



NDE's Canvas Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

(updated 09/09/20)

~~1. Are all Nebraska Public and Non-public School districts and schools eligible to participate in the Canvas Statewide Initiative?~~

YES. Any Nebraska school district or school is eligible to participate. The current contract for districts/schools began in 2020 and ends June 2023 total at a cost of \$4.50 per seat license (the NDOE is negotiating a contract to extend beyond the 2023 date). All other fees will be taken care of by the NDE. Please be sure to purchase enough seats to cover both student needs and staff needs. The NDE will be negotiating another contract to begin once the first one expires.

2. If I wish to have Canvas ready for students and staff for the Fall 2021-2022 school year what do I need to do?

In order to be ready for Fall, a school district must have applied by March 8, 2021. You can find additional information about LMS systems below..

<https://www.launchne.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Why-a-Learning-Management-System.pdf>

3. What is the timeline for the project moving forward for Fall 2021-2022 implementation?

We are currently onboarding new schools and districts that met the sign-up date of March 8. Training for school and district staff can begin once a district has implemented (at no cost to school and districts for this) the LMS to their district or school systems. This training will be provided for ALL schools and districts who are new to Canvas. There is no cost for the staff training to districts or schools. To sign up for training, send an [email](#) to this account.

4. If a school or district is under a current contract for one more year (with Canvas or another LMS provider) will they be able to join the statewide pricing in the future?

YES. A school or district under a current contract can join the consortium once their current contract has expired. A Nebraska school or district will be able to join for the remainder of the time of the statewide contract (current contract will be 3 years, so until June 2023) at the current \$3 seat price.

5. Does Canvas integrate with Google for Education applications?

YES. There is seamless integration with Google for Education applications and Canvas. For more Information on this: <https://www.instructure.com/canvas/en-au/integration-canvas-google>. In addition to Google for the Classroom, Canvas also integrates with many other popular educational applications. There is a NEW Google Assignments LTI integration released in August 2020. We encourage schools to use this integration for their new instances.

~~6. Does Canvas integrate with my student information system (SIS)?~~

Most Likely. Canvas does integrate with most Student Information Systems (SIS). For more information about SIS integrations: [Click here](#). Please email K12 Priority Services if you are having problems with SIS integration.

7. Where can I find information about the Canvas Initiative as it moves forward?

You will find information and helpful resources about this initiative at the new Canvas Consortium website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/educational-technology/canvas-statewide-consortium/>

8. If my district is already using Canvas and we move to the statewide contract will all of the teacher/staff created, resources, professional development, learning modules and other digital content still be available within our district instance?

YES. There will be no changes to the current instance of Canvas your district currently has in place by moving to the statewide contract. There is potential for significant cost savings for your district/school.

9. If I am currently in a contract with Canvas that will not expire on June 30, 2021. Can I still participate in the statewide canvas initiative?

YES. However your participation will be limited to only **additional** seats (perhaps for additional grade levels or increases in enrollments and staff) you would like to purchase for the 2021-2022 school year. The seat licenses you currently have under contract with Canvas will be subject to your current Canvas contract and cannot be added to the statewide contract (3 years) until your current contract expires.

10. Can my district use our district/school CARES ACT funds to purchase Canvas seat licenses?

YES. In fact, we recommend using your CARES ACT funding for this initiative as well as the other Hierarchy of Digital Learning projects.

11. If I choose not to participate, will my district be able to use the portion we would have spent for other items?

NO. The funds being used to bring the low cost statewide Canvas initiative to the districts and schools is not part of the district/school set asides of CARES Act funding and will not decrease the funding a school is eligible to receive. These are statewide funds (CARES ACT and others) that are being used to support the Hierarchy of Digital Learning needs to bring about more equitable delivery of services to students across Nebraska.

12. Are there other costs a district/school will need to pay in order to participate in the 3 year statewide contract other than the per seat license cost of \$3.00?

NO. The implementation fees, onboarding costs and staff training costs will be covered as part of the statewide contract initiative. Districts will be charged for their seat licenses at \$3.00 per seat per year for 3 years (expires June 2023).

13. With NDE moving to more virtual training that will be delivered via Canvas, e.g. nutrition staff training, will schools that do not currently own licenses to Canvas have to pay (if anything) for staff to participate in any training?

NO. NDE has provided virtual training for close to 10 years for programs like Early Childhood, Nutrition Services, etc. and used an Open Source resource. The transition to Canvas as a more common platform provides a unique point in time to take advantage of at least two benefits.

First, the number of districts that already have user licenses will be able to access, share, and find resources seamlessly; second, the Canvas Catalog creates the capacity for all educators in Nebraska to access online professional development and does NOT require a Canvas account.

~~14. What is meant by an “instance?”~~

An instance specifically refers to an organizational account, not a single user. Each district or school has their own instance of Canvas that is separate from other districts or schools who also use Canvas. Each district/school/ESU will have their own Canvas URL - such as <https://ocknights.instructure.com> (Oakland-Craig’s instance).

~~15. What is a “sub-account?”~~

Sub-accounts are often used to manage permissions and organizational hierarchy within an institution’s Canvas account. Many institutions set up sub-account organizational structures that mirror their SIS or registration systems.

- For example (in a school district):
 - Nebraska School District (account level)
 - Nebraska Elementary School (sub-account)
 - Nebraska Middle School (sub-account)
 - Nebraska High School (sub-account)
- For example (in an ESU):
 - ESU (account level)
 - Professional Development (sub-account)
 - Technology (sub-account)
 - Special Services (sub-account)

~~16. What is a “trust relationship” or “trust agreement”?~~

A trust relationship allows separate Canvas instances to share user identities, so a user can log in to one user account and access courses from both instances. The NDE is currently working to create statewide trust agreements for the Nebraska Canvas Consortium.

~~17. What is a “catalog?”~~

The Canvas Catalog creates the capacity to meet the NDE measure and provides a searchable “store front” for virtual professional learning opportunities throughout Nebraska.

18. Do I have to have a Canvas account to participate in training located within Canvas Catalog?

That depends:

Course All users associated with this course
Institution All users associated with this institution
Public Anyone with the URL

- If a course (training) is created and the visibility is set to **PUBLIC** - then, NO you don't need an account. The address of the course is shared like a website address would be shared.
- If a course (training) is created and the visibility is set to **COURSE OR INSTITUTION** - then, YES, you will need a user account. The user account is usually a personal or professional email account.

19. Should my school buy “instances” for each school teacher and student? Should my school buy “instances” for each para educator and other employees such as bus drivers and cafeteria employees?

No. An “instance” is an organizational account. Your school should buy seat licenses for users based on the number of people in your organization that you expect to use Canvas (including students).

20. Can my ESU buy generic “seats” and have people use them on an as needed basis? (Ex: There is training with Canvas on Monday and someone uses a generic “seat.” On Thursday, there is another training, and the “generic seat” is used by someone else).

No. This is not recommended. Identity-based notifications and other functions of the system are dependent on each user being licensed separately.

21. What do I do if I don't have a Canvas account, and I have to take mandatory training found within Canvas Catalog?

Users will create a “free account” at the Canvas Catalog website that will give them access to a course. In some cases, course fees may apply.

22. Can I share the courses I have developed in Canvas with other schools and/or ESUs?

Yes: Exporting/Importing, sharing content in Canvas Commons, or utilizing trust relationships.

23. Can I charge a fee to other people interested in taking a course I have developed in Canvas?

Yes, assuming it resides in the Canvas Catalog which has an automatic payment system.

24. If I develop a course and choose to share it, do I still have copyright protection?

As an employee of an organization, the organization holds the copyright. You can also adjust the copyright protections / license course by course [click here](#). There will be a copyright course providing additional information.

25. Can I join Canvas later?

Yes. There will be an annual opportunity each Spring for Nebraska schools to participate in the Nebraska Canvas Consortium implementation sign-up. Details can be found [here](#). At other times, schools and districts will need to contact ESU2 to join a national implementation signup.

26. Why should I change to Canvas when I love Google for Education (Google Classroom, etc.)?

- Canvas is a robust system that has chosen to be a [Google Partner!](#) Many of the Google features that you LOVE are also available from within Canvas: share content from your Google Drive, enable Google cloud assignments, and allow students to submit directly from their Google drives.
- Canvas synchronizes two-way (rosters and grades) with the student information system, removing the administrative burden from teachers to create courses and copy grades.
- In addition, Canvas offers a myriad of additional integrations beyond Google: ALEKS, edPuzzle, FlipGrid, Learn360, McGraw Hill, Nearpod, Odysseyware, Office365, Screencastomatic, Spelling City, YouTube, Zoom - [See complete list](#)
- Canvas allows for both synchronous and asynchronous course delivery and modules and the ability to build courses for this type of course content delivery.

27. We use Schoology, and I want to change to Canvas. How do I do it without losing my courses, etc?

LINK : [There are Course Export packages that are supported in Canvas.](#)

28. The cost of Canvas is being subsidized at this time. Will the cost increase when the CARES Act dollars go away? If so, how much will it increase?

The current agreement goes through June 2023. Current price is based on the number of user licenses currently being used. The NDE will continue to subsidize future contracts. It is fair to expect a small price increase in future contracts but all efforts will be made to negotiate the lowest possible price. Schools should be sure to deactivate/delete unused licenses to control costs.