

CUNY MEMORANDUM

To: All CUNY Faculty, Staff, and Students

From: Office of Academic Affairs (OAA)

Date: October 21, 2025

Subject: Blackboard availability ends December 18, 2025 – archiving and support details

Dear Colleagues:

This fall marks the realization of a collective vision: after more than two years of planning, collaboration, and phased adoption, CUNY is formally closing the Blackboard chapter. With the full roll-out of **Brightspace** across all 26 colleges, we will end Blackboard access on **December 18, 2025**, ushering in a modern learning management system.

Currently, over 239,000 students, and 18,000 faculty are active in 33,000+ courses in Brightspace. This was made possible because we established a collaborative governance structure that engaged the entire CUNYverse.

I encourage you to explore the **Brightspace Transition website** (cuny.edu/lmstransition) to see the full story: our timeline, governance structure, training archives, campus team profiles, and transition milestones. That site is now the institutional record of how we moved together toward a more accessible, reliable, and future-ready learning environment.

Key dates

- **Now – Dec 15, 2025:** Final window to retrieve any materials you want to keep for your own teaching files (e.g., a personal export of your course package, specific files, or Collaborate recordings you wish to keep outside institutional archives).

Note: College specific earlier dates may apply. Please follow your college's guidance and local deadlines.

- **Dec 18, 2025: Blackboard access permanently ends** across CUNY. If your college has earlier cutoffs, those take precedence for local support workflows.

Transition & Data Archiving

CUNY is taking significant steps to ensure instructional records remain secure, accessible, and compliant with policy:

- We will archive Blackboard courses and associated data centrally, in full accordance with university data policy and legal retention requirements.
- Work is underway on a robust, permanent **LMS archiving solution** to provide long-term, stable access to archived instructional records.
- On October 27, 2025, the **Board of Trustees will consider a resolution** supporting this archival plan, cementing institutional commitment to integrity and continuity.
- Faculty and staff are encouraged to **export any remaining course materials to Blackboard before the December deadline**. Please contact your [college LMS support team](#) for assistance.
- During the transition to the permanent archive, **campuses can request course restores** (per local processes) to assist faculty/staff.

Put simply: your instructional data is being preserved at the institutional level — not left behind.

Support Resources

- **Campus support:** Start with your [college LMS support team](#) (unit names vary by college: Academic Technology, Offices of Digital Learning, CTL, IT/EdTech, etc.). Use your college website for contact info and request forms.
- **System Information Page:** The CUNY LMS information site remains available; use it to find **colleges specific support links**. The LMStransition@cuny.edu email will be discontinued at the end of this semester.
- **How to guides (examples):** Some campuses publish concise tip sheets and short videos for common Blackboard wrap-up tasks. We thank John Jay College's LMS team for developing and sharing the following guides and webinar recording:
 - **Export/Copy Course Materials** (example guide): <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/export-course-blackboard-and-import-brightspace>
 - **Download Collaborate Recordings** (example guide and PDF): <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/online-education/learning-management-system/learning-management-user-guides-tutorials/download-blackboard-collaborate-recordings>
 - **Blackboard Retirement:** What you need to know (Office of Digital Learning LMS Support webinar): <https://jjay-cuny.zoom.us/rec/share/RzUDhTnu6oRPfl-dmm9lXsfWsQgrcPhAvJFejS2oKJGVA9yxGx-MK-8aPE-NuKfs.uen0DAvWk-RkgPXM>

Note: Collaborate recordings are **not included in course archives** and should be saved to **CUNY approved storage (e.g., Microsoft Office 365 and Dropbox)** consistent with data/privacy requirements.

Thank you for your partnership in completing this multi-year transition. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to a smooth transition. Let's embrace this new chapter in digital learning together.

Sincerely,

Office of Academic Affairs (OAA)