

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract for Blackboard® Learning Management System
FY 2025-26

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve funds for a one-year contract extension with Anthology, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$419,055.60. This contract provides the Blackboard® Learn Learning Management System (LMS) for the System Office and 12 community colleges.

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 3: Student Success

Provide resources inside and outside the classroom for all students to successfully enroll, persist, and complete education or training in a chosen career path.

Strategy: 3.2.3

Background: In March 2010, the State Board of Community Colleges approved two learning management systems (LMS) for the 58 community colleges: Blackboard® Learn and Moodle®. The two LMS solutions provide standardized online course delivery services, platform training for community colleges, and local community college branding for the two online instruction solutions.

The System Office Blackboard hosting contract supports an environment for course development for the Virtual Learning Community (VLC), other curriculum improvement projects (CIP) and program alignment projects. The VLC library of courses is hosted by Blackboard. Community colleges download these courses for use at their schools.

Rationale for Contract: This contract is a system-wide master term contract negotiated by North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) to provide administrative cost savings for all colleges using Blackboard Learn LMS products and services. This contract provides flexibility to add or remove colleges from the master contract at the time of each annual renewal.

In 2023-24 the Blackboard Learn contract removed the license and FTE (Full Time Equivalency) tiered license structure to base the LMS support, services, and hosting into one per user cost. This change to the contract results in cost savings for the System Office and for the colleges. The per user contract structure better aligns with current LMS utilization at our colleges.

NCCCS posted a learning management system Request for Proposal (RFP) on April 23, 2025, for a new contract solution. This request is for the annual renewal contract to provide continuous services during this solicitation period.

The NCCCS Office and the following institutions electing to use Blackboard Learn in this contract include:

Beaufort County Community College

Catawba Valley Community College
Central Carolina Community College
Cleveland Community College
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College
Gaston College
Halifax Community College
Johnston Community College
Montgomery Community College
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Wake Technical Community College

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State Department of Information Technology Contracts and Strategic Sourcing.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The contract period will be from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$419,055.60.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent on FY 2025-26 State General Fund appropriation.

Contact(s):

Dr. Brian Merritt
Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Programs and Student Services

Katherine Davis
Associate Vice President, Distance Learning Technologies
Programs and Student Services