



MEMO TO: Harlem Board of Education  
Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations  
FROM: Aaron Guske, Director of Information Technology  
Michelle Erb, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
DATE: 12/14/2020  
RE: LearnPlatform

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As the digital world continues to broaden and the opportunities to utilize more digital tools proliferates throughout schools, we see a need to make sure we are maintaining accurate accounts of all applications used in our district and that we are complying with all data privacy laws.

Effective July 1, 2021, school districts will be required by the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) to provide additional guarantees that student data is protected when collected by educational technology companies, and that data is used for beneficial purposes only (105 ILCS 85).

To help with some of the new SOPPA requirements we recommend partnering with LearnPlatform. LearnPlatform will help the district comply with the following SOPPA requirements.

1. Continually inventory all of the district's applications
2. Annually post a list of all operators of online services or applications utilized by the district.
3. Annually post all data elements that the school collects, maintains, or discloses to any entity. This information must also explain how the school uses the data, and to whom and why it discloses the data.
4. Post contracts for each operator within 10 days of signing.

Additionally, LearnPlatform provides district leaders with insights into educational technology usage, allows them to conduct pilot evaluations of software, tracks and reports on efficacy, and provides teachers with the ability to share feedback on specific products. These additional features will help the district accomplish the following goals. The following outlines the 3 modules we are looking to purchase.

#### **District Pro Module**

- Creating a system of record for all of the district's approved (and denied) tools will allow our teachers to focus on integration and best practices while allowing choice and autonomy;
- This effort will streamline the district's ability to systemically support all buildings by providing transparency into what tools are allowed in the environment;

### Requests Workflow Module

- Creating and maintaining a request protocol for teachers to inquire about support for tools outside of the currently accepted list will eliminate the need for sidestepping policies and will strengthen the trust between the classrooms and all of the support teams;

### IMPACT Module

As a district, we are constantly evaluating what works and what we need to selectively abandon. The LearnPlatform IMPACT module will assist us in identifying what works, as well as, which student group it works for. IMPACT will:

- *“Generate actionable insights on product usage, implementation fidelity, student achievement data and pricing*
- *Consider the effect of specific edtech interventions on student achievement*
- *See what's working for different sub-groups, such as free and reduced lunch, race/ethnicity, ELL or any variable of interest*
- *Inform future edtech budget discussions and identify needs for teacher support and/or professional development”*

Understanding which tools are being accessed both by students and by teachers will allow for the use of quantitative data to drive decisions. These decisions can include: determining where possible additional resources may need to be deployed, examining equitable access to high quality materials, exploring centralized contracts to eliminate redundancies and save money and to continue to stay compliant with Federal and State laws around student data privacy;

Using additional data to examine the impact that ed tech tools have on student outcomes will allow for a better understanding of where to invest funds, which possible tools are correlated to student growth, and whether or not the tools that have been procured are the best ones possible given the expenditure.

Currently we pull data from several sources to make decisions regarding the best interventions and resources to utilize with students. IMPACT will allow us to be more efficient and accurate by having the information in one place. After trying this resource for the next two and a half years, we will determine if it is meeting our needs.

### Costs

Utilizing these platforms from LearnPlatform will help the district not only stay compliant with data privacy laws but give us greater insight into what resources we have and are using to their fullest potential. The proposed cost for the 3 modules from LearnPlatform is \$40,082.91 for 2.5 years. This aligns our renewal to our fiscal year end of June 30, 2023. Funding for LearnPlatform will come from Title IV grant money.