high quality classroom instruction, and to support our vision for personalized learning and the use of technology to enhance academics. Technical requirements included accessibility to users wherever and whenever they want, meeting regulatory and security requirements, and that the learning management system would fit within the District's current applications and architecture.

Members of the Learning Management System Task Force and Steering Committee, along with the District's educational technology partners were invited to view the final three vendors: Its Learning, Schoology, and Canvas. These vendors presented their functional capability and their detailed technology integration requirements. Observers were asked to assess each management system's ability to support their area of expertise, as well as the system's ability to design instruction, deliver instruction, act on results, navigate learner pathways, synchronize learning activities, and embrace student expressions. Within each presentation, time was allotted for conversation amongst observers to share thoughts and concerns. These meetings took place at two locations: KC Wright building and Lauderdale Manors Media Center.

Teachers, parents, students, community members, and principals tested and evaluated Schoology, Its Learning, and Instructure (Canvas) over two nights at Harbordale Elementary School. Demonstrations were presented from three different perspectives: beginning teacher, experienced teacher, and student/parent. Each observer selected the appropriate role and viewed the corresponding presentations, explored the platforms, and then evaluated the presentation, ease of use, and capabilities. The data collected from all presentations indicated that the software that received the highest approval rating in every category from ease of customizing curriculum, to managing student grades, to tracking student progress was Canvas.

In accordance with School Board Policy 3320, Purchasing Policies, Part II, Section H, for this purchase states, "The requirement of requesting competitive solicitations from three or more sources is hereby waived as authorized by Chapter 6A-1.012, (F.A.C.) State Board of Education

	<p>Administrative rules for the purchase of educational services and any type of copyrighted materials including, without limitation, educational tests, textbooks, printed instructional materials, computer software, films, filmstrips, videotapes, DVDs, disc or tape recordings, digital recordings, or similar audio-visual materials, and for library and reference books, and printed library cards where the such materials are purchased direct from the producer or publisher, the owner of the copyright, and exclusive agent within the state, a governmental agency, or a recognized educational institution. Purchase in excess of \$50,000 for commodities or services, which competitive solicitations have been waived, require School Board approval.</p> <p>In accordance with School Board Policy 3320, Purchasing Policies, Part VI (Technology), Section (C) (5c), Direct Negotiation, using this option, specifications, projected quantities and terms and conditions is a basis for negotiation of this contract which best fits the needs of the District. This procurement is brought to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The funds to pay for this software application are coming from the Digital Classrooms Plan allocations. This procurement meets with the District’s Strategic Plan goal for high-quality instruction.</p> <p>As of November 5, 2015, the State University System of Florida Board of Governors selected Instructure’s Canvas as the standardized learning management system. Now colleges and universities within the state university system of Florida can opt in to use Instructure’s Canvas as part of the state university system’s “2025 Strategic Plan for Education”. Our purchase of Instructure’s Canvas will prepare all of our students for post-secondary online work throughout the state of Florida.</p>
<p>Evaluation Plan</p>	<p>The LMS incorporates assessment criteria that will be used by the District to evaluate the integration of digital content and technology into classrooms. As part of the Digital Classrooms Plan, the Technology Integration Matrix (TIM) will be the electronic observation tool that the District will use to measure teacher technology integration across five levels and within five different types of learning environments. Multiple software programs will be purchased as part of the Digital Classrooms Plan and will be accessed through the LMS. Measures of student performance with keyboarding and digital literacy skills will be collected from second through eighth graders and reported out through the Digital Classrooms Plan through a digital tool called Learning.com. Two other digital tools that will be used through the LMS for literacy development include Vocabulary.com and Newsela. Phase 1 of the implementation plan will take place through the 2016-2017 school year and we will be able to monitor the development of the number of online/blended</p>

	courses, performance tasks, online assessments, and teacher and student usage of the learning management system.
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