

# PILLARS

of Today's  
K-12 Classroom



# Built by the Instructure Learning Ecosystem

Strength and support inevitably come to mind when we think of a pillar.

According to Merriam-Webster, a pillar is a firm, upright support for a superstructure. It's a supportive, integral, or upstanding part, a fundamental precept. K-12 classrooms need strong pillars to provide students with a productive, supportive learning foundation.

In today's evolving educational landscape, innovative pedagogy, interactive learning, and student engagement are paramount to building a modern classroom that drives student success. Thoughtful technology at the center enriches, supports, and connects every stage of the teaching and learning cycle:

**Instruct** - Teachers start by implementing innovative instructional strategies to engage students in learning experiences.

**Assess** - To evaluate where students are in their learning journey, teachers deliver assessments that check for understanding and gauge student progress.

**Reflect** - Data such as grades and assessment scores to demographics, behavior, attendance and engagement metrics—provide teachers with meaningful insights into their students.

**Advance** - Teachers and administrators then use these insights to inform instruction and make decisions that affect student, class, school, and district-level outcomes.

The question is, what should the foundation of today's K-12 classroom look like?

That's where the power of the Instructure Learning Ecosystem comes into play—for large, small, urban, and rural districts alike. Within this open, reliable learning ecosystem, the fortifying pillars that uphold the teaching and learning cycle in today's classroom come together.



The Instructure Learning Ecosystem includes:



## CANVAS BY INSTRUMENT

**Canvas LMS** to streamline teaching and learning activities and keep teachers, students, and families connected and communicating.

**Canvas Studio** to create engaging, interactive video learning experiences.

**Canvas Catalog** to support course registration and enrollment for professional development.

**Canvas Credentials** to empower staff to own their professional development journey through digital badging and stackable, sharable pathways.



## MASTERY BY INSTRUMENT

**Mastery Connect** to show learning in an intuitive, visual way by tying assessment data to actionable insights.

**Mastery Item Bank** to check for student comprehension, evaluate learning, and provide immediate feedback.

**Mastery View Assessments\*** to effectively identify and address student mastery levels and learning needs through standards-based assessment.

*\*Availability varies by state*



## IMPACT BY INSTRUMENT

To help teachers and students fully adopt educational technology and promote deeper engagement with learning.



## LEARNPLATFORM BY INSTRUMENT

To evaluate and manage the effectiveness of your district's edtech.

# 1

## Canvas LMS: A central, consistent, connected hub of the digital learning environment

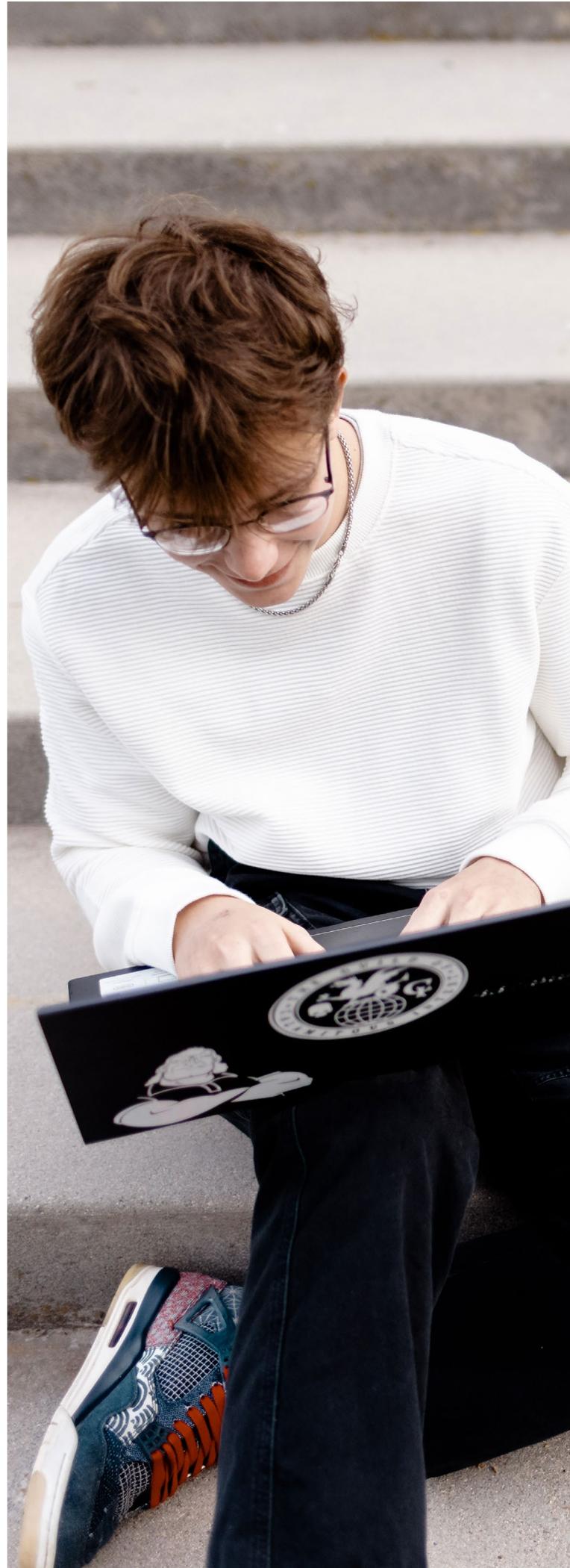
### Open & Connected

Simply put, Canvas LMS is a connector. It connects teachers to the apps they know and love, students to their teachers, peers, and assignments, parents to the classroom, and so on. Consistent connections create a space for high-quality instruction and foster strong relationships between teachers and students wherever they are—in the physical, hybrid, or remote classroom.

Teachers can differentiate instruction and communicate with individual students, groups, or the entire class through various formats: messaging, audio notes, video, and more. Students can collaborate via chat or videos.

In addition to making connections, Canvas LMS is an open, one-stop shop. What does that mean? As a commercially open-source LMS, Canvas provides an openness that allows administrators and faculty to innovate and customize courses using Learning Tool Interoperability (LTI) standards while giving students a seamless and engaging experience.

Not to mention that the Canvas API works with additional learning tools already standard in today's classroom, such as Google Tools, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Adobe, and more.



## Save Teachers Time

Teachers' plates are already full. We know this, and Canvas LMS simplifies complicated things for your teachers, students, and support staff so that they can spend time elevating student learning. With this in mind, course creation is streamlined and set up to be easy to follow and engaging.

Features like SpeedGrader offer educators the ability:

- to grade on the go
- to provide targeted feedback with annotations
- to use rubrics for scoring
- to share comments via video
- to add grades to the grade book
- to easily tie outcomes to grades

## Mobile & Accessible

Today's students, guardians, and teachers need to be able to access the hub of their classroom wherever they are. We understand this and have intentionally designed the Canvas App to allow Teachers can engage with students whenever and wherever through an easy-to-use interface, mobile notifications, and best-in-class data security and accessibility.

Our Parent Mobile App brings guardians the insight they need to stay informed about their student's progress.

The result is a mobile, accessible app that is easy to use and accessible wherever students, teachers, and guardians are.

## Actionable Analytics

Understanding classroom dynamics is essential for effective decision-making. LMS usage and engagement patterns shed light into how technology is impacting student learning. However, schools are already swimming in data. The challenge is finding key trends and putting together an action plan for responding to the data.

[Canvas Admin Analytics](#) empowers administrators with a comprehensive overview of LMS usage, student performance, and course effectiveness. The interactive dashboards offer actionable insights to identify training needs, improve student experiences, and highlight best practices. With these analytics, educators can swiftly address gaps, maximize engagement, and continuously enhance teaching strategies.

Additionally, [advanced analytics tools powered by AI](#) offer deeper insights into data that set the stage for improved learning outcomes and a more informed educational community.

## An Engaged Community

Another perk of being a Canvas LMS user? You'll be in good company. The [Instructure Community](#) is one of the most active, engaged forums in edtech, and it is eager to answer questions or provide support with [Canvas guides](#).

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Our teachers were all using different platforms and different software, and Canvas allowed them to be unified. Parents were happy, students were happy, and faculty were happy.

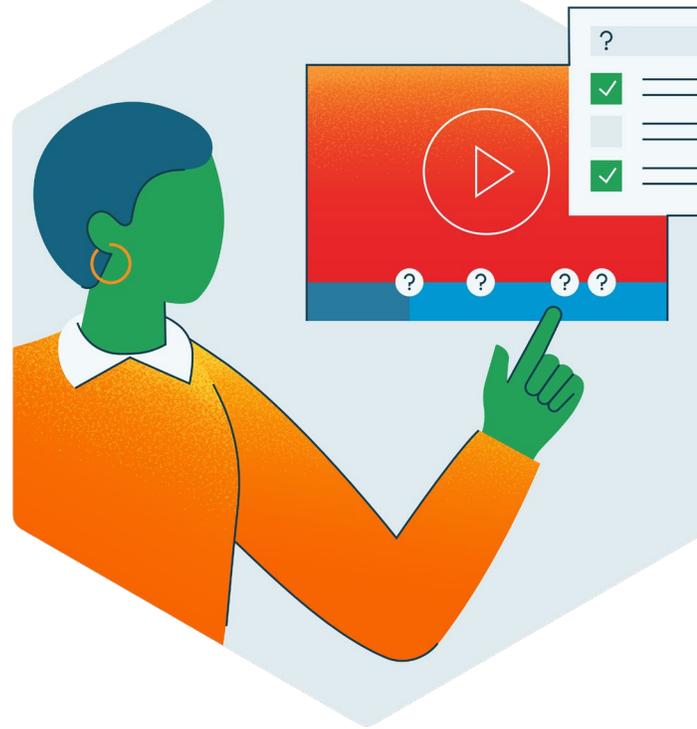
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**NICHOLE LEMMON**

Director of Blended Learning, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MO

Learn more about [Canvas LMS](#)





## Canvas Studio: A next-generation video learning solution that takes student engagement to the next level

Canvas turns one-way, passive video into inclusive, engaging, and productive virtual discussions.

Videos are a valuable way to enhance teaching and learning. But introducing video to the classroom isn't always as easy as it seems. After all, you want active engagement rather than passive playing. You want students to consume and comprehend, read, react, and get and give knowledge.

Canvas Studio provides robust tools for creating and delivering interactive, novel digital learning experiences. These tools help educators bring engaging learning to life, enabling content creation, in-video discussions, embedded quizzes, and more.

### In-Video Discussions

Instructors create, deliver, host, and organize video content and add discussion questions to the clips to prompt students to engage. Students no longer have to watch and rewind as questions populate in the video at the moments when critical information is live.

Students can also interact by engaging in dynamic conversations while accessing, viewing, and replaying videos wherever and whenever they log on to learn.

### Content Creation

Canvas Studio makes creating engaging video lectures, welcome messages, and more—easier. Teachers can upload videos from external sources like YouTube directly to Canvas Studio and embed them throughout their courses. Wherever Canvas's rich content editor is available, Studio is also accessible. Collections in Canvas Studio allow teachers to organize their content into a taxonomy that works best for them.

Educators can also ask students to record a video explaining a concept or skill, then use SpeedGrader to apply rubrics and provide quick and targeted feedback in Canvas LMS.

### Embedded Quizzes

Teachers can embed questions into the video so students are quizzed as they progress through the content. Students then get immediate feedback on their scores, which transfer directly to the Canvas LMS gradebook. Opportunities to show what they know at the moment they need it most.

Doing so goes a long way in helping students apply their learning and demonstrate mastery of a subject or skill.

### Useful Analytics

Canvas Studio provides helpful analytics and insights, such as which videos students are watching, which parts, and for how long. You can see data for an overall class or zoom in on specific students.

In doing this, Studio establishes a healthy feedback loop for teachers to understand precisely which video content students engage with.

“

The engagement analytics in Canvas Studio provide super helpful feedback because if a student is saying they don't understand a subject or standard, we have valuable insight into what pieces of content they are watching and which ones are just being clicked on.

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**KIRSTEN WILSON**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Virtual Arkansas



## Canvas Catalog: A simple, scalable course catalog system to streamline professional development

Canvas Catalog is an intuitive, cutting-edge course catalog system and a branded marketplace for your district's professional development and community resource offerings.

It streamlines and scales educator professional development at the state and district levels and empowers your district to take professional development to the next level. Additionally, since both Canvas LMS and Catalog are part of the same family, you can quickly and easily publish and market any Canvas LMS course with Catalog.

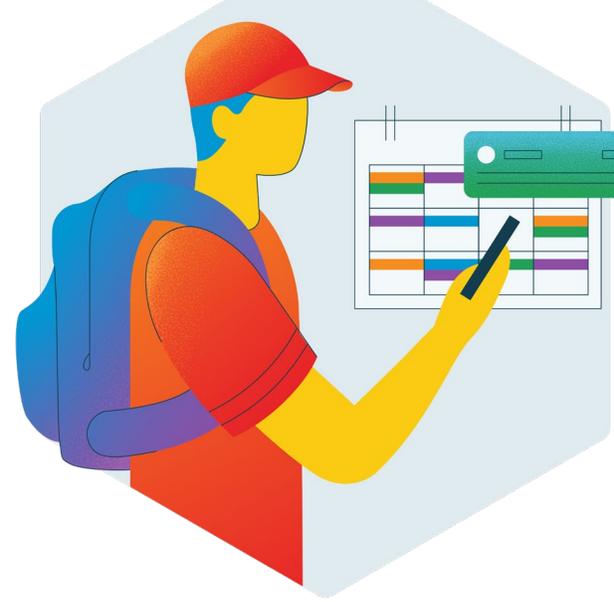
### **Simplify Registration**

Professional development registration systems that efficiently and equitably offer professional development take time to come by.

Canvas Catalog, however, is the comprehensive solution that can quickly get your stakeholders into their professional development courses, allow you to build a district-branded professional development storefront, and scale your educator education program. With Canvas Catalog, district leaders can offer any Canvas course available, and educators can easily find and register for the courses they need to further their learning.

### **Lighten the Load**

Managing PD registration and teacher certification is a heavy lift for district administrators. Canvas Catalog, however, eases this burden. Administrators can quickly build, manage, and customize Canvas Catalog course offerings, pages, programs, and clusters of courses needed for certification and course indexing. Canvas Catalog also reduces administrative burdens by automatically adding and enrolling participants collecting payments, and certificates of completion.



Administrators can monitor the health of their professional development by generating high-level, customizable reports to view progress, overall registration of programs and courses, revenue and enrollment trends, and quickly export reports with one click.

### **Designed for Differentiation**

Professional development must be tailored to all your district's stakeholders' unique needs. Canvas Catalog is designed to meet these needs.

From the community to parents, from admin registering teachers to teachers self-registering, from offerings within your institution to offerings to people outside your institution, the options for course registration in Canvas Catalog are built to meet the needs of everyone involved.

Not everyone needs the same PD. Catalog makes it easy for all stakeholders to participate in relevant PD. Self-registration and self-paced courses make adult learning meaningful, too.

Learn more about [Canvas Catalog](#)

## Canvas Credentials: A verifiable digital credentials tool to empower educators in their professional development journey

Just as teachers encourage their students to be lifelong learners, Canvas Credentials enables educators to do the same in their professional development.

With Canvas Credentials, educators can produce more than just a transcript of their professional development courses over the years. With verifiable digital credentials, they keep a comprehensive learner record of competencies and accomplishments they've already built as they plan for what achievements are next on their pathways.

### **Educator Ownership**

Educators need a place to collect and share their wealth of experience and achievements in real-time so that they can demonstrate what they know no matter where they gained a skill or competency.

Canvas Credentials gives teachers and staff a system in which they can articulate their accomplishments in a standardized way. In this system, they can see which milestone badges they've earned, measure progress, and share their learner record with third parties when needed.



### Verifiable, Stackable, Portable Skills

Educators collect many credentials and skills over their careers in the ever-evolving professional education landscape, but these experiences are often siloed. The onus is usually left to educators to compile and verify the skills they've mastered. They need a simple way to stack and transfer their credentials and competencies and carry these skills for the rest of their professional journey.

Canvas Credentials provides educators with a verifiable, stackable, portable way to showcase their credentials.

Canvas Credentials offer educators many ways to attain and maintain their credentials. Open Pathways enables them to take any badge from any source, stack them together in a system of rules, and issue a new credential.

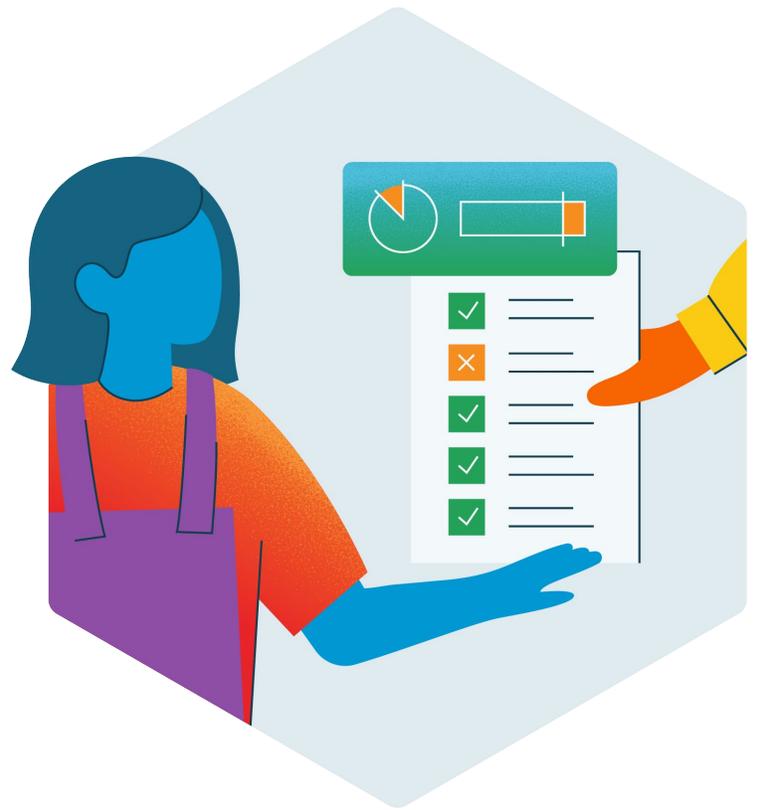
### Skills-Based Search

Finding well-qualified candidates is a challenge for every district and school administrator. Canvas Credentials offers Comprehensive Learning and Employment Records (LER) that simplify talent acquisition by equipping schools and districts with a skills-aligned lens to inform their search and connect existing employees with upskilling or reskilling programs in their district.

### Actionable Analytics

District leaders need a way to monitor their professional development programs' health actively. Reporting and analytics within Canvas Credentials grant leaders insight into professional development engagement metrics to discover which PD opportunities are most effective with badges. Administrators can monitor staff professional development completion and other PD metrics from here.

With these metrics in hand, administrators can discover, understand, and report on badging metrics and employee PD achievements. Finally, with this information, administrators can see both the number of badges shared over time and where badges are shared so that they can strategically fill in any gaps in professional development moving forward.



### Reward Professional Development

Every district and school strives to achieve a mission. To be successful, they need to identify and promote skills that align with their mission. This is where rewarding professional development through badges comes into play.

Canvas Credentials allows districts and schools to build longitudinal pathways that highlight the skills educators need in their lifelong learning journey. By tracking badge awards, group enrollments, and pathway progress for districtwide initiatives, they are better equipped to guide educators and staff on their professional development journeys.

Learn more about [Canvas Credentials](#)

## 2

### Mastery Connect: A thoughtful assessment management system to drive learning forward

Assessment is a fundamental part of the learning process. Mastery Connect gives educators access to trusted assessments that show them precisely what their students have mastered. When student needs are identified, teachers can make informed decisions to accelerate learning for all their students.

Mastery Connect combines the critical assessment tools and high-quality content educators need to help students succeed. Designed to be both intuitive and visual, it ties assessment data to insights that allow educators to take action to support students where they need it most.

Students' mastery of standards is visible within Mastery Connect and serves as a launching point for teachers to make instructional decisions and collaborate with their teams.

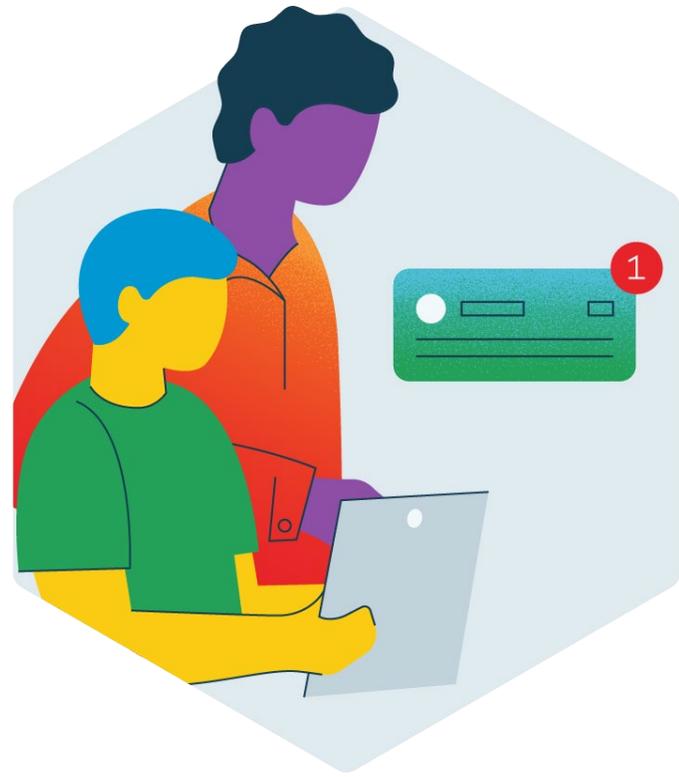
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To me, Mastery Connect is a catalyst for conversations about student achievement and instructional strategies. Teachers are able to sit side by side with their colleagues and have conversations centered around data in a non-threatening way. It offers consistency throughout the district. We know the when and what of what's being taught.

”

**CLAUDIA AVERY**

Deputy Superintendent, Fairfield County School District in South Carolina



#### Instant Insights

No longer are teachers left to pull assessment data and draw insights manually. Learn what students know through standards-based formative and benchmark assessments that instantly populate in Mastery Connect.

#### Customizable Assessments

Having a database of assessment options is anything but cookie-cutter. Mastery Connect's assessment options are as diverse as the needs of the students utilizing them. Teachers can offer a variety of assessments, from multiple-choice quizzes to performance-based and rubric-aligned tasks.

#### Curriculum Mapping

Curriculum mapping keeps everyone on track. In Mastery Connect, your team can map standards and scope & sequence across classrooms, grade levels, and districts to streamline onboarding new teachers and promote teacher collaboration so that everyone knows exactly where they are and where they're going.

#### Connected to Canvas LMS

For schools already using Canvas LMS, Mastery Connect is a natural extension of their digital learning environment. By bringing their assessments into the platform they already know and love, Mastery Connect saves teachers and students time and effort.

Learn more about [Mastery Connect](#)

# Mastery Item Bank: The flexible, trusted formative assessment item bank to drive student success

Formative assessment provides teachers with diverse avenues to connect with students, engage them in the feedback loop, and set academic goals together. The Mastery Item Bank delivers quality content to implement teachers' formative strategies. With standards-based items, educators can create formative assessments that tell them what students know and where they need to take instruction next.

## Expertly Designed & Diverse

The Mastery Item Bank supports a range of item types—including technology-enhanced items and mode-specific writing prompts—to reflect and assess the intent of standards. Subject-matter experts develop items using a multi-step methodology that includes stringent item-writing guidelines, quality checks, and multiple rounds of review.

## Loads of Questions

By the numbers, Mastery Item Bank includes:

- ~ 98,000 Total Items
- 67,700+CCSS Items
- 9,000+NGSS Items
- 10,000+ TechnologyEnhanced Items
- 3,000+ Constructed Response Items
- 400+Writing Prompts
- 22,000 Spanish Items
- 1,500+ Passages

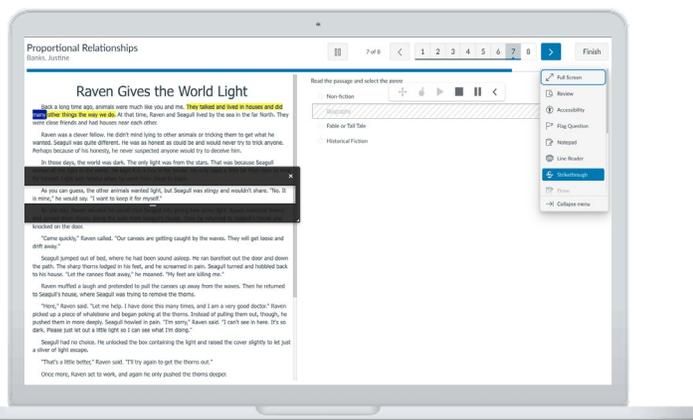
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Using an item bank to develop formative assessments along with and in between benchmark assessments has provided our teachers with timely and precise data to guide instructional decisions.”

”

**GREG PACZAK, Ph.D.**

Director of Research and Development,  
Madison County Schools, Ridgeland, MS



Learn more about [Mastery Item Bank](#)



## Mastery View Assessments: Understand student progress with formative, interim, and predictive assessments you can trust

### Mastery View Formative Assessments\*

Use valid and reliable classroom formatives to assess and address individual student learning needs and effectively target instruction. Mastery View Formatives maximize time spent teaching and learning by becoming a part of classroom practice and continually informing instruction.

### Mastery View Interim Assessments\*

Identify student mastery levels of essential state standards with quarterly check-ins. Expertly designed to match your state's essential standards and thoughtfully aligned to scope and sequence, Mastery View Interims become the foundation of a balanced assessment program.

### Mastery View Predictive Assessments\*

Deliver rigorous benchmarks that mirror state assessments, measure student progress, and predict summative outcomes. Mastery View Predictive Assessments are based on state learning standards and are designed using state assessment blueprints. These regular assessments prepare students for upcoming assessments and ensure they are ready for the next step in their academic journey.

### Immediate & Integrated

Gain insight into where students are in their learning without ever leaving Mastery Connect. Because feedback on formative, interim, and predictive assessments is immediate, Mastery View Assessments provides teachers with the assessment data they need in an environment they're familiar with.

*\*Availability varies by state*



With Mastery View Predictive Assessments, we want to ensure that our students have been exposed to different formats versus just multiple choice...Because the bottom line is if you teach the standards and track student mastery of the standards, then our students should be able to do well on any assessment... Our benchmarks are a predictor for the State English EOC exam... Students may fall anywhere between a 3 to 5 percentage point difference.



**LEEVETTE MALLOY**  
Director of Secondary Education  
Fairfield County School District

Learn more about Mastery View [Formative](#) and [Predictive](#) Assessments.



# 3

## Enabling meaningful technology adoption through 24/7 support for teachers, students, and guardians.

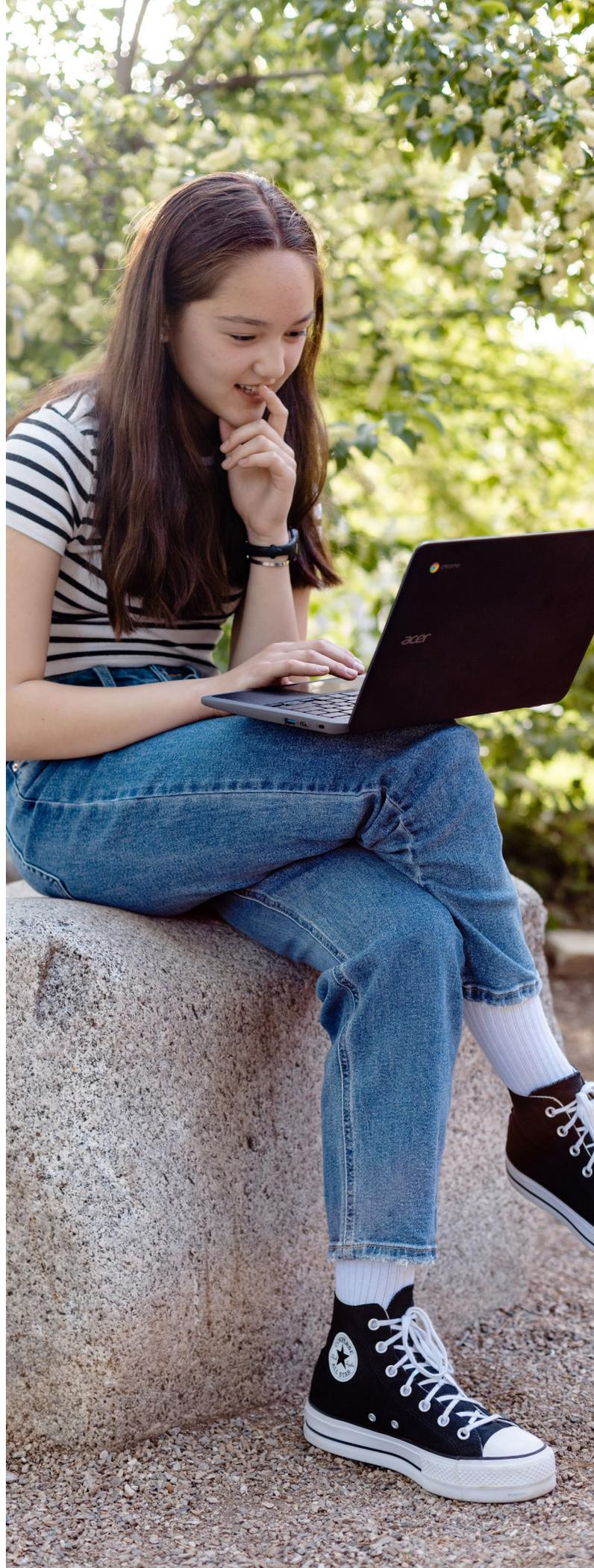
Administrators need to know how technology is or isn't being used across their district to deliver the most meaningful support for teachers. To fully utilize the technology available, teachers must understand the full capability of the tools at their disposal. This knowledge is critical in building classrooms that are continually learning.

This is where Impact by Instructure comes in.

### Actionable Insights

Impact gives administrators and teachers insight into technology usage through dynamic reporting in easy-to-digest dashboards. From this perspective, administrators gain a bird's-eye view of how students and teachers use technology, identify who needs additional support to maximize technology's impact and intervene accordingly.

Impact allows schools to guide educators toward instructional strategies that matter most. With Impact, administrators can send targeted reminders within Instructure solutions on integrating the identified features better and develop best practices for technology use in the classroom so that schools can ensure that teachers are using the tools that match its pedagogy.

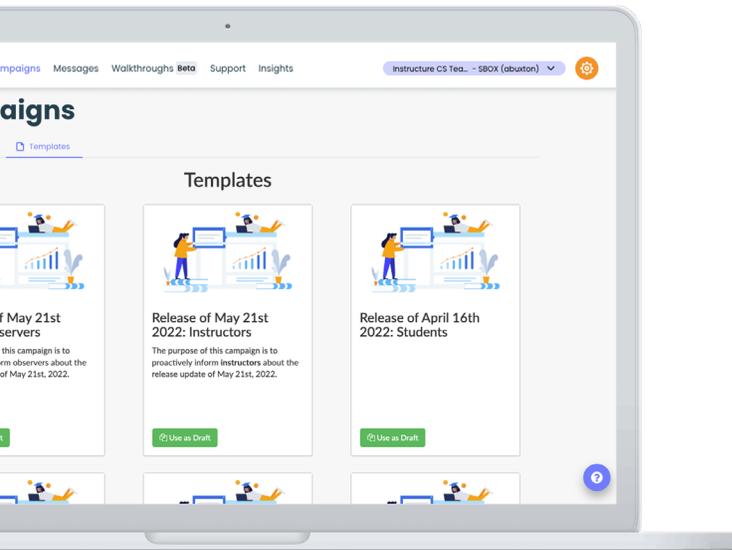


## 24/7 Support For Everyone

Administrators aren't the only ones who benefit from Impact. Teachers, students, and families can save the time and energy they typically use reaching out to IT, admin, or other teachers for support by using Impact's customized in-app messages and contextualized support channels. The best part? These resources are available to them no matter their location or time of day. Impact connects users to a self-help support tab 24/7 to empower them to find the support they need when they need it most.

This guided support also streamlines the onboarding process for new faculty and students. Onboarding new teachers and welcoming new students to your school's tech stack has never been easier.

Always available support in Impact has a tangible effect on lowering support costs, reducing issue resolution time, and increasing user satisfaction. Essentially, stakeholders spend less time frustrated, wondering why they can't get help, and more time teaching, studying, and learning.



“

With Impact, we can identify which features in Canvas LMS teachers are and are not using. We're going in and finding teachers and identifying high-impact instructional strategies that we can promote with them to have a transformative impact on their classrooms.”

**DR. OWEN FLETCHER**  
Digital Learning Coordinator  
Richmond County Schools

# 4

## Improve student outcomes by selecting and managing, equitable, effective, evidence-based edtech

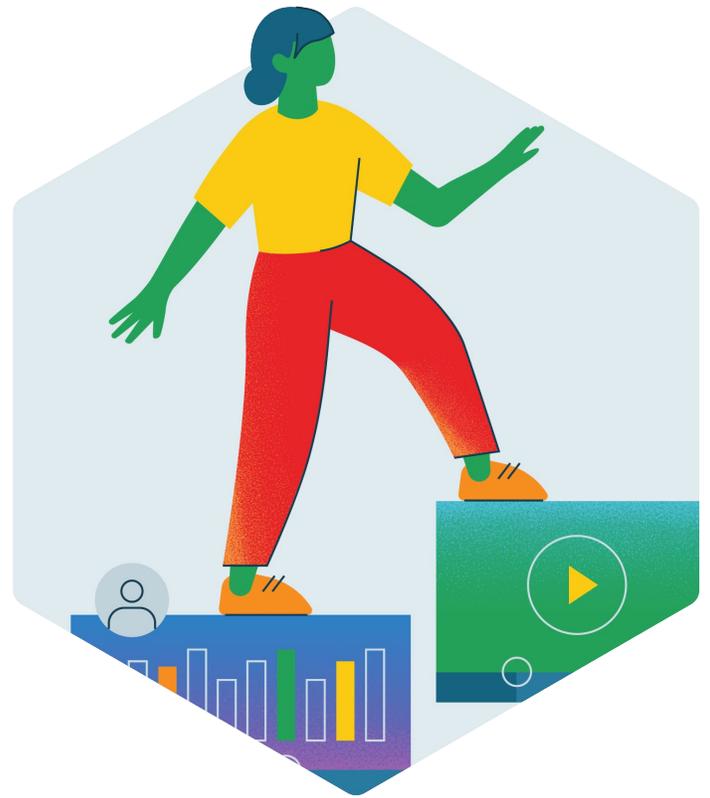
In recent years, edtech tool usage has exploded in K-12 districts. Our latest research shows that the average school uses over 2,700 tools. With so many tools available, justifying the investment, proving impact on student learning outcomes, and communicating the ins and outs of which tools are (or aren't approved) has never been more challenging.

LearnPlatform by Instructure is here to help empower districts to make evidence-based decisions about their edtech investments to ensure their safety, equity, cost-effectiveness, compliance, and efficacy.

### A Single Source of Edtech Truth

LearnPlatform lets you centralize your edtech management processes and elevate edtech product attributes. It does this through custom taggings and the ability to attach contracts, licenses, privacy agreements, and implementation guides to any product in your district library.

This one-stop-shop is easy for your staff to reference and surfaces the most critical attributes to all your stakeholders. It also lets you communicate required privacy information and share family resource evaluations.



This communication isn't one-sided; teachers can provide structured feedback relevant to your district's edtech needs within LearnPlatform.

### Centralized Requests, Streamlined Vetting

Every district's processes are unique. LearnPlatform is flexible and allows you to build the best evaluation processes for your district's stakeholders. By relying on it, your team can create a single edtech request process that keeps them updated on the current status and customized forms that gather the most relevant information upfront.

Automation workflows allow teams to assign tasks to specific members for product feedback, input, and sign-off. Triggered notifications ensure responsibilities and deadlines are clear.

#### **Efficient Vendor Communication**

Managing applications and relationships with vendors takes time and effort. LearnPlatform can help increase the efficiency and transparency of your provider information so that no detail gets lost in translation. With LearnPlatform, your team can Invite providers to complete RFIs, RFPs, and DPAs and leverage custom forms for provider applications based on product requests.

#### **Evidence-Based Insights**

Understanding which tools are positively impacting student outcomes is only possible with evidence. With limited resources, you need to know which tools have the most impact to maximize your investment with peace of mind.

LearnPlatform gives you the data to spot quantitative and qualitative trends in product use across buildings, grade levels, and classrooms. This allows you to see where licenses may be underutilized and where additional training could be beneficial.

Rapid cycle evaluation (RCE) in LearnPlatform helps you understand which tools and implementation approaches truly improve outcomes. Pinpoint the classrooms and instructors with the most success, elevate those individuals as leaders, and scale their success throughout your district.

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We quickly figured out that the volume of work, given the number of edtech tools, would have been impossible without a partner. LearnPlatform offered the most comprehensive solution, tools, and quick request turnaround with as little impact on classroom instruction as possible. We didn't want to overburden our faculty or teachers. ”

**CHRISTOPHER THIEME**

Executive Director of Educational Technology  
Oak Park and River Forest High School

Learn more about [LearnPlatform](#)

# Supporting the Teaching & Learning Cycle

Each of these solutions works together to enhance the student experience, all while making it more straightforward for schools to create an environment where educators can seamlessly implement the stages of the teaching and learning cycle:

- **Instruct**
- **Assess**
- **Reflect**
- **Advance**

When combined as part of a complete ecosystem, Canvas by Instructure, Mastery by Instructure, Impact by Instructure, and LearnPlatform by Instructure all work seamlessly together to strengthen institutions, providing a modern, convenient, and robust foundation to enrich, support, and connect every aspect of the teaching and learning cycle in today's K-12 classroom.





# Powering the World's Smartest Classrooms.

Instructure, the maker of Canvas LMS, is an education technology company dedicated to elevating student success, amplifying the power of teaching, and inspiring everyone to learn together. The Instructure Learning Ecosystem, comprised of several products serving K-12, higher education, and professional education, supports tens of millions of educators and learners worldwide, making learning more personal and student success more equitable.

Learn more at [www.instructure.com/k-12](http://www.instructure.com/k-12).