

Kern County Superintendent of Schools collaborates with local school districts to roll out “online schools”

April 1, 2020 — As distance learning efforts ramp up with Kern educators looking to cope with a new normal amid school closures, Kern County Superintendent of Schools announced today it has entered into a partnership with Canvas, the world's fastest growing online learning platform. Canvas is being made available to any Kern County school district that wishes to utilize the platform at no-cost through June 30, 2020.

For the past two weeks, KCSOS's Instructional Services team has been hard at work creating an “online school” environment and customizing “virtual classrooms” using Canvas, complete with standards-based curriculum in English Language Arts and Math for grades TK – 12. English Language Development, Science, History, and Social-Emotional Learning lessons are also in the works.

Canvas allows grade-level content to be pushed out to students and includes video lessons, learning activities, daily assignments, online quizzes, and much more. Teachers also have the ability to present lessons using Canvas' video conferencing tool so that students and classmates can interact in real time.

“We do not have the luxury of time at the moment, so our team has been working around the clock to create a turn-key solution for teachers that can quickly be utilized to mitigate any negative impact on our students' educational progress,” said Lisa Gilbert, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services at KCSOS.

Greenfield Union School District has served as the pilot district and will be ready to open their virtual classrooms to students the week of April 13, after their scheduled Spring Break. More than a dozen Kern County school districts have also signed on as early adopters and will be onboarded and trained through Zoom meetings during the next two weeks.

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“Just like everyone else, we were not prepared for a school closure and had not trained our teachers on what distance learning looks like,” said Sarah Dawson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum for the Greenfield Union School District. “By using Canvas, our teachers have weeks of lessons laid out for them, they are able to communicate with their students and families, along with their grade/department teams within the platform. It is a win-win for everyone.”

Among Canvas’ core benefits are:

- Completely customizable for the specific needs of teachers and students
- Integrated with Zoom so that students can interact in real time with their teacher and classmates
- Integrates easily with other learning platforms like Google and more than 350 education applications
- 24/7/365 user support at no-cost to districts
- Educators can share resources, curriculum, lessons and collaborate with their peers
- Online classrooms are available to students via any mobile device (phone, tablet or computer).

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About Canvas:

Canvas Learning Management Platform (LMS) as a product continues to expand its impact on the education market and has become the most widely adopted LMS in North America, benefitting millions of students and teachers across 70 countries. For more information, visit <https://www.instructure.com/canvas/>