

PILLARS

of Today's K-12 Classroom



When we think of a **pillar**, strength and support inevitably come to mind.

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. In K-12 classrooms everywhere, a strong set of pillars are needed to provide a productive, supportive learning foundation for all students.

In today's evolving educational landscape, innovative pedagogy, interactive learning, and student engagement are paramount to building a modern classroom that drives student success. These elements are enabled by thoughtful technology that 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 - Comprehensive data provides teachers with meaningful insights about who their students are, where they're going, and how to best engage with them.

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 Platform comes into play. For large, small, urban, and rural districts alike. It is within this open, reliable learning ecosystem where the fortifying pillars that uphold the teaching and learning cycle in today's classroom come together.



The Instructure Learning Platform 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 streamline 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*



ELEVATE BY INSTRUMENT

Elevate K-12 Analytics to measure, manage, and improve student outcomes through highly interactive visualizations of integrated data.

Elevate Data Quality to ensure district data is updated, accurate, and complete by enabling districts to detect and resolve any data problems.



IMPACT BY INSTRUMENT

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

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. Connects students to their peers and assignments. Connects parents to the classroom. The list goes on. Through consistent connections, it creates a space for high-quality instruction and fosters strong relationships between teachers and students wherever they are – in the physical classroom, hybrid, or remote.

Teachers can differentiate instruction and communicate with individual students, groups, or the entire class through a variety of formats: messaging, audio notes, video, and more. And students can collaborate together using 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 platform, Canvas provides an openness that allows administrators and faculty to innovate and customize courses using Learning Tool Interoperability (LTI) standards, while still giving students a seamless and engaging experience.

Not to mention that the Canvas API works with additional learning tools already common in today's classroom. This includes Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Adobe, and many more.





Save Teachers Time

Teachers' plates are already full. We know this and Canvas LMS is built to simplify complicated tasks 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 both 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 to 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 students' progress.

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



An Engaged Community

An additional perk of using Canvas LMS is access to the Instructure Community. The Instructure Community is one of the most active, engaged forums in all of edtech – eager to answer questions or provide support along the way with [Canvas guides](#).

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

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

Videos aren't just an international pastime. They're also 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 not just to consume, but also to comprehend. Read and react. Get and give knowledge.

Canvas Studio provides a robust set of 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 into the video clips to prompt students to engage. No longer do students have to watch and rewind as questions populate in the video at the moments where critical information is live.

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

Content Creation

Canvas Studio makes it easy to create engaging video lectures, welcome messages, and more. Teachers can upload video from external sources like YouTube directly to Canvas Studio and embed it throughout their courses. Wherever Canvas's rich content editor is available, Studio is also accessible. After this video content has been created, 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 that students are quizzed as they progress through the content. Students then get immediate feedback on their scores, which transfer directly to 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 gives you useful analytics and insights—like which videos students are watching, which parts, and for how long. You can even 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 are and aren't engaging with.

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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



Learn more about [Canvas Studio](#)

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

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

It streamlines and scales educator professional development both at the state and district level and empowers your district to take professional development to the next level. Additionally, since 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 easily and equitably offer professional development are hard to come by.

Canvas Catalog, however, is the comprehensive solution that can easily 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, eases this burden. Administrators can easily build, manage, and customize Canvas Catalog course offerings and pages, as well as the programs and clusters of courses needed for certification and course indexing. Canvas Catalog also reduces administrative burden through automated adding and enrolling of participants, collecting payments, and certificates of completion.



Administrators can keep an eye on 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 easily export reports with one click.

Designed for Differentiation

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

From the community to parents, to admin registering teachers, to teachers self-registering, to 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 PD that is relevant to them. Self-registration and self-paced courses make it so that adult learning is 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 own professional development.

With Canvas Credentials, educators can produce more than just a transcript of which professional development courses they've taken over the years. Through verifiable digital credentials, they keep a comprehensive learner record of competencies and accomplishments they've already built as they plan ahead 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 no matter where the skill or competency was attained, they can show what they know.

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

In the ever-evolving professional education landscape, educators collect a large number of credentials and skills over the course of their career, but these experiences are often siloed. The onus is often left to educators to compile and verify the skills they've mastered. What they need is a simple way to stack and transfer their credentials and competencies and carry these skills with them for the rest of their professional journey.

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

Canvas Credentials offers limitless ways for educators 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 actively monitor the health of their professional development programs. Reporting and analytics within Canvas Credentials grant leaders insight into professional development engagement metrics so that they can discover which PD opportunities are most effective with badges. From here, administrators are empowered to monitor staff professional development and manage PD metrics.

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 as well as 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 has a mission. In order to be successful, they need to identify and promote the 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 assessments that they can trust to show them exactly what students have and haven't mastered. When student needs have been identified, teachers can then make informed decisions that let them accelerate learning.

Mastery Connect brings together the critical assessment tools and high-quality content that 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 both make instructional decisions and collaborate with their teams.



Instant Insights

No longer are teachers left to manually pull assessment data and draw insights. 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

Map standards and scope & sequence across classrooms, grade levels, and districts to streamline onboarding of 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. Save teachers and students time and effort by bringing their assessments into the platform they already know and love.



Learn more about [Mastery Connect](#)



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

Formative assessment provides teachers with many diverse avenues through which to connect with students, engage them in the feedback loop, and set academic goals together. The Mastery Item Bank provides teachers with the quality content needed to implement their 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 assessment along with and in-between benchmark assessments has provided our teachers with timely and precise data to guide instructional decisions.”

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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 assessments you can trust

Mastery View Formative Assessments*

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

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 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*



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



3

Elevate K-12 Analytics: A comprehensive analytic application that turns data into insights that improve outcomes

Analyzing data allows districts and schools to see and understand where students are so that they can build a path for where they want to be in the future. But to make informed decisions that affect student, class, school, and district-level outcomes, educators need a modern, integrated analytics solution that provides access to the data that matters, empowering users to see and understand data in context, and derive actionable insights.

Consolidated Source of Truth

Elevate K-12 Analytics brings valuable data together from multiple district sources like SIS, assessments, behavioral reports, LMS, and attendance to provide the rich analytics that help educators measure, manage, and improve student outcomes in real time.



Answering the Essentials

In bringing these essential data sources together, educators can begin to address essential questions such as:

- How do attendance and engagement affect student achievement?
- Is academic growth proportionate across subgroups?
- What significant factors may contribute to student performance, such as teaching modality or socioeconomic indicators?
- Where do we have equity or disproportionality concerns to address?
- How does program enrollment correlate with improved assessment scores?
- How can we identify best practices from high-performing classrooms to help others improve?

Analytics for Everyone

Out-of-the-box reports, interactive visualizations, and dynamic dashboards showcase the student data you need in an easy-to-digest format, with filters and categories that users with any technical skill level can use. Elevate K-12 Analytics has hundreds of prebuilt, outcomes-based visuals and tools to explore and create unique visualizations and perspectives. Watchlists can also be created based on criteria across multiple, customizable factors. This ensures that students don't slip through the cracks.



Fully-Integrated & Fully-Hosted

Building and maintaining custom data warehouses is expensive, tedious, and time consuming. Because Elevate K-12 Analytics is a fully-hosted and managed analytics solution built on Ed-Fi standards and technologies, true data interoperability between source systems is ongoing and reliable.

As part of the Instructure Learning Platform, Elevate K-12 Analytics is integrated with Canvas LMS and Mastery Connect for even more impactful teaching and learning. The ability to visualize Canvas assignment data alongside data from Mastery Connect and other assessment sources and the district's student information system truly empowers educators to monitor and improve student equity and outcomes.



The dashboards, scorecards and watchlists provide insights into student performance that otherwise would take much longer to realize or run the risk of going unnoticed. ”

JONATHAN HULBERT

Director of Accountability and School Transformation, East Central Independent School District, San Antonio, TX

Learn more about [Elevate K-12 Analytics](#)



4

Impact by Instructure: Enabling meaningful technology adoption through 24/7 support for teachers, students, and their guardians.

To deliver the most meaningful support for teachers, administrators need to know how technology currently is or isn't being used across their district. And to fully utilize the technology available to them, teachers have to 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 impact with technology, and intervene accordingly.

Impact provides schools with the ability to guide educators towards instructional strategies that matter most. With Impact, administrators can send targeted reminders within Instructure solutions on how to better integrate the identified features and develop best practices for technology use in the classroom so 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 would normally 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 so that they are empowered 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 whenever they join 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 and wondering why they can't get help and more time teaching, studying, and learning.

Learn more about [Impact](#)

Supporting the Teaching & Learning Cycle

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

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

When combined as part of a complete ecosystem, Canvas by Instructure, Mastery by Instructure, Elevate by Instructure, and Impact by Instructure all work seamlessly together to make institutions stronger, 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 is an education technology company dedicated to helping everyone learn together. We amplify the power of teaching and elevate the learning process, leading to improved student outcomes. Today, Instructure supports more than 30 million educators and learners at more than 6,000 organizations around the world.

The Instructure Learning Platform makes learning more personal and student success more equitable by delivering the solutions you need to support, enrich, and connect every aspect of teaching and learning. The Instructure Learning Platform includes:



Canvas by Instructure: providing a robust foundation for teaching and learning—both in and out of the classroom—for all students, while seamlessly integrating with other learning tools.



Mastery by Instructure: bringing together the assessment tools and quality content educators need to implement a successful assessment program that drives learning forward.



Elevate by Instructure: improving the use of data and technology to help solve district challenges and give educators the information they need to make impactful decisions.



Impact by Instructure: helping teachers and students adopt educational technology to promote deeper engagement with learning.

Learn more at www.instructure.com/k-12.