

SCHOOLGY

For the start of the 2018 school year, teachers will use Schoology instead of Engrade to record grades and communicate with parents.

BACKGROUND SPECIFIC TO THE SELECTION OF SCHOOLGY

- BCPS' contract for our learning management system (McGraw Hill/Engrade) was scheduled to end in October 2018; therefore, BCPS was required to go back to bid and request proposals for a learning management system (LMS).
- Users' feedback was used when composing the RFP. This included teachers' feedback through the support form; focus groups with teachers, administrators, students, and parents; and an online survey of administrators, teachers, library media specialists, school counselors, S.T.A.T. teachers, resource teachers, special educators and department chairs.
- In September 2017, a vendor review committee examined proposals from six companies. The committee included representatives for teachers (including members of TABCO leadership); S.T.A.T. teachers; school administrators; school counseling; the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee; the Gifted and Talented Citizens Advisory Committee; parents; curriculum and instruction; organizational development; and research, assessment, and accountability.
- Products were evaluated based on benefits to instruction, integration into BCPS One, price, and experience of the vendor.
- Schoology earned top marks in all four categories. It was approved by the Board of Education as our LMS on January 9. Schoology is the largest LMS in use by K-12 schools and school systems in the United States. Schoology will serve as BCPS' LMS for both K-12 and adult learning.

STAFF TRAINING

- Staff will gain access to Schoology on April 3. Access will include teacher access to a "sandbox" class and learner access to a Schoology orientation module.
- All teachers will receive three paid hours of professional learning during the fourth quarter (Options will vary, more information forthcoming). Training is to be led by STAT teachers at individual schools.
- Video and written support will be provided on transferring files from Engrade to Schoology. There will be a transition window where both Engrade and Schoology are accessible for this transfer.

CURRENT STATE of ENGRADE

- Engrade will remain our LMS for the remainder of this school year and for EYLP- Extended Year Learning Programs. Instruction will continue to be delivered through Engrade, as students and parents will not yet have access to Schoology. All grades must be recorded in Engrade in order to be transferred to the SIS.
- While there is a free version of Schoology available that teachers can sign-up for, it is not recommended to do so. The free version does not have all of the functionality of the enterprise application purchased by BCPS.