

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Request to Use COVID-19 Recovery Act Funds for Moodle Hosting Services**  
**FY 2020-21**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the use of COVID-19 Recovery Act funds (Session Law 2020-4) allocated to the System Office to pay for user and storage overages in the Moodle learning management system during the pandemic period. The funds requested to pay for these overages is not to exceed \$546,642.

**Background:** On June 8, 2018, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) approved FC 02 for a three-year contract for \$2,682,224.49 to Blackboard Inc. Funding for this contract provides a 24x7x365 integrated course management solution, hosted hardware, application administration, administrator help desk support, and training to sustain the centralized Moodle implementation. This contract also provides consistency of services and training across the system, while still allowing branding of the online course delivery for the local college. The services are delivered via the Internet as a SaaS (Software as a Service) offering the computing power, data storage, and Moodle expertise that the colleges do not have or could not afford without System Office support. NCCCS was able to bundle additional services in the Moodle contract which provide the necessary elements to provide full functionality for online instruction.

Currently, the System Office and 32 colleges take part in the Moodle SaaS hosting contract. In addition to Moodle SaaS hosting, the contract provides Ally accessibility software, SafeAssign™ plagiarism software, Collaborate web-conferencing software, Conduit integration to the Colleague student information system and IntelliBoard analytics. This full-service contract provides colleges with the necessary tools they need to support student learning. Under the existing terms of the contract, NCCCS is assessed overage fees for additional new users and storage which are needed to support student instruction.

In April 2020, the SBCC approved an amendment to the contract (SBCC FC 01, 4/17/20) that approved an estimated overage of \$610,897.50 for FY 2020-21. Funds were not identified to pay for this estimated overage. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in colleges adding more users and storage as courses were moved online in the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020. The instructional delivery methods of Blended, Hybrid, Online, and most of the Traditional face to face courses require students and faculty to have a learning management system login. The SaaS Moodle contract provides all bundled services for \$6.00 per user. An allotment of storage is included in the user bundled services. However, the needs for recorded lectures and additional resources have increased the storage required by colleges and students.

In May 2020, Blackboard completed the sale of Open LMS to Learning Technologies Group (LTG), a global corporation with an office in Raleigh, NC. LTG has agreed to allow all user and storage overages through March 2021 at a reduced cost of \$546,642. The amendment to the contract approved in April is in the process of being finalized. In addition to substituting LTG for

Blackboard in the amendment and including the new amount for overages, LTG must demonstrate to the NC Department of Information Technology (NC DIT) that it complies with NC DIT's security requirements.

**Fund Source and Time Period:** The funding source for this contract overage is the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act (Session Law 2020-04) and covers overage fees with a cost not to exceed \$546,642. Funding is available from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.

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