

PCG and Broward County Public Schools

Teach Every Child Connector Solution



Every year teachers serve as a navigator for a unique group of students which they will guide to meet or exceed the state standards that apply to every student. Teachers guide students using a district or school curriculum that is written for the hypothetical student. The best practitioners use a Universal Design for Learning approach which has anticipated the diversity of possible accommodations which might be needed. But success depends on knowing the specific accommodations, making these changes prior to instructional delivery, and in documenting their presence and success for both compliance and plan design purposes. While curriculum and instructional materials are housed in a Learning Management System, student specific accommodation information is housed in multiple systems for special education, Article 504, English Language Learners, Response-to-Intervention, and other attributes. Educators know that when teachers incorporate student specific information into their lesson planning and delivery, instruction and assessment can be modified individually so that each student's learning is maximized. Contemporary data systems that serve the LMS and accommodation market spaces are not supporting the integration of this data to easily enable practitioner implementation. Challenges include:

- The design and interface of the LMS are at the teacher/class level and accommodations are at the student level.
- Difficulty accessing needed information, other than to run parallel browser windows with distinct applications.
- Hours and hours spent gathering, and printing, data on a student and keeping it in a paper folder.:
- Proprietary, idiosyncratic and non-standard terminology across solutions.
- Lack of data systems supporting documentation of accommodation usage hurting district ability to establish compliance for state and federal accountability mandates.

Teachers can spend as much as 120 keystrokes to research pertinent instructional data - such as accommodations, interventions and strategies - per application - to find instructionally relevant data to inform their assignment, discussion and quiz designs. There is no way for education administrators to assess whether teachers have reviewed and incorporated this kind of data into their lesson plans.

The solution to these challenges was to integrate data from EDPlan Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) into the most common teacher portal, Canvas. Teach Every Child Connector (TECC) is an LTI Tool, which configures easily into Canvas. With Canvas modifications which allow an LTI tool to be seen in-line on assignment, quiz, discussion and announcement pages, the teacher can now see student specific data – for all students with special needs in their course – at the bottom of every Canvas page used in lesson planning and instructional delivery.

The learning impacts are significant. Instructionally relevant data incorporated into assignment, discussion and quiz design can greatly help students demonstrate what they know. This respects diversity, ensures and can assist in focusing efforts to reduce the achievement gap. And when teachers can show how the modifications are implemented then they are better able to engage with parents and improve compliance with program requirements.

TECC integration has an incredible return on investment. In terms of teacher hourly savings, the current **annual** value of saved teacher time is as much as \$ 2.4 million dollars. As adoption goes up, BCPS expects those savings to exceed \$ 9 million dollars. Another form of return is reduced Due Process hearings. TECC maintains a log of all lesson planning pages referenced for each child's IEP. When asked by parents, teachers can easily show the student's accommodations and Canvas assignment and quizzes where referenced. These savings from decreased cost of compensatory services and litigation may exceed many millions of dollars a year. With an annual cost of under \$100K, the overall return on investment is enormous. But more than just dollars, more interactions with informed, prepared teachers is priceless!