

Frequently Asked Questions

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General

Why is Manitoba Education switching from Blackboard Learn to Brightspace by D2L?

The Government of Manitoba from time to time reassesses the services they use and the associated contracts. Often a Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued to determine if the current service contract continues to be the most appropriate fit for the services that departments offer. As part of that ongoing assessment of services, an RFP for a provincial learning management system (LMS) service for Manitoba Education was issued in early 2019. As a result of that process, the Brightspace LMS from D2L was selected as the new provincial LMS service to be offered by Manitoba Education.

When will Manitoba Education begin using Brightspace?

The provincial contract with Blackboard ends June 30, 2020. The transition to Brightspace will occur throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Manitoba will be fully transitioned to Brightspace by July 1, 2020. More information on the transition will be shared as it becomes available.

Who will be affected by this change?

Everyone who uses the provincial LMS will be affected. This includes teachers, students, and parents, anyone using an ISO PDF Reference courses, and ISO Tutor/Markers and ISO School Facilitators.

Will I use the same username and passwords to log in to the new system?

No, all users will be given new login credentials to access Brightspace.

Will there be training available?

Yes, Manitoba Education will be available to provide Brightspace training beginning in spring of 2020.

I have questions. Whom may I contact?

Please direct your questions to the appropriate contact person, using the chart below:

| Program | Contact Name |
|---|--|
| ISO Program and ISO PDF Reference Materials | Jasmine Reimer – Jasmine.Reimer@gov.mb.ca Dale Ready – Dale.Ready@gov.mb.ca |
| Web-Based Courses (WBC) | Chris Fredrickson – Chris.Fredrickson@gov.mb.ca |

LMS Tools

Are all of the tools the same? What will I gain or lose in the switch?

Brightspace has an intuitive user interface and navigation options. Many of the tools are the same, and there are new tools that will be available. More information about the specific tools available and training on how to use the tools will follow as it becomes available.

Blogs, wikis, and journals will no longer be available once we transition to Brightspace. Brightspace does not have a built-in plagiarism-checking tool. Instructors will need to find alternative methods to determine if a submission has been plagiarized.

Will the courses look the same in Brightspace as they do in Blackboard?

Overall, the course content will be the same in Brightspace. The WBC Master courses have been updated to remove activities that are not supported in Brightspace, such as Blogs, Journals and Wikis. Once we transition to Brightspace, teachers will be able to request a copy of the updated WBC Master course to use with their students in Brightspace.

What if I want to keep using Blogs, Wikis or Journals?

If you would like to use learning activities like Blogs, Wikis, or Journals, you will need to use a tool outside of the LMS to use them with your class. For Blackboard courses that included these tools, Manitoba Education has compiled a teacher note of suggested activities.

WBC Teachers

Will my personal copy of a Master course be moved to Brightspace?

No, your current course copy will not be available in Brightspace. Manitoba Education has updated its WBC Master courses to align with the tools available in Brightspace. Once we transition to Brightspace, teachers will be able to request a copy of the updated Master course to use with their students in Brightspace.

Do I still request courses and enroll students using the WBCRS?

The process to request courses and enroll students will be updated as part of the transition to Brightspace. The changes will be communicated with teachers as part of the transition.

How do I keep the content I created in Blackboard?

If you have created content, assignments, tests or activities in your course that you want to use in keep, you can save it to your computer or storage device. Once we transition to Brightspace, you can upload your content to your copy of the course in Brightspace.

I have made significant changes to my course copy. Can it be migrated to Brightspace?

If you have made significant changes to your course copy, you may send a request to Manitoba Education to have your course considered for migration into Brightspace. Requests must be sent to Chris Fredrickson by email at Chris.Fredrickson@gov.mb.ca by February 28, 2020 in order to be considered. If approved, it will be the teacher's responsibility to validate and repair the migrated course to align with the Brightspace toolset.

In order to successfully transition to Brightspace by June 2020, it is necessary to restrict the volume of teacher course migrations. It is strongly recommended that teachers request a copy of the updated Master course, which has been optimized for use in Brightspace.

Will my students still be registered in my class?

No, current student registrations will not migrate into Brightspace.

Will my students' information transfer?

No, any work that has been completed by a student will not transfer to Brightspace. Please inform your students and remind them to save copies of their work on their computer or storage device.

I teach a semester-based course. What should I do to prepare for the transition?

For semester-based courses, we recommend that you finish teaching your 2019/20 courses in Blackboard and plan to start the next semester of your courses in Brightspace (i.e. summer school or Fall 2020). Teachers and students will have access to Blackboard until June 30, 2020.

I teach a continuous-enrollment course. What should I do to prepare for the transition?

For continuous enrolment courses, please encourage your students to finish their course in Blackboard prior to June 2020, if possible. This will minimize the number of students that will need to be transitioned to Brightspace.

Students that are not able to finish their course in Blackboard will need to be transitioned to Brightspace. Manitoba Education is available to support teachers by setting up a new copy of their course in Brightspace. It is the teacher's responsibility to enroll their students in the course in Brightspace. Additional steps may also be required to support the transition for students, such as to enter student grades in Brightspace, if you are using the Blackboard Learn gradebook.

Chris Fredrickson is available to provide Brightspace training and support starting in February 2020. Chris can also support teachers in planning their transition to Brightspace.

ISO Students

I am currently enrolled in an ISO course. Will I be able to continue my course in Brightspace?

Yes, you will be able to continue your course in Brightspace.

What do I need to prepare for the transition?

Students will need to download all feedback from their tutor/markers as submitted assignments, and feedback will not be transferred from Blackboard Learn to Brightspace. Students need to save copies of their work on their computer or storage device.

How do I save my assignments and feedback that is on Blackboard?

Instructions on how to save annotated files will be available. Feedback that is provided as Instructor Comments will not transfer to Brightspace. Students should copy all feedback that is relevant to the assignment.

Will the marks that I have earned to date transfer from Blackboard Learn to Brightspace?

The Distance Learning Unit will retain all marks earned to date.

How do I submit assignments in Brightspace?

The process is similar to Blackboard Learn. Instructions on how to do this will be provided to registered ISO students.

I am currently taking a course and use Blackboard. I want to register for another course. Will I have to use both Blackboard Learn and Brightspace?

It is possible that students will be enrolled in both Blackboard Learn and Brightspace for a short time. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

I am enrolled in an ISO course but also take an online course through my school. Will I have to use Blackboard Learn and Brightspace to access all my courses?

The transition from Blackboard Learn to Brightspace is being staggered. You may have to use both learning management systems for a short time. Information regarding the transition dates for the different stakeholder groups will be communicated as it becomes available.

ISO School Facilitators

I use Blackboard Learn to monitor ISO student progress. Will I be able to monitor student progress in Brightspace?

The Distance Learning Unit will continue to email monthly progress updates from the Student Information System. More information about School Facilitator access to Brightspace will follow as it becomes available.

ISO PDF Reference Orders

I ordered an ISO PDF Reference Course and access it through Blackboard Learn. Will I have access in Brightspace?

The current ISO PDF Reference Courses will not be migrated. You may save the course content for personal use.

ISO PDF courses are being updated. Once the courses are available in Brightspace you may request a new ISO PDF Reference Course using the online request system. This will ensure that you have the most current version of the course content.

<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/iso/senior/index.html>

ISO Tutor/Markers

Will I have to use both Blackboard Learn and Brightspace?

More information regarding the transition from Blackboard Learn to Brightspace will be distributed as it becomes available. There may be a period of time where students will be using both Blackboard Learn and Brightspace.

Can I grade in the system, and annotate assignments?

Yes. Brightspace has a variety of annotation tools to mark up students' assignments and leave comments. There is also an audio and video feedback tool available.