

# LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS: 101

All you need to know about Learning Management Systems (LMS)

WWW.SKOOLIX.APP

### **Table of Content**

- What is an LMS?
- Why is Implementing an LMS Crucial?
- 3 Tips for Choosing the Right LMS for your School
- 7 Key LMS Challenges and How to Overcome them
- O5 Common Myths about LMSs to Debunk
- Education Trends: Flipped Classroom and LMSs



If you are a school principal or a teacher, you've probably come across the term LMS. So, what is an LMS exactly, and how is it used?

It stands for Learning Management System. An LMS or a "Learning Management System" is a software solution that is used by schools and educational organizations to deliver and track learning processes.

So, is an LMS right for your education needs? Do you actually need one?
In this eBook, you will learn about LMS features, benefits, and tips to pick the right LMS for your needs.

### What is an LMS?

Learning management systems have been designed to fill learning and training gaps through a wide range of features that might vary solution from another, one to including but not limited to online quizzes, reports, digital lessons, libraries, and much more.





For a short and clear definition of an LMS, "it is a software application for administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs."

Some schools and other educational institutions have been using LMS platforms to provide a more effective learning and/or training experience. But the number of schools using an LMS has largely increased upon the outbreak of the pandemic to ensure a smooth transition and to face the hazards the pandemic has caused to educational systems.

### Why is Implementing an LMS Crucial?

### 1. Ensures a smoother communication among all members of your school community

An effective LMS provides a steady flow of communication between teachers, parents, students, and everyone who is involved in the process. Teachers can convey important announcements and keep the students' parents informed about their children's progress.

Furthermore, school administrators and teachers can ensure well-organized calendars and timetables. And this eventually helps students maintain healthy communication with their teachers.



### 2. Saves time and money

Many LMS solutions allow teachers to automatically grade multiple assignments at a few clicks — which saves time and effort. Thus, tracking and reporting student progress is as easy as A,B,C, and accurate, too. Moreover, teachers can store their material organized by school year, subject, time created, and much more.

Implementing an LMS might cost you some money, but, in the long-term, it is a far more cost-efficient solution. For example, by switching to digitally assigning coursework instead of paper-based assignments, schools can save so much money.

### 3. Provides an interactive learning experience

With an LMS, it is possible to share learning materials in many different formats, making it available for students to access all their class work on their smartphones. An LMS goes a step ahead to make such learning experiences engaging and interactive.

As a result, LMSs make the learning process an interactive session that students enjoy and look forward to.



# 3 Tips for Choosing the Right LMS for your School

When schools start to search for the right LMS, it is easy to quickly get overwhelmed with the vast number of available products, all with their distinct and most notable features.

### 1. Equip your school with a user-friendly LMS

It is important to keep the user experience in mind when selecting a learning management system. The system should be easy to use and intuitive for a broad base of users.

**BONUS TIP:** Creating a "must-have" list that considers all important stakeholders will be key to making an informed selection.

### 2. Go for a mobile-friendly design

Undoubtedly, no one can deny the non-stop increase in mobile usage. According to a study, a mobile app of an LMS can potentially allow your students to learn from anywhere at any time. Many LMS platforms do offer mobile apps, yet trouble-free designs are rare.

**BONUS TIP:** Before choosing an LMS, make sure to try it out on different devices to guarantee that your LMS is accessible and functional, just like its desktop variant on mobile.





### 7 Key LMS Challenges and How to Overcome them

While technology has once and for all revolutionized most industries — from air travel, to finance, to health care — it has yet to also transform education. Schools have tended to shift their focus towards a more digitized education due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. But, in a Post-Pandemic world, it has become crucial to challenge the status quo as school digitization is becoming the new 'Norm'.

During the pandemic, educators showed tremendous capacity for change and innovation. To cope with the major hazards COVID-19 has caused to educational systems, learners and educators needed to resort to implementing an LMS, and getting familiar with an LMS was the first hurdle to cross, and both learners and educators have been doing a great job since then, but they definitely have been facing some challenges.



### 1. User Onboarding Process

Getting started with an LMS is quite a hurdle to overcome. Users onboarding represents a major challenge to educators who technology is not really their cup of tea. It is essential, therefore, to consider the different needs and roles of each user which might spring up some problems if you don't address them properly. But how? Pick a vendor that offers onboarding your students and educators, so there is no need to worry. They will get it done for you in no time.

#### 2. IT Resources and Management

Managing an LMS internally is very demanding for an in-house IT team.

LMSs require broad knowledge and pose specific demands that an IT department is often not familiar with.

To avoid such a nuisance, choose a vendor that offers full IT support which include, but not limited to, hosting, training, etc as they can definitely address your requests without compromising the efficiency of the LMS.

### 3. Content Creation and Publishing

Though most LMSs offer content creation and publishing tools, they are quite limited when it comes to either formats or even the space of the uploaded learning material. It is worthy to note that compelling learning material definitely helps learners discover a limitless world of learning. Thus, an effective LMS allows educators to use and share whatever learning material they prefer, from links to videos and even games.



### 4. Measuring and Reporting Progress

What is a good LMS for if it does not provide accurate data and insights that educators can turn actionable? New-age LMSs have features that allow educators to track every single action each user takes when using the system. From attendance to quizzes and grading, there is plenty of valuable data available to administrators, teachers, and even, sometimes, parents. The challenge might lie in the analysis and interpretation of that data to produce error-free reports, but an efficient LMS makes it easier by presenting data in graphs or charts. Schools can make informed decisions based on that data, helping students focus on their strengths and improve their weaknesses.

#### 5. Customization

Every school has different needs, and hence different roles, which might be challenging if the LMS is not original or flexible to provide customizable structure, so a one-size-fits-all approach is going to work here. With some flexibility, administrators and teachers not only can tailor users' roles and authorities, but they can also tailor the whole learner experience to fit learners' needs.



#### 6. User Experience

Though new-age LMSs are as easy to use as other well-known websites and apps, some users might still need some support and training to get the best out of an LMS which can make the experience of using an LMS frustrating. It is even more challenging when it comes to users who are not that familiar with LMSs, yet leading vendors provide training on how to smoothly use the features of an LMS, and they also provide dedicated experts to be on hand to resolve complex issues, leading to a trouble-free user experience.

### 7. Data Privacy

Data privacy issues arise in a wide range of areas such as healthcare records, financial information, geographical records, and also in education, but choosing a trusted, well-known vendor who respects data privacy would alleviate your concerns. A data privacy agreement between you and the vendor will establish the terms of how your school's data will be used. This agreement includes who has access to the information, what can happen with it, and if it needs to be removed from their system at any point in time, which can definitely protect everyone in your school.

Let's face it. LMSs do pose some challenges before both learners and educators, but the benefits of implementing an LMS surely outweigh the challenges. The only thing that matters is to make sure to choose the right vendor that always guides you throughout the whole journey.





## Common Myths about LMSs to Debunk

Though LMSs have been used even before the outbreak of COVID-19, it is now being more noticed and recognized in Post-Pandemic world. 98% our of educational institutions shifted the majority of their classes to online courses as of April 2020. (Education Data 2021) The massively ongoing growth of the use of LMS depicts the significance of Learning Management Systems (LMS) for all educational institutions.

New-age LMSs allow teachers and students to enjoy an effective, interactive learning experience which, eventually, leads to increasing student engagement and, hence, the learning curve.

But so many schools and other educational institutions fail to leverage LMS just because decision-makers still believe in some misconceptions and myths about LMS. That's why it is about time to bust some of these common myths about LMS based on information and data collected from Skoolix reliable sources.



### 1. It is difficult to configure and use an LMS

One of the very common misconceptions is that using an LMS is not really a walk in the park. It is thought implementing an LMS requires a full in-house IT team to deploy, maintain, and manage on-premise LMSs, but it is quite the opposite. Schools and educational institutions can still leverage the advantages of cloud-based LMSs without deploying in-house IT professionals. Vendors will maintain the cloud-based LMS and provide whatever technical assistance needed. Moreover, LMSs can be customized and configured based on a school's learning goals and vision in a very short time.

#### 2. Users need to have technical skills to leverage LMSs

Though it might be true that some LMSs require technical skills to use, new-age LMSs are designed with a great focus on user experience, making it as easy as using Facebook. Both students and educators can easily access the LMS on all devices - computers, laptops, smartphones, and tablets. Leading vendors put in time and effort to ensure that each user gets adequate training and assistance to have a trouble-free user experience. That is why; everyone can use an LMS - not only tech savvies.



#### 3. LMSs constraint students' interaction with teachers

Many decision-makers doubt that LMSs can strengthen learning experience and student engagement, but leading LMSs offer their users a far better learner-educator interaction. Students surely get to interact with their teachers and other students through chat, polls, discussion forums, and more.

### 4. It is too expensive to implement an LMS

Many decision-makers think that they need to incur huge upfront costs to onboard an LMS, but using a cloud-hosted LMS is not that costy. Schools can choose from many monthly or yearly plans provided by vendors. Furthermore, it is possible to upgrade or even downgrade their LMS on demand according to their learning goals and needs. It is rather a long-term, considerable investment as schools and educational institutions can save up to 50% of costs by only switching to a paperless school and sharing learning materials with students via an LMS.

### 5. LMS solutions hinder learning personalization

Learning personalization has been proved to greatly improve student learning as it addresses each student's needs, skills, strengths, and interests which, at the end of the day, improves students learning curve and pushes them forward in their learning path.



To help a student acquire and retain knowledge, it is essential that teachers focus on a more personalized learning experience which is doable thanks to LMSs. An effective LMS can easily help teachers deliver personalized learning experiences that meet students' preferences and needs in just a few clicks.

Many decision-makers are still skeptical about how an LMS can transform schools and the whole education process and still believe in a flood of these misconceptions, but LMSs are out there being effectively leveraged, helping educational institutions achieve major breakthroughs outweighing their cost and challenges.

Maybe you still have doubts about implementing an LMS at your school, but this is perfectly normal. Leveraging LMS and discovering your school's deepest potential is still possible.



### Education Trends: Flipped Classroom and LMSs

### What is a Flipped Classroom?

One of the most popular education trends that has recently gone viral is flipped classrooms. But what is a 'Flipped Classroom'? What is it about a classroom that got 'flipped' to be that unique?

So, a 'Flipped Classroom' is a pedagogical approach of blended learning where students get introduced to the learning material at home and practise it at school.



Traditionally, students were introduced to the content at school, then they were assigned homework and projects to independently complete at home. In this blended learning environment, face-to-face interaction is fueled by independent study, usually via technology.



### Why should Teachers Flip their Classroom?

The concept of flipped classroom was first introduced by Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams, two high school chemistry teachers. In their book: Flip your classroom: Reach every student in every class every day (2012), a couple of reasons why teachers should consider flipping were discussed:

- ✓ It speaks the language of today's students.
- ✓ It helps struggling students.
- ✓ It helps students of different abilities to excel.
- ✓ It increases student-teacher interaction.
- ✓ It increases student-student interaction.
- It allows teachers to better know their students.
- It allows for real differentiation.
- It makes your class transparent.

### Why and LMS is a Great Tool for a Flipped Classroom

An LMS can ensure a smooth transition towards a Flipped Classroom and will empower students to shape their own ideas and methods of learning. It can also successfully turn classes into a more personal learning experience.



### Why should Teachers Flip their Classroom?

The concept of flipped classroom was first introduced by Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams, two high school chemistry teachers. In their book: Flip your classroom: Reach every student in every class every day (2012), a couple of reasons why teachers should consider flipping were discussed:

### How to Implement a Flipped Classroom?

Jeff Dunn (2014) introduced a short piece on "The 6-step Guide to Flipping your Classroom", which presented 6 easy steps for implementing a flipped classroom.

- **PLAN** 
  - Choose which lessons in particular you want to flip. Determine the key learning outcomes and a lesson plan.
- PRECORD

  Make a video, instead of teaching this lesson in-person.

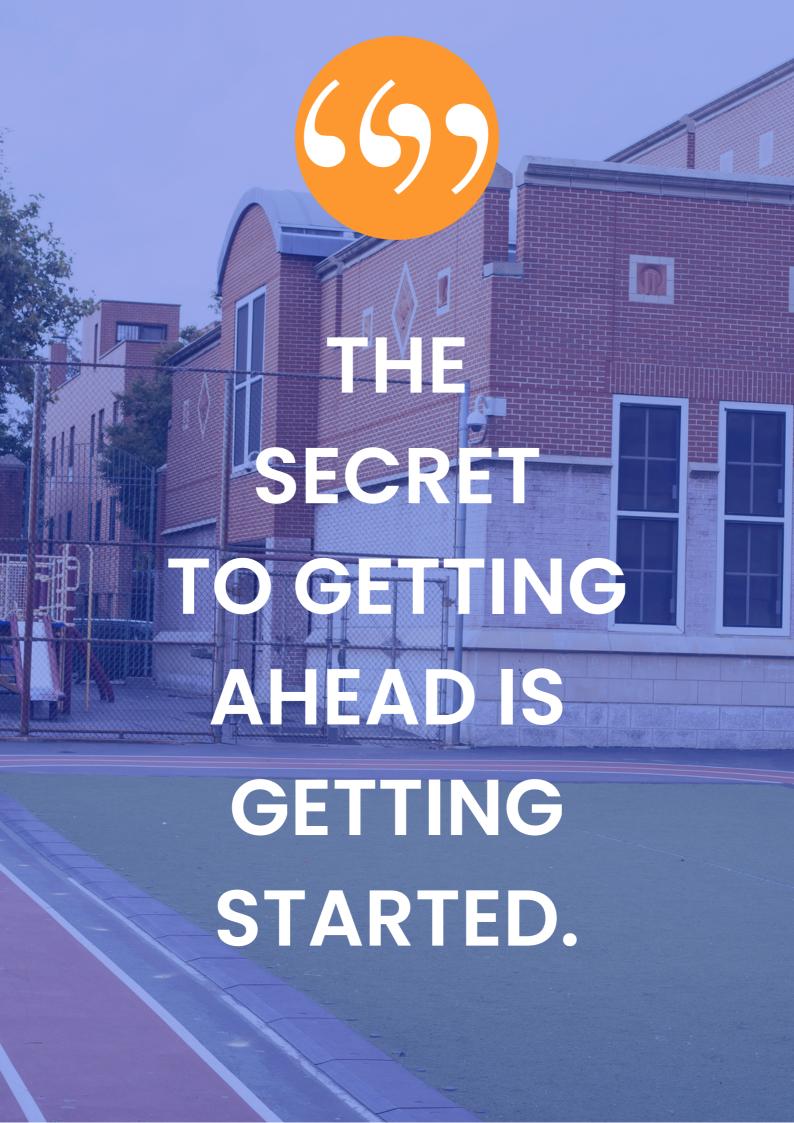
  A screencast works. Make sure it contains all the key elements you'd mention in the classroom.
- SHARE
  Send the learning material to your students. Make it engaging and clear. Highlight that the content will be fully discussed in class.
- CHANGE

  Now since your students have viewed your lesson, they're prepared to actually go more in-depth.
- To effectively discuss the topic, you can separate students into groups where they are given a task to perform. Write a poem, a play, or even give a presentation, etc.
- REGROUP

  Lastly, get the class back together to share each group's work with the rest. Ask questions, dive deeper than before.

After the six steps, Review, Revise, and Repeat!





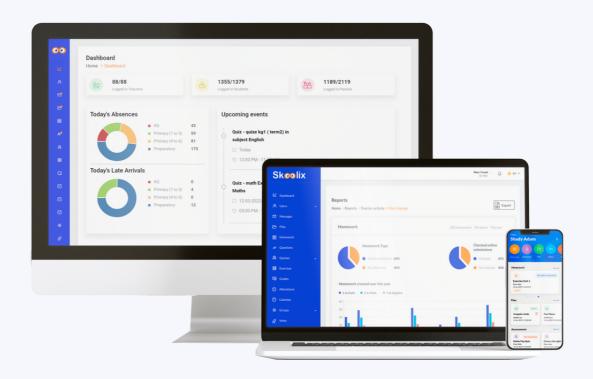


### STILL NEED FURTHER GUIDANCE ON HOW TO GET STARTED WITH AN LMS?

Reach out to a learning management system professional like us to help walk you through the next steps. We would be happy to help you work through any current gaps in your process, and see how they could be filled by Skoolix's numerous capabilities.

### **GET A FREE TRIAL NOW!**





### **ONE APP ... MANY BENEFITS AT A CLICK!**

### **Egypt Office**

- 90 Fawzi Moaz St. Smouha Alexandria Egypt
- +20 3 42 43 787 | +20 127 601 7661
- info@skoolix.app
- Germany Office
  - Auf dem Graben 21 71111 Waldenbuch Germany
- +49 711 219 526 35









