

KairosPDX Learning Academy: Managing Documentation for Emergent Curriculum and Social-Emotional Learning

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KLA's need

KairosPDX Learning Academy (KLA):

- New charter school in Portland
- Program based on both Common Core Standards, and emergent curriculum (EC)
- EC requires detailed documentation (visual, written, and audio) of students:
 - what they do, write, say, draw,
 - how they behave
 - what they ask about
 - what sparks their curiosity
 - how they interact w/ others, etc.
- Also committed to developing students' social and emotional skills (SEL)
 - SEL requires tracking evidence of qualities like zest, enthusiasm, empathy, flexibility etc.
- Info all used for curriculum development, reporting to parents, self reflection, more.
- Started with three classrooms, K & 1
- Plan: grow to twelve total rooms, K-5



Planned Approach

- Background research about EC documentation management
- Research KLA documents, application for charter in particular
- Meet with KLA principal to better understand school's philosophy, vision
- Evaluate KLA needs
 - Focus group with KLA teachers
 - Assess software currently using
 - Assess current process for documenting, organizing, tagging
- Develop Controlled Vocabulary (CV) to aid organization and especially retrieval
- Evaluate other software possibly applicable for KLA

Initial Outcomes

- Main outcomes of initial approach:
 - CV for SEL already formulated (KLA's 8 Habits for Success)
 - CV contrary to nature of EC – because curriculum always evolves, so must vocabulary
 - Current software is problematic – three services to get functionality desired; resultant process is complex
- Summary of needs & desires:
 - Must be cloud-based (access anywhere, collaborate asynchronously)
 - Ease of use important – may not have interns to assist with documentation next year
 - Low cost/free
 - Customizable (folders, tags/metadata, access levels)
 - Must be secure
 - Single platform or interface

New Approach & Outcomes, Next Steps

- New approach:
 - Evaluate current cloud-based software
 - Recommend software
 - Build model system
- Delivered to KLA:
 - Recommendation for box platform
 - Model system (demonstrated)
 - Costs estimates: minimum and preferred licensing levels
 - Benefits of higher level licensing
- Next steps for KLA:
 - Decide whether to implement system
 - If yes, system creation, implementation, migration, training, and maintenance



KLA's information need is growing rapidly

