



For Immediate Release

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dCURATE Program Launched to Streamline Evaluation and Procurement of Edtech Products for Massachusetts Schools

Boston, MA, May 8, 2019 -- The MASSachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech (MAPLE) Consortium at LearnLaunch, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), announced today the launch of the digitalCURATE (dCURATE) Program to enhance the management, evaluation, and procurement of edtech instructional products for Massachusetts districts. Sixteen Massachusetts districts have joined the program's first phase, and all Massachusetts public school districts have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from dCURATE.

dCURATE aims to provide Massachusetts districts and educators with a clear and trusted process for identifying and procuring evidence-based digital instructional products for their schools. It will develop a product library where educators and districts can find (and contribute) information about edtech product efficacy, use cases, best practices, and more, based on nationally-available sources as well as feedback from Massachusetts educators. This MAPLE Product Library will be accessible to all Massachusetts school districts.

MAPLE has partnered with [LearnPlatform](#) to power dCURATE and the resulting MAPLE Product Library, and provide districts with the local capacity to manage and evaluate their edtech tools. LearnPlatform is a comprehensive edtech management and rapid-cycle evaluation system for educators and administrators to organize, streamline, and analyze their classroom technology to improve instructional, operational and financial decisions.

Information on which products and vendors comply with best practices regarding the critical area of protecting student data will also be provided in partnership with [The Education Cooperative's](#) (TEC) Student Data Privacy Alliance service, a national leader in providing data privacy agreements to school districts, and the Massachusetts Student Data Privacy Alliance. MAPLE will also use the platform to enable multi-district purchasing of commonly-used, evidence-based, and compliant products identified by dCURATE, to save districts time and budgetary resources.

"As a district with 58 schools and significant building-level autonomy, there is a broad range of digital instructional tools educators select to use. While we want our educators to use the tools

they find helpful for their students, we need to do more to evaluate the impact of these tools on learning,” said Paul Foster, Chief Information Officer at Springfield Public Schools.

The inaugural districts joining the program will be the first to access a platform for improving their local edtech management and evaluation efforts, while also contributing product evaluations to the dCURATE program that will benefit all districts. Besides Springfield, participating districts include Andover, Beverly, Fitchburg, Innovation Academy, Millis, Natick, Northborough-Southborough, and North Reading.

“We have made a lot of progress incorporating technology into our teaching, but we do not have a great system to assess the extent to which these technology tools are improving learning. This is a question that we expect the dCURATE project might help us understand better,” said Julie Doyle, Director of Instructional Technology and Digital Learning at Northborough-Southborough Public Schools.

“We are excited about dCURATE, which complements our CURriculum RATings by TEachers (CURATE) program launched last year to prioritize teacher voice to evaluate the quality of comprehensive curricula. We look forward to learning from the districts participating in dCURATE and hope the project results in a deeper understanding of the digital instructional tools teachers use in Massachusetts classrooms,” said Ron Noble, Associate Commissioner for Instructional Support at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

dCURATE offers varying levels of participation for all Massachusetts districts to change the landscape for evaluating and acquiring digital instructional resources, both collectively statewide and within each participating district. Free professional learning opportunities and district tools will be available shortly, beginning with a [webinar](#) on June 4, at 12 p.m. For more information visit: <http://learnlaunch.org/maple/dcurate/>.

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[The Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech \(MAPLE\) Consortium](#) is a public-private partnership established by LearnLaunch and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to catalyze personalized learning in the Commonwealth with the purpose of better preparing students for their future. MAPLE is dedicated to connecting districts with necessary resources – a strong peer learning community, professional learning, digital tools, funding strategies and a rich evidence base – to create innovative models of teaching and learning to improve student engagement and achievement. MAPLE now includes 45 districts representing more than 25% of Massachusetts K-12 students.

[LearnLaunch](#) is a nonprofit organization that exists to catalyze innovation in the education sector. LearnLaunch supports both solution creators and adopters through events, research, school and district support services, a collaborative co-working space, and a selective accelerator program.