

Is your school district prepared for virtual learning?

Six E-Learning Pitfalls You Can't Ignore



The search for the right e-learning solution doesn't stop after you've selected a Learning Management System (LMS).



While the market is saturated with edutech options and e-learning resources, most LMS platforms still do not address the most critical components of online education.

As you prepare for a complete online education experience this fall, or find yourself looking for a hybrid environment for both in-school and virtual learning, make sure you take the time to consider these core components to online learning.

The truth is that LMS platforms have come a long way and offer educators many necessary tools to manage a virtual classroom.

You gain access to tools that help you create and distribute curriculums to your students and are easily able to open communication channels between students and teachers, as well as teachers and parents. The first step in managing the new world of virtual learning is to select the right LMS for your schools and teachers.

But make sure to ask yourself if your LMS solves the following district-wide issues:

1

Secured Video Conferencing

The end of last semester revealed how difficult and critical it was to move our students to a virtual classroom environment. In a rush to find a solution, educators quickly jumped to video conferencing solutions like Google Classroom, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams. **While these companies provided video capabilities, we learned that security was still an issue.** Problems such as outside parties entering virtual conferences, meeting links being sent to unauthorized users via email, and personal data and browsing habits being tracked at the expense of personal privacy became a common occurrence.

As we must rely on video conferencing again in the fall, consider the following questions:

How are you addressing the security issues that come with video conferences and student access?

Are you confident with the video conferencing security your current LMS provides?

Does it meet your standards of operation?

2

Attendance Tracking

With the utilization of video conferencing services, teachers were able to quickly hold virtual classroom sessions that enabled live video and screen sharing capabilities for continued learning and educational planning in spring 2020. As time progressed however, a major district-wide issue presented itself; accurate and comprehensive attendance reports were not being generated. Many video conferencing services allowed students to enter meetings, but were not able to track attendance and provide accurate reports to educators. Teachers would then have to scramble to provide attendance reporting to their administrators and district directors.

Provide the best for your students this fall by providing solutions to these questions:

How will your teachers track attendance again this fall?

Will they have to do it manually or will your video conferencing and virtual classroom system provide automatic tracking and reporting?

3

Exam Delivery

Educators and administrators were pushed into emergency mode as a response to COVID-19. Determined to find a way to continue education in a virtual environment many sought out platforms they thought would be beneficial. With a constant strive to be fair and equitable to every student, educators found that many of these platforms did not offer a solution for exam delivery. Thus forcing many schools to provide only a pass/fail grade to students, or worse, maintain the same grade students had when COVID-19 hit.

This time, it is imperative educators find a different solution. High school students specifically need accountability options and educators need to assess student learning to provide them with accurate grades at the end of each year.

An LMS is great for curriculum development and assignment management, but:

When your teachers are ready to provide major exams, how will they administer those tests?

Does your LMS have the ability to deliver an exam with the same rules in place (timing, grading, questions types) that you would have within a classroom setting?

4

Cheat Detection

The educational community is dedicated to educating and supporting students. While we strive to enable our students to excel, we also cannot be naive to cheating. Reinforcing academic honesty and accountability remains a priority. As you install an exam delivery solution to your virtual educational system, how will you address cheating?

There are solutions in the market that provide screen locking features and cheat monitoring. However, those platforms don't provide solutions when taking exams from home. A proper solution to cheat detection for your major exams and tests must be identified and current LMS platforms do not provide an appropriate solution.

How will you monitor students to know if they are switching browser tabs during the test?

How will you ensure they're not using a phone, other devices or getting help from someone else?

Does your current LMS provide a simple, non-intrusive or install based solution?

5 A/B Day Management

Schools systems across the country are looking at many top solutions to best support their teachers, staff, and students this fall. Some are looking for completely virtual solutions to start the semester while others want to bring back half the student population for an alternating day schedule. For schools that implement an A/B approach, administrators will need to give their teachers the required tools to support in-classroom and virtual teaching, simultaneously. Educators will still be expected to deliver their full year curriculum and maintain the same teaching pace for their entire roster, regardless of location.

Asking teachers to deliver the same test twice in the same week will slow down the learning process and provide logistical issues with assessing the entire class on retention and overall grading. An online exam delivery software that allows both students in the classroom and at home to take the test at the same time is critical to your online learning experience.

How do you keep the A day students from sharing questions with their fellow B day students?

How will you keep an A/B class synchronized to the lesson plan when stay-at-home students enter the equation?

How much time will you spend preparing and delivering the same test, over and over?

6 Home-Based Students

The educational community, like all of America, is forced to create solutions to address the impacts of COVID-19. As the fall semester begins, some schools will open completely while some will open with a full or hybrid virtual approach.

All educators must prepare for parents who are uncomfortable with sending their kids back, but are still seeking continued education. Administrators must also prepare for students that may test positive for the coronavirus and quarantine at home along with members of their class. Districts must consider a safety-first solution for providing virtual education while their entire class returns to school. Be sure to identify solutions that provide at-home students the ability to virtually join the in-school class, and have the capacity to take part in discussions, assignments, and exams.

Have you decided on a virtual learning software and how much your institution will use it?

Does your current LMS provide home-based students an equal opportunity to continue learning like their peers?

How are you simultaneously delivering assignments, exams, and other classroom content to all your students?

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