



INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS

Using CARES Act Funds To Improve Teaching and Learning

The spring 2020 closure of schools due to COVID-19 has prompted states and districts to determine how to best support educators, students, and families to mitigate the loss of learning due to the extended disruption of in-class instruction. As students return in the fall, whether to brick-and-mortar buildings or to continue remote learning, educators will have little or no end-of-level data from the prior year to indicate student preparedness for the next grade level.

Through the CARES Act, federal funds will be allocated to help state and local education agencies implement new programs and technologies to support the increased demands on teaching and learning in the fall 2020 and beyond. States must ensure teachers have the tools they need to determine what students know and the flexibility to accommodate the learning pace and support of each student.

Every student needs equitable access to strong instructional content, while every teacher needs equitable access to effective professional development.

As state leaders consider how to invest CARES Act funds, they will surely invest in student devices and improved internet access—but it is essential that teachers have access to systems that support learning on those devices. States often do not facilitate purchases for districts, but the CARES Act provides an opportunity to provide a consistent, collaborative, cost-effective platform across the state by investing in three primary systems: a learning management system, an assessment management system, and professional development platform.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE LEADERS

- 1 Ensure that every Local Education Agency in your state has access to a fully functional **Learning Management System** that includes the ability to provide equitable access to quality content and instruction, delivering the flexibility to allow students to progress via time or mastery and provide an open platform to integrate with student information systems and other learning tools.
- 2 Ensure that every Local Education Agency in your state has access to a fully functional **Assessment Management System** that can deliver frequent formative assessments that allow teachers to conduct ongoing check-ins on student learning and then give teachers actionable insights into what the kids know and don't know relative to the standards.
- 3 Ensure that every educator in your state has access to a **Professional Development Platform** that allows educators to enroll in courses, collaborate with other educators, receive peer and coaching feedback, demonstrate mastery of learning, and maintain a portfolio of achievements.

The Canvas Learning Management Platform includes a full suite of products designed to promote increased student achievement and more impactful professional development. To learn about K-12 solutions for states and districts, visit instructure.com/canvas/cares.