LMS Strategies To Improve Schools
Building Better Ed-Tech Strategies for the Pre-K-5 Crowd

Expert Presenters:

**Marty Bray**, chief technology and information officer, Forsyth County Schools, Ga.

**Donald K. McIntosh**, president, Trimeritus e-Learning Solutions

Related Article (Special Report)

**District Leaders Tackle LMS Challenges**
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Piecing Together a Smart LMS Strategy

Don McIntosh, Ph.D.
Trimeritus eLearning Solutions Inc.
www.trimeritus.com
Looking for an LMS?

- District use
- School use
- Personal use
- Just interested
Polling question – check one

Experience with LMS

- None
- Have used one or more LMS’s
- Have maintained my own LMS
- School/district changing LMS
Polling question – check all that apply

What do you want an LMS to do?

- eLearning
- Classroom management
- Course creation
- Virtual classroom
- Social learning
- Mobile access
- Administration
- Improve student learning
Piecing Together a Smart LMS Strategy

• Hundreds of LMS’s available
• Choose carefully
Functions of an LMS

- Deliver and track eLearning
- Manage classroom instruction
- Course authoring
- Virtual classroom
- Social learning
- Gradebook
- Reporting and analytics
Important things to consider

- Usability
- Cost
- Vendor’s reputation
- Integration with SIS
- Internally hosted or cloud-based
- Customer support
- Mobile access
- Video
- Special features (e.g. parent support)
Process

- Committee
- Needs analysis
- List vendor possibilities
- Visit vendor websites
- Contact vendors
- Get and check references
- Talk with other users
- Develop scenarios for demos
- Request For Proposal (RFP)
- Trial period
Mistakes

- Buying one that just one teacher likes
- Buying one that another school district has
- Buying more than one
- Thinking that open source LMS’s are free
Popular systems

- Blackboard
- Moodle (open-source)
- Desire2Learn (D2L Brightspace)
- Instructure Canvas
- Edmodo
- Schoology
- 274 others www.trimeritus.com/vendors.pdf
D2L Brightspace
Canvas

The American Revolution

Course Modules

Road to Revolution
- Introduction and Historiography: 10 pts
- Background: Society, Economy, Politics and Government, America and Britain: 10 pts
- Background, cont’d & Ideology: 10 pts
- Overview of the Independence Movement: Nov 9, 2010: 10 pts
- Arguments and Actions, 1784-1770: 10 pts

Revolution
- From Resistance to Revolution, 1770-1776: 10 pts
- The British View & Review: 10 pts
- Declarations of Independence & Loyalty: 10 pts
- The Revolutionary War and the Peace of Paris: 10 pts

Midterm
- Midterm Exam: 99 pts

Forming a Nation
- The First State Constitutions: 10 pts
- Paper Topic Due: 20 pts
- "Liberty!": A Sample of PBS’s Series on the American Revolution: 10 pts
- The Confederation and the 1780s: 10 pts
Notes:

• LMS’s tend to serve the needs of administration more than learning needs of students – you need to know what your focus is.

• Adopting an LMS is a major system-wide decision that will affect the way you and your students and perhaps parents work. It should not be taken lightly.
Contact information

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One Login. One Platform.
Online Learning

Choosing an LMS
Choosing An LMS: A Brief History of Time

- Forsyth County Schools (FCS) has been using different LMS systems for ten years.

- Five years ago FCS received a federal I3 grant which focused on using technology to improve student achievement.

- A critical piece of the grant was to incorporate a “recommendation engine” to give teachers more tools to customize learning for the student.
Choosing an LMS: A Committee of Committees

• Began process with a GAPs analysis to determine which features the district wanted to develop

• Determined early on that a partnership would be needed to meet the needs of the grant

• About 18 applications initially submitted

• I3 team which was formed as a part of grant evaluated applications based on GAPs analysis

• Narrowed to 4 applications

• Committee of 4 representing relevant stake holders made final recommendation. --Stakeholders included administrators, teachers, and students.
Choosing an LMS: The Final Decision

- Committee selected two vendors from the four to make presentations
- Final decision came down to which vendor was most willing to work with the district to help solve technical issues around development of new features
- ITSLearning was selected as the district LMS
- New LMS went online two years ago
- During implementation weekly meetings held to suggest improvements and fix bugs
Choosing an LMS: Moving into the Future

• As grant comes to an end district will continue to suggest improvements

• Over time the LMS will also become portal for all digital resources in the district.
  ▪ Learning Objects
  ▪ Digital Text Books
  ▪ Media Center Resources
  ▪ Video
  ▪ Google Apps
  ▪ Virtual Desktops

• I3 team critical to implementation of LMS at all schools which is continuing

• LMS is being used to facilitate blended learning model at High School

• LMS will be used to make up snow days next year
Choosing an LMS: Sharing the Love

• Feel free to contact me at mbray@forsyth.k12.ga.us

• District offers number of tours including one this January please contact mfarmer@forsyth.k12.ga.us for more information

Of course our web address is:
www.forsyth.k12.ga.us
What if You Could….

Connect all your digital learning resources?
Leverage all your digital assets?
With just one login?
On just one platform?
You Can Have it All:

One login. One platform. One Solution.

Already connecting more than

✓ 10 million parents and teachers
✓ 120,000 administrators.
The Tools You Need:
The Learning Cycle

Third-party, OER, and your digital content
## Highly Configurable and Secure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One login</td>
<td>Access and manage all of your digital assets with a single sign-on for teachers, administrators, students, and parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One platform</td>
<td>Connect your curriculum, assessments, and data across your entire Learning Cycle.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works with a variety of devices wherever you are, at any time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configurable</td>
<td>Integrate with any student information system, third party curriculum or assessments, and local content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose from dozens of Engrade apps to meet your unique needs and budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud-based</td>
<td>Experience fast installation, easy accessibility, flexibility, and easy upgrades.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure</td>
<td>Ensure security with daily backups to an on-site server and encrypted backup to a remote server. No data is stored on employee computers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How will you engage?

The choice is yours.

Visit Engrade.com
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Required Reading From *Education Week*:

**Free download!**

**Spotlight on Using Technology for Classroom Collaboration**

Technology collaboration means choosing the right digital tool, experimenting with new online resources, and opening the classroom to a digital world. In this Spotlight, see how you can dig deeper into your library’s digital resources, integrate instruction with your student’s devices, and develop out-of-school learning opportunities that connect to the world.