

# How to Adopt a Learning Management System in K-12

## And Five Ways IMS Global Can Help



Selecting a learning platform, or learning management system (LMS), is a common occurrence in K-12 institutions. IMS Global Learning Consortium will help you understand important considerations to think about when purchasing a new LMS to evolve your digital ecosystem for a better return on learning from your investments in educational technology—today and into the future.

## Key Questions to Consider When Selecting an LMS

### How will your institution be digital on day one of learning using the LMS?

Beyond the basic considerations of must-have features and usability, consider how you will ensure teachers and students and classes are rostered within the LMS. IMS Global's **OneRoster**® standard solves a school's need to securely and reliably exchange roster information, course materials, and grades between systems.



### How does the LMS handle privacy and security?

Learning Management Systems contain personally identifiable information (PII) and that data may be transmitted to other tools and applications within the ecosystem. It's important to consider the privacy and security of the data within the LMS but also to consider how data will be secured as it is transmitted to other software. IMS Global members are leading the drive to improved student privacy and security by adopting the world-class **IMS Security Framework** across its standards.

### How will digital content and tools be incorporated into the LMS?

For most districts, there is a compelling need to enable easy access to a wide variety of digital curriculum and tools. IMS Global's **Learning Tools Interoperability**® (LTI®) standard has revolutionized the way educators and students access digital learning resources, apps, and tools within an LMS by enabling one-click, seamless connections. **LTI Advantage** makes it easier for faculty to innovate and meet the unique learning needs of students, save time spent provisioning courses, and dramatically reduce integration times. Using **Common Cartridge**® (CC) and **Thin Common Cartridge**® (Thin CC), institutions of all types can streamline both access and integration of

content into their learning platforms to support teaching and learning innovation. CCs contain all types of files (e.g. documents, videos, and images), weblinks, and metadata while Thin CCs contain links to resources hosted in the cloud as well as metadata about the links.

## How will users receive credit and recognition for their learning?



Modern digital credentials must be verifiable, shareable and discoverable. IMS is committed to **advancing digital credentials and digital transcripts** that support competency-based education and the transferability of learner micro-credentials within and across institutions, non-traditional learning opportunities, and employment.

For it to be possible to aggregate information about the mastery of learning across the entire ecosystem, learning standards and competencies and associated rubrics must use the same identifiers. The IMS standard, **Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange**<sup>®</sup> (CASE<sup>®</sup>) makes this possible and the **CASE Registry** is a single, verifiable, trusted source of learning standards in digital format, making it easier to support aligned instruction.

## Here is How IMS Global Can Help K-12 Institutions

### 1. Consultations with an experienced IMS K-12 Program Manager.

**Schedule a time** to discuss where your organization is today, help you understand the many considerations in adopting a new LMS to support your objectives, and outline a roadmap to evolve your digital ecosystem.

### 2. Find learning platforms and other products that are guaranteed to work together based on open standards.

The **IMS Product Directory** is the official listing of edtech products that have achieved conformance certification for IMS standards as they were intended to be adopted. It's your assurance that the products you select will integrate seamlessly without requiring custom integrations. If you experience an issue with a product listed, IMS will work with the supplier to resolve the problem. **Learn how a product becomes certified.**



### 3. Receive consultation, support, and guidance on developing RFP language.

Ensuring that your educational technology tools are IMS Global Learning Consortium Certified is the best way to establish a plug-and-play ecosystem that allows all of your tools and content to work together. If you are just starting out, IMS Global has developed **resources** to help you know what to ask for from your vendors and what to include in your RFP. IMS Global offers assistance to our members who need help or guidance determining their needs.

### 4. Evaluate proposed solutions.

IMS Global staff will review responses to a request for proposal and outline the pros and cons of each solution including information on which IMS Global certifications the product has obtained, how those certifications can help advance your institution's goals and what might be missing. The review includes recommendations to ensure the selected supplier and solution integrate into your overall ecosystem to meet your needs while also ensuring the use of open standards.



### 5. Vet apps for privacy and security.

IMS Global's **App Vetting Program** ensures that a minimum standard of student data privacy is met and

provides assurance that the information gathered by your educational applications is being used responsibly. The IMS Global App Vetting Program uses member-established criteria (rubric) for evaluating apps on data collected, third-party sharing, advertising, and basic security features. IMS App Vetting helps you save time and money as well as safeguards against an application violating student data privacy standards.

Collaborate, Network, and Learn with  
Like-Minded K-12 Leaders

**Become an IMS Member** to join K-12 institutions representing 11 million students – and growing—who are leading the edtech innovation revolution and the development of IMS Standards and practices for the benefit of all school districts and states.

IMS Global Is Here to Help

**Schedule a meeting** with an IMS K-12 Program Manager today to receive individualized assistance with selecting a learning management system.