A learning management system is a digital platform that provides an online space to support learning experiences. Within learning management systems, teachers are able to collect, organize, and share learning materials with their students. Utilizing a learning management system promotes easy access for students as it provides a centralized location for blended and online learning materials.

Benefits of using an LMS

Accessibility
Students can benefit from teachers' consideration of alternative formats of learning. The Universal Design for Learning framework provides accessibility strategies. Teachers can also upload supplemental resources for their students and include videos with transcriptions.

Assessment
Teachers can create assignments and assessments within the LMS that assess students' knowledge and application. Based on assessment, student groups can be created for collaborative projects and differentiated assignments.

Communication
Teachers can use a learning management system to provide announcements and reminders, such as video conferencing links, assignment clarifications, and upcoming deadlines. In addition to emailing students within a learning management system, student-to-student interaction can also occur using discussion boards.

Flexibility
Learning management systems can support teachers in tailoring learning materials to meet student needs. Digital tools can often be embedded into learning management systems to provide visual support and hands-on experiences. Grouping features can also be used to provide supplemental resources.

Organization
Within learning management systems, teachers can collect and organize learning materials into units of content. Gradually releasing units of content helps to reduce the cognitive load for students, as it breaks new content into smaller chunks of learning.

Common LMSs Used in Indiana Schools

- Google Classroom
- Schoology
- CANVAS