



Wichita Public Schools Moodle LMS

November 3 , 2009

During the summer of 2009 the School Board for USD259 decided to not renew the license for the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Moodle (*Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment*) was selected for the pilot as a replacement LMS for Blackboard. While Moodle serves the same purpose as Blackboard it has distinct advantages and disadvantages which are listed below.

Moodle Advantages	Moodle Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open source• Low overall cost• Easy transportability of courses• Large user base• Responsive to user base needs• Way fewer number of clicks• Many more tools and options available• Constructivist philosophy• Supports collaborative tools such as wikis and blogs• Interface more user friendly and webcentric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item scheduling not well developed• Seems confusing with all of the choices• Dependent on user community for support• Expense incurred for support• \$\$\$ to include anti-plagiarism tools• Different interface

Moodle may be used to support deployments of hundreds of thousands of students down to individual classrooms or hobbyists. School districts use Moodle to support both full on-line classrooms or to augment classrooms with blended learning.

The Instructional Technology Department will be supporting the use of Moodle through the Keys to School (KTS) website. KTS is a non-profit organization which provides limited Moodle sites for schools at no cost. These limitations must be kept in mind when using Moodle – for instance multimedia files must be provided through links and not embedded in courses.

Limitations of KTS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2,500 Users2. 2.5 GB of storage per site3. 50 GB of bandwidth

ITD is planning on creating and managing a Moodle site for each interested school in the district. Schools will not have be concerned about administrative duties, creating courses, or adding users to their ITD supported Moodle sites.

Since we are using a “free” website our legal department has advised the use of student number to identify students on a KTS Moodle site. They have also advised the use of a permission form to be acknowledged by the student and parent. The teacher and/or school are responsible for managing the permission forms of their students. A copy of the permission form will be provided by request.

Scheduled Moodle workshops for instructors will be provided through the school year and during the summer.

Helpful Websites

Baker University Moodle tutorial:

http://www.bakeru.edu/images/pdf/Res_facultystaff/Faculty_Moodle_Tutorial.pdf

ITD Moodle site (password protected):

<http://itd.edumoot.com> (shell account UN: student1, PW: student1)

Moodle getting started for teachers:

http://docs.moodle.org/en/Getting_started_for_teachers

Moodle project home page:

<http://moodle.org/>

Moodlers ning:

<http://moodlers.ning.com/>

Wichita Public Schools Moodle resource page:

<http://technology.usd259.org/resources/Moodle/Moodle.htm>

Wichita Public Schools Moodle Users Group (closed group, permission needed to join):

<http://groups.google.com/group/usd259-moodle-users?hl=en>

Using Moodle book

http://docs.moodle.org/en/Using_Moodle_book

Contact: Jim Clark to create site, accounts, permission forms, training, joining user group, and courses (jclark@usd259.net or 641-4997 cell)