MOODLE 4.5 → MOODLE 5.2 // D2L

An LMS Transition Is Coming



College of the Rockies

The clock is running out on Moodle 4.5

ACTIVE SUPPORT

When active support for Moodle 4.5 ends, no further feature work or general bug fixes are available.

SECURITY CLIFF

When security support for Moodle 4.5 ends, the platform receives no updated security patches.

OUR DEADLINE

Fall 2027

We must in the process of introducing Moodle 5.2 (or an alternate LMS) by the end of 2027.

Moodle version update to 5.2

The next version of Moodle has a new theme

Moodle 5.2 requires adopting the default Moodle Theme – Moodle Boost + Union



Theme Change

- This theme rolls out updates separately from Moodle upgrades.
- Our current Moodle 4.5 experience with the New Learning Theme will not be carried forward into future Moodle releases
- We must select a new theme moving forward



Boost + Union Theme

- Moodle Boost + Union is the advanced version of the default theme.
- Boost + Union is currently used by some College programs already.
- As the default theme, Boost + Union is rolled out alongside Moodle updates.

What changes are coming for students in 5.2

Every student returns in 2027 to a site that does not look or behave like the one they left.

Course-focused home page

No longer a general website with links to various services — it shows the courses you are registered in.

Simplified course page

A single menu bar at the top, the course content menu on the left, and Moodle course blocks on the right.

New activity icons and content colours

The visual language of every course changes at once, including familiar activity types.

New Accessibility Tools

The Accessibility button will operate using a new Plugin, personal settings will need to be re-adjusted

Activities in One Place

There is no separate activity view — activities open directly in the same window.

Bookmarks are gone

The bookmarks option does not exist in the new interface.

What changes for faculty in 5.2

The same interface shift, plus some changes to admin areas.

Course-focused home page

The site home becomes a list of your courses rather than a portal of service links.

Simplified course page

One top menu bar, content menu left, course blocks right — Activities, Announcements, ILP Grades, Respondus Setup.

Current course layout retired

The collapsed topics course layout option you use today will no longer be available.

Editing and settings relocated

New locations and new layouts, particularly across the Gradebook and other admin interfaces.

Question bank upgrades

New structural logic behind banks, sharing and how questions attach to quizzes.

Course content updates

Content created with theme-based styles (ie. accordions) or bootstrap 3 references will not work and need to be re-drafted.

What the course transition will require

This is hands-on work, course by course.

Less intensive

New course layout

Certain minor adjustments will be required to reconstruct course flow.
Option to use Tiles Theme – more significant adjustments required.

Gradebook interface

Menus and items move; nothing disappears in the back end.
Moodle 5 restructures the gradebook automatically so it’s a re-learning, not a re-arranging.

More intensive

How-to and Global files and videos

Existing guides will be incorrect and need to be updated. Links to existing help guides will be removed.
All global content on the current Moodle will be deprecated to avoid broken links and contradictory instructions.

Page and Book content

Current theme-based filters must be replaced with the new layout system.
Any Bootstrap 4 references in HTML updated to Bootstrap 5.
This can break certain page layouts that will need re-building.

Question bank rebuild

Quizzes are changing in the backend quite significantly.
Categories may need rearranging and quizzes reconnecting. Corrupted, orphaned or disconnected questions may have to be sorted manually.

WHERE THIS LEAVES US

The transition is not the question.

- Moodle 4.5 is losing active support from Moodle.
- The interface (theme) we run today does not continue.
- Every course needs hands-on work regardless of the LMS we move to.
- The eLearning team is ready and prepared to support faculty.



What we transition to is an opportunity.

A change of this size only comes around once. It is worth asking what we want to be running on the other side of it.

LMS Transition Options

We can take the opportunity to seriously explore an LMS transition, where we have one viable alternative:

Moodle 5.2

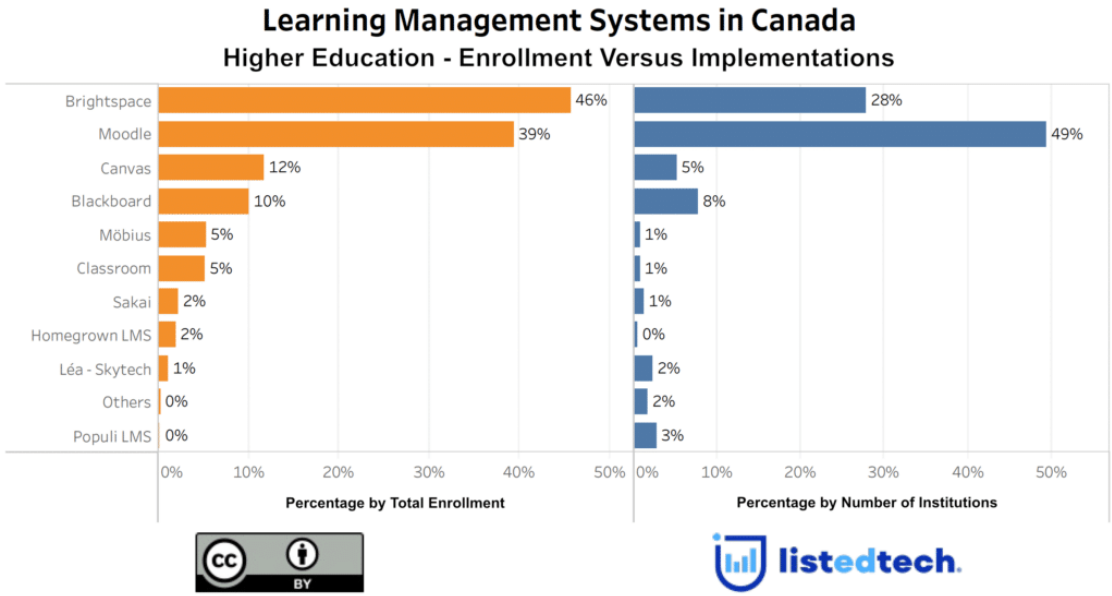
14 Members via BCNet*
Over 40 Canadian HigherEd Institutions

D2L Brightspace

9 Members via BCNet*
Over 100 Canadian HigherEd Institutions

Other Common LMS are Not Available with BCNet

Other LMS used in Canada	Supported via BCNet STS
Canvas	No
Blackboard	No
Google Classroom	No



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listedtech.

D2L Opportunities

A Canada-based solution.

SECURITY & STABILITY

Streamlined

D2L Brightspace is updated regularly from a security and tech standpoint but does not undergo major ‘look and feel’ transitions year to year.

Plugins and themes are inclusive of the basic D2L package and fully supported.

PRICING OPPORTUNITY

Moodle $ Increase

The cost of Moodle increased enough in 2025 (and is anticipated to increase further) to make it comparable in cost to D2L Brightspace.

BC EDUCATION

2023 Mandate

D2L Brightspace has been the official Provincial Online Learning Platform since 2023, causing a trickle-down effect to secondary and primary schools.

This may ease school-college transitions.

What are the most significant changes in D2L?

D2L supports basic content management such as assignments, quizzes, content hosting, video streaming, and forum discussions.

However, a few Moodle elements will require re-building…

New course layout

Certain minor adjustments will be required to reconstruct course flow. Course Homepage allows for a space to hold course intro information outside the course content navigation.

Gradebook interface

The gradebook works similarly with categories and graded assessments but this will definitely require some new learning to understand how to use it properly.

How-to files and videos

Online learning guides will need to be re-created in all courses that use them.

Forums

D2L Forums operate slightly differently and offer a streamlined set of uses. Some Moodle Forum use-cases will need to be re-implemented using D2L forum logics.

Page, Book, & Lesson content

Course content will all need to be reviewed to ensure fonts are clean and layouts adopt the D2L logic and tools.
Books & Lessons will not exist in D2L Brightspace and will need to be re-created using alternative tools.

Quiz Question type adjustments

D2L does not support as many unique question types in quizzes, so questions using more advanced tools will need to be reviewed carefully and re-designed as necessary.

What changes would occur for Students in D2L

The interface is the most significant change: course content is delivered in multiple components instead of a single page.



All Courses Homepage

The homepage shows the courses they are registered in as well as optional college information or announcements.



Multi-page Course Interface

The course homepage hosts announcements and information while content is under additional sections:

- content is under the Content tab,
- forums under Discussions tab.
- etc.



Activity naming conventions & terminology

The terminology for certain elements will change such as the Content window and Discussions, plus new icons for activity types.



Accessibility Settings

Students can adjust font settings in their personal settings but don't have access to a massive Accessibility adapter.
D2L content is screen-reader friendly and Read Speaker is embedded in all text areas.



Bongo Video Activities – replacing Kaltura

All students would migrate to the Bongo service for interactive video assignments.



Discussions/Forum Interface

There is one option for Forum style discussions (replacing Forum, Open Forum, OUBlog, Chat, and others). It is styled differently but offers more

What changes would occur for Faculty in D2L

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Activity naming conventions & terminology

The terminology for certain elements will change such as the Content window and Discussions, plus new icons for activity types. There are fewer activity options than in Moodle.



Accessibility Settings

Students can adjust font settings in their personal settings but don't have access to a massive Accessibility adapter.
D2L content is WCAG compliant, screen-reader friendly, and Read Speaker is embedded in all text areas.



Bongo Video Activities

All students would migrate to the Bongo service for interactive video assignments so faculty would be building video-based assignments using this tool.



Discussions/Forum Interface

There is one option for Forum style discussions (replacing Forum, Open Forum, OUBlog, Chat, and others). It is styled differently but offers more

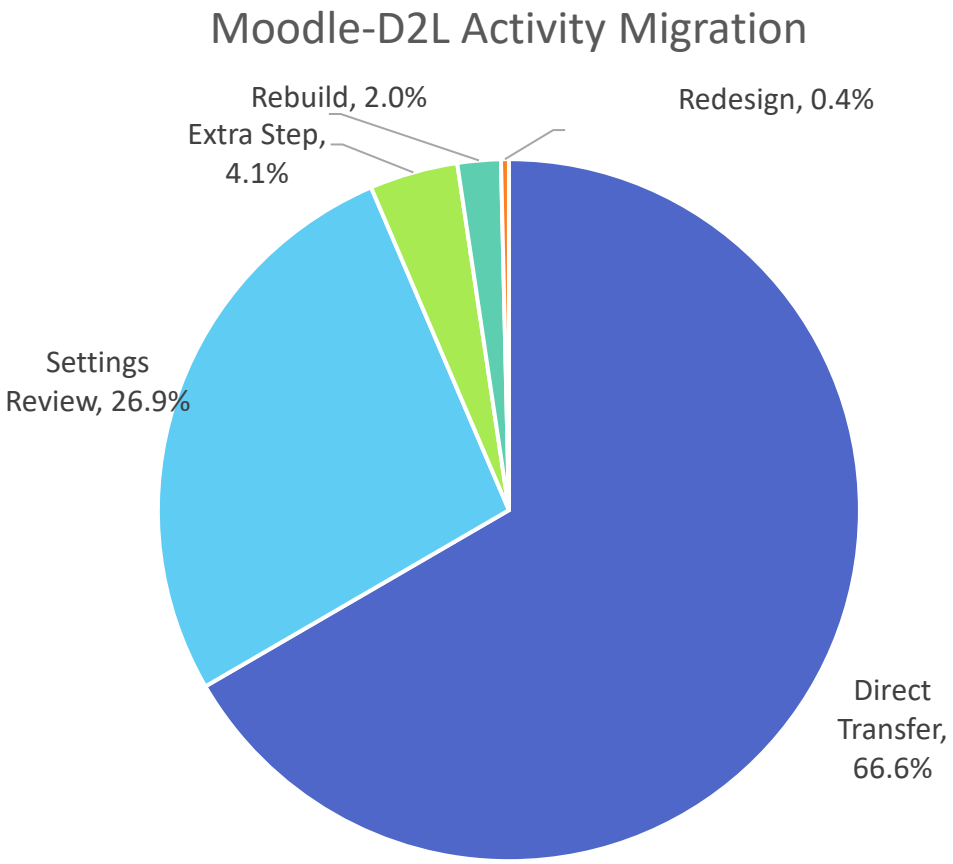
MDL->D2L Course transfer structure

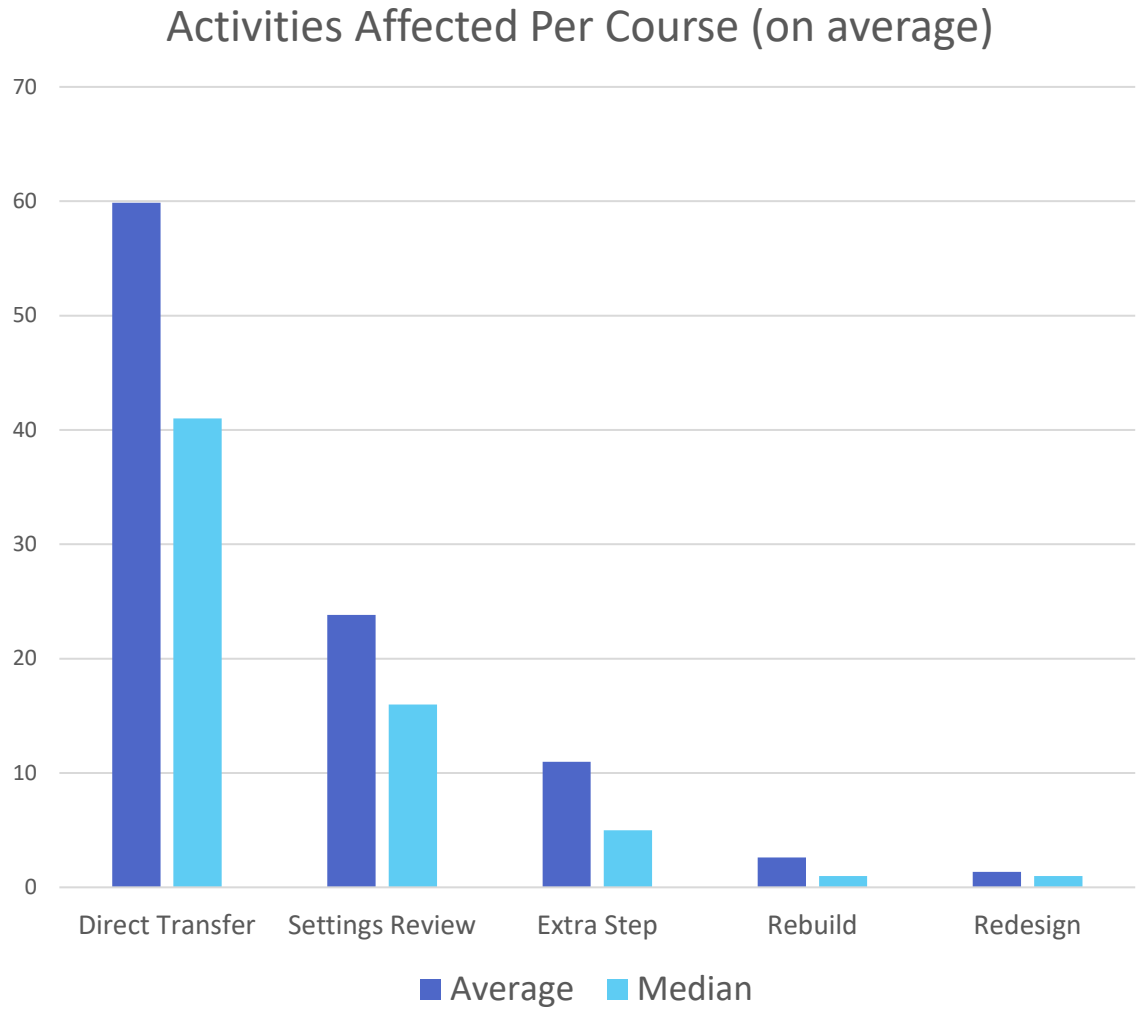
We have investigated the best means of transferring course content from Moodle to D2L and created a categorized transfer structure.

Category	Definition	Moodle Activities Affected
Direct Transfer	• The activity exists in D2L and is replicated exactly • Minor exceptions – i.e. textmedia become pages, folders become subsections	Page, File, Folder, URL, Text/Html
Settings Review	• The activity exists in D2L but there are complex settings that will need to be reviewed, re-set to ensure it functions properly • Book activity becomes a Module of Pages	Forum, Quiz, Assignment, Book*
Extra Step	• The activity needs to be re-inserted, but not re-built • Re-linking external tools (Scorm, LTI, etc.)	H5P, Kaltura, LTI, LinkedIn, Scorm
Rebuild	• The activity does not transfer but there is a D2L work-around for re-building the same learning activity without full re-design • Options to use a D2L tool or H5P alternative	Questionnaire, Open Forum, Choice, Game, Lesson, Feedback, Chat, Workshop
Redesign	• The activity does not transfer and there is no simple equivalent • The learning goal needs to have the associated activity re-designed	Glossary, Database, Wiki, Bookings,

MDL->D2L Course transfer structure

Nearly 94% of all Moodle content will transfer over with minor review and edits and will not need to be rebuilt.





TIMELINE

MDL 5.2 | D2L

2026-2027 Year

- Fall 2026 | Faculty Focus Groups, Student Info Sessions, Feedback Surveys
- October 28 | D2L Presentation
- November 18th | Moodle 5.2 Presentation
- **December 2026 Decision**
- Spring/Summer 2027 | MDL 5.2 Migration

  OR
- Spring 2027 | D2L Introduction
- Spring/Summer 2027 | Pilot Migration to D2L

2027-2028 Year

- **Fall 2027 Launch MDL 5.2**

  OR
- Fall 2027 | Launch Pilot Program Begin Full Migration
- Winter 2027 | Finalize Migration
- **Spring 2028 Launch D2L**

Support from CITL and eLearning Team

The eLearning Team will be providing support throughout either transition.

AUTOMATED MIGRATION

Content Moved

The eLearning Team will oversee the initial move of all content from Moodle 4.5 to the new LMS system.

All special transfer cases requiring significant re-build or re-design will receive additional supports.

ONGOING SUPPORT

Rebuild/Redesign

CITL support will be available for all transition requests including:

- new content builds,
- re-design of existing content, and
- support with reviewing transferred content.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Ongoing Training

Hands on workshops and one-on-one trainings will be offered in advance of the transition and throughout the first year.

Sandboxes are available to all faculty in both systems upon request.

Come try out the two systems throughout November at our kiosks in the Learning Commons!