What is the OEI? – The mission of the California Community Colleges Online Education Initiative (OEI) is to dramatically increase the number of California Community Colleges (CCC) students who obtain college associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges each year by providing online courses and services within a statewide CCC online education ecosystem.

Special attention will be given to ensuring retention and success through providing online student resources for all students, course design and development support, efficiencies of scale in procurement, and professional development in an online ecosystem. Additionally, basic skills support and other support services for underserved and underrepresented cohort groups will be researched and developed.

The OEI is initially funded through a $56.9 million grant over five years from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office, a key initiative in support of Governor Jerry Brown's focus on increasing student success. The OEI is one of three major initiatives—including the Education Planning Initiative and the Common Assessment Initiative—that are expected to integrate, improve, and evolve existing technology services on behalf of California's community college students.

What is the CCMS?
A Course Management System (CMS), sometimes referred to as a Learning Management System (LMS), is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of online education. CMS systems are also used to enhance face-to-face courses by providing document and media distribution, coursework collection and management, and online discussion and collaboration services.

The Common Course Management System (CCMS) is an integral part of the Online Educational Initiative's goals and will provide a consistent online course delivery platform for CCC instructors and students for those colleges using the CCMS. It will also allow for the consistent and seamless deployment of resources through the shared system

From the beginning it was envisioned that a CCMS would support all students; those taking fully online courses or hybrid courses as well as those in face-to-face courses.

How does the CCMS fit into the OEI?
The Common Course Management System is: "A key requirement of the Online Education Initiative (OEI) is to provide distance education in a uniform, easily navigated, online environment with a full complement of support and tools for both students and faculty".

Providing a "common" course management system integrated with other system-wide services such as a student services portal, education planning tool, common assessment platform, and others will facilitate opportunities for student support and faculty engagement through the exchange of data within and between colleges.

How was the CCMS Selected?
The goals of the selection process were:
   • Use a collaborative, faculty-driven process.
   • Select the best CMS to meet the needs of our students
   • Procure a CMS that serves the needs of all CCC students; both in online and face-to-face classes.

The CCMS Workgroup of the OEI Steering Committee (faculty members appointed by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and representatives of CCC stakeholder groups) and representatives of the Full Launch Pilot Colleges (Butte, Foothill, Mt San Jacinto, Shasta, Lake Tahoe, Fresno, Ventura, and Coastline) formed the CCMS Committee to initiate various processes and activities to gather input from diverse system-wide input to ensure the procurement of a viable long-term solution. Additionally, student representatives were involved throughout the process and provided input into various activities.

Following product demonstrations and interviews from three vendor finalists (Remote-Learner, Blackboard, Inc. and Instructure, Inc.) the CCMS Workgroup and the faculty and staff members of the pilot colleges took a formal vote resulting in the near-unanimous recommendation of Instructure as the CCMS. (The OEI Steering Committee received the recommendation and voted unanimously to support the recommendation of Instructure as the CCMS).

What was the basis of the selection of Instructure Canvas?
1. Commitment to partnership with California Community Colleges
2. Nearly unanimous decision
3. Overwhelming support from students
4. Intuitive end user experience
5. History of strong completion and success rate for students
6. Faculty user adoption rate at colleges significantly higher than other systems
7. Site visits and reference checks were overwhelmingly supportive of vendor product and a confirmation of information shared by the vendor.
8. Flexibility for students to indicate a choice for how to receive notifications and course information.
9. Intuitive interface for faculty allowing for more time spent on professional development for pedagogy rather than on teaching the technology tool.

What are the next steps?
A notice of intent to award a contract with Instructure was issued on February 12, 2015. Contract negotiations are currently underway with a projected timeline for completion on March 30, 2015.

The general plan is to rollout the CCMS in a phased approach starting with the eight Full Launch Pilot Colleges. We anticipate that the Full Launch Pilot Colleges will begin offering OEI courses on the Canvas system in Fall 2015. We also understand that colleges may want to deploy Canvas without access to the OEI courses and we are currently discussing various implementation models with Instructure.

Some of the key elements to work out during the pilot phase are:
- The complex network structure that will allow for data transfer between colleges allowing student from one college to take a course online and get credit at another college, and for the OEI to aggregate this data.
- The course migration process to convert existing courses to Canvas courses.
- The training process for faculty, staff, and students.
- The interface with the Student Information Systems to and from the CCMS.

We anticipate an initial deployment plan will be developed by the end of March. In the meantime, the OEI team will move forward with project planning and communications protocols with the vendor while professional development planning begins.

How much will the CCMS cost?
More information on potential costs will be available following the contract negotiations with the vendor. While the intent of the OEI is to provide a CCMS at no or low cost, we believe the economies of scale achieved by the size of the CCC system and the investment from the legislature through the OEI will result in a system that costs less than other options available to campuses.