



April 26, 2017

**TO:** THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

**FROM:** SANFORD C. SHUGART  
President

**RE:** INSTRUCTURE CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Valencia College utilizes a Learning Management System (LMS) to conduct online and hybrid classes, and to supplement regular face-to-face classes. Currently, Valencia College administers and manages the Blackboard LMS (Version 9.1) in-house; Blackboard Learn 9.1 has been in use at Valencia College since 2010. Historically, the Valencia Office of Information Technology (OIT) has hosted and maintained the infrastructure for this product onsite.

As technology develops, and teaching and learning needs evolve, the market has shifted to cloud-based LMS solutions that are more powerful, reliable, and are available 24/7 (with no maintenance windows). Currently, there are two leading cloud-based LMS providers: the Blackboard Ultra platform and the Instructure Canvas platform.

After pilot testing these products (2013) and a subsequent LMS review by a cross-functional panel of Valencia College faculty and staff (2016), Instructure's Canvas was identified as the preferred platform.

In addition, the teaching and learning ecosystem in Central Florida has standardized toward the use of the Canvas LMS. For example, Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is currently migrating to Canvas (estimated completion by FY18). Valencia's top transfer institution, the University of Central Florida (UCF), has been using Canvas since 2012. The University of South Florida, University of Florida, and Florida State University have also selected Canvas as their LMS. Valencia should be part of this ecosystem. Furthermore, in 2016, the State University System (Florida) chose Canvas as its preferred LMS; while Florida institutions are not required to switch to Canvas, those doing so can take advantage of special state pricing.

After careful consideration and analysis, the following recommendation is being made to enter into a five-year agreement with Instructure to provide Valencia College with the Canvas LMS.

Valencia's current contract with Blackboard costs approximately \$418,000 a year. Valencia must renew this contract for one more year (at an approximate cost of \$426,000) to allow classes to continue without interruption. At the same time, the Canvas LMS must be available to faculty to begin training and to enable course migration (from Blackboard 9.1 to Canvas). This new contract costs approximately \$587,000 a year.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College approve entering into a five-year agreement with Instructure, at a cost of approximately \$587,000 per year and in accordance with mutually agreed upon terms and conditions, to provide Valencia College with the Canvas learning management system and renew the current Blackboard contracts for one year to support the migration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanford C. Shuyart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

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President

VALENCIA COLLEGE

# The Office of Information Technology (OIT)

Overview – Learning Management System (LMS)

Board Review

4/26/2017



- By adopting Canvas, Valencia will become part of the **teaching and learning ecosystem** in Central Florida (OCPS → Valencia → UCF). The LMS market overall is quickly moving to cloud-based solutions, of which Canvas is the industry-leading platform.
- Canvas supports Valencia's **5-Year Online Learning Plan** by offering a platform with the tools to develop and easily deploy quality-certified course templates.
- Canvas is an **easy-to-learn and reliable LMS** that supports faculty in achieving our core mission.
- A collaborative and rigorous approach was utilized to **review alternative LMS vendors** and select Canvas.



# Office of Information Technology

## Board Summary - Benefits

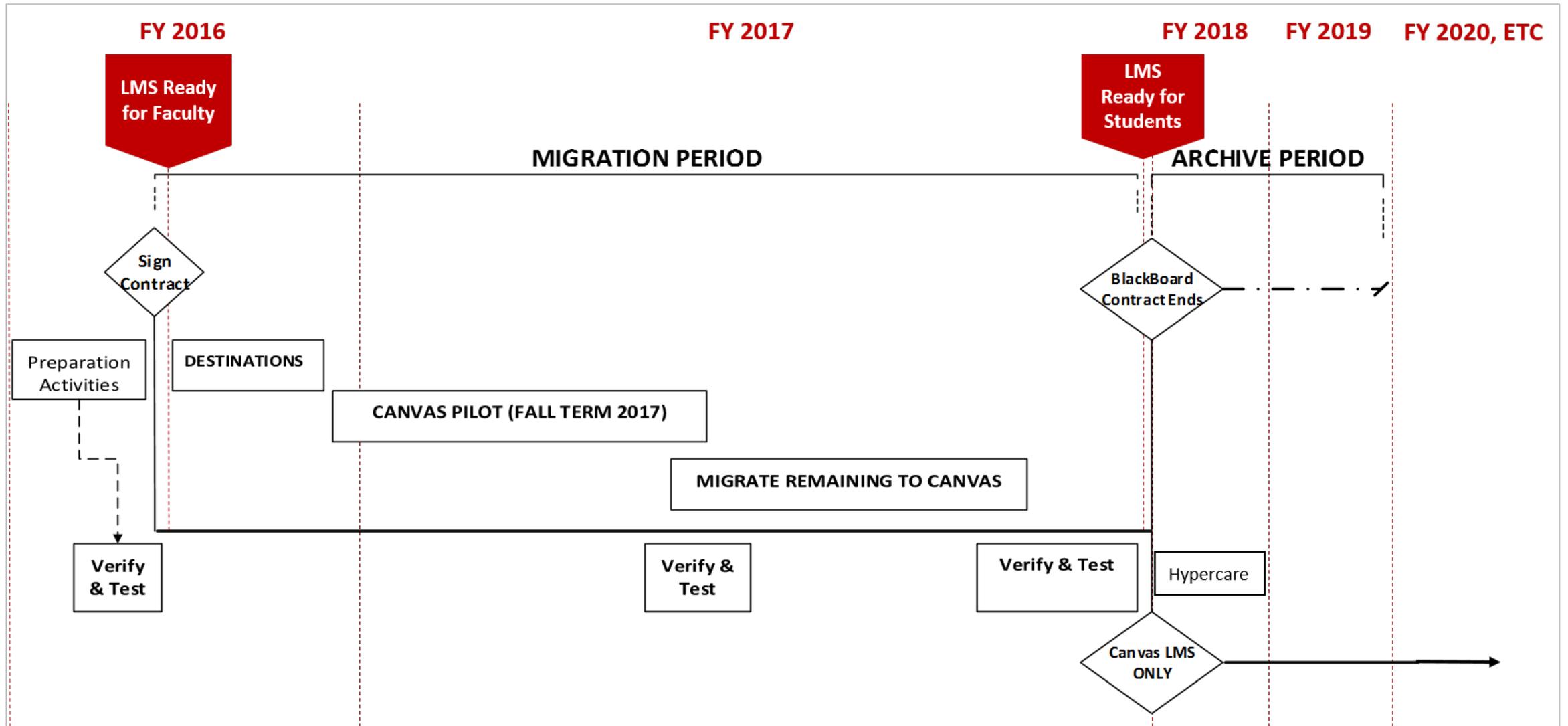
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- **Consistent student experience** - Students coming to Valencia from OCPS have already used Canvas. When they continue their studies at other FL institutions (i.e., UCF, USF, FSU, or UF), they will continue to use Canvas.
- Canvas functionality will enable us to offer the students we serve more **personalized intervention, success, and retention strategies** via tools such as the faculty analytics and integration with the Advise CRM.
- Canvas is a **highly-reliable, cloud-based** platform for faculty and students.
- **Manage costs and security** for Valencia with an industry-leading LMS vendor.



# Office of Information Technology

## Board Summary - Timeline





# Office of Information Technology

## Board Summary - Cost

