1. **How many professional learning credits (to be used within the BloomBoard marketplace) will be allocated to my district? When will the district receive these credits? Do the credits expire?**

For districts interested in participating in the BloomBoard marketplace, the opt-in deadline was July 15, 2013. However, if you were not able to respond to this deadline due to extenuating circumstances, please contact Shannon Marimón, Education Consultant, CSDE Talent Office (shannon.marimon@ct.gov; 860-713-6816). For the purposes of a costing formula, the CSDE has committed to funding opt-in districts with the equivalent of $75 times the total number of certified staff within the district. This amount will be provided in a single allotment to the district, and distribution will be determined at the district level. BloomBoard can work with district administration to disseminate the funds to educators. It is recommended that a decision for dissemination be made in consultation with the district’s Evaluation and Professional Learning Committee. We expect credit allocations to be distributed to districts by September 2013.

Professional learning credits do not expire and can be carried over from year to year.

2. **What vendors are available through the BloomBoard marketplace?**

BloomBoard works closely with a wide range of vendors to ensure that the resources in our marketplace are diverse, research-based and high quality. The ever-expanding BloomBoard content library includes professional learning from vendors such as PBS TeacherLine, Wiley / Jossey-Bass, Knowledge Delivery Systems, The Master Teacher, Kappa Delta Phi and Education Development Center (EDC).

3. **How do I upload school, district or regional-specific professional learning resources? Is there a cost?**

Districts can add their own professional learning content to the BloomBoard marketplace and opt to make the content available just to the district or to the whole BloomBoard community. BloomBoard allows each district to upload a limited amount of content for free, and then assesses additional content hosting fees as storage volume increases.

4. **Will regional educational service center (RESC) workshops be available in the BloomBoard marketplace? How do I register for local/regional events?**

Yes. The registration for these workshops will be available through the BloomBoard platform.

5. **Where will the data be stored? Who will have access to it? How secure is my data?**

BloomBoard takes appropriate precautions to protect our users’ information. Your account information is located on a secured server behind a firewall. When you enter sensitive information (such as your password or a credit card number), we encrypt that information using secure socket layer technology (SSL). For more detailed information on BloomBoard’s privacy policy, please visit [http://apps.bloomboard.com/PP.html](http://apps.bloomboard.com/PP.html). For more information on privacy, see below.
6. **What if our district is using a different data management system provider (e.g. Protraxx, School Improvement Network, My Learning Plan, etc.)?**

The CSDE, through their partnership with CAS, will allocate professional learning credits in 2013-14 to all districts who are interested, regardless of whether they are using the BloomBoard system to track evaluation data. BloomBoard will work with these types of districts to set up access to the BloomBoard professional learning marketplace so that district evaluators and educators can use their credits and interact with and consume content.

7. **What is the long-term plan? Are there any cost considerations?**

The CSDE, through partnership with CAS, will fund perpetual licenses for all districts in the state. As such, there will be no cost to the district to host their evaluation data with BloomBoard into perpetuity. While CSDE is committed to funding professional learning credits in the 2013-14 (for all districts) and 2014-15 school years (for districts who opt into the complete BloomBoard platform, only), support in future years will be contingent on budget appropriations. If there were to be no funding available in a given year, any professional learning credits would need to be supported, in full, at the district level, but there would be no cost for the data management system for the educator evaluation data.

There is expanded functionality and services that BloomBoard can offer to those districts that are interested. There has been a great deal of interest in one of the premium offerings, in particular, the Real-time Data Dashboard, which allows an administrator to view aggregated school and district-level performance data across key measures. This is NOT required to meet the basic data collection needs of a district; however, we recognize the value of this feature. As such, we have negotiated a discounted rate of $499/administrator/year for this add-on during the 2013-14 year only (in 2014-15, it will return to the rate of $999/administrator/year). We hope this will allow those districts who are interested to access this offering at a more affordable cost, and they can then budget accordingly for the 2014-15. For those districts who are interested in this or any of the other premium services, please reach out to BloomBoard directly.

8. **Is there a cost for training?**

BloomBoard, in partnership with the RESCs and CAS, will be offering a series of trainings throughout August and September 2013. These regional offerings will be available at no cost to districts. The full list of trainings and information on registration can be found at: [http://www.bloomboard.com/cttraining](http://www.bloomboard.com/cttraining). If a district would like to arrange a district-specific training, the cost is $1,999/half day and $2,999/full day. For additional information on arranging a district-specific training, please reach out to BloomBoard directly.

9. **What is the best way to contact BloomBoard?**

As district leaders have any technical or detailed questions, they can reach out to the BloomBoard team directly through the BloomBoard help desk:

- support@bloomboard.com
- 888-418-1595

Contacting this email/number will ensure the most immediate response, and the BloomBoard Help Desk Team will refer the person to the relevant Account Manager (AM) if the question requires the AM’s support.
BloomBoard FAQs: Privacy and Security

1. **What type of data does BloomBoard collect?**

When you register, or are registered by your district/LEA, for BloomBoard, we may ask you to provide us with certain personal information, such as your name, your email address, the subject and grades that you teach (if applicable), your credentials (if applicable) and any other personal information that you provide to us.

Like most other web-based user platforms, when you enter BloomBoard.com, we collect your browser type and IP address. This information is gathered for all BloomBoard.com visitors, but is not shared with third parties.

2. **Who can access the data I upload on my BloomBoard profile? Does BloomBoard share my data with third parties?**

We let you choose who would have access to your information by using your privacy setting. We will never provide your personally identifiable information to third party marketers or other vendors of any kind. You can read more about BloomBoard’s Terms and Conditions here: [https://apps.bloomboard.com/TOS.html](https://apps.bloomboard.com/TOS.html).

3. **Where will the data be stored? How secure is my data?**

BloomBoard takes appropriate precautions to protect our users’ information. Your account information is located on a secured server behind a firewall. When you enter sensitive information (such as your password or a credit card number), we encrypt that information using secure socket layer technology (SSL). For more detailed information on BloomBoard’s Privacy Policy, please visit: [http://apps.bloomboard.com/PP.html](http://apps.bloomboard.com/PP.html).

4. **Who owns the educator and district data that are entered into BloomBoard? Who can access it?**

While the data reside within the BloomBoard platform, each district "owns" their respective data. Your district will have direct access to the data at any time. The CSDE will not have direct access, nor will CAS. Any information requested by the CSDE would need to either be provided by the district directly or provided by BloomBoard upon authorization by the district.

5. **Is the educator or district data available for release in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request or other legal request?**

Individual teacher and administrator evaluation data is not subject to disclosure under FOIA without the prior written consent of the educator. Please note that new legislation passed this year provided an expansion of this exemption. To learn more about the legislation, Public Act 13-122, see: [http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00122-R00HB-06624-PA.pdf](http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/pa/pdf/2013PA-00122-R00HB-06624-PA.pdf).
6. **Will the State of Connecticut be automatically pulling any or all of the educator or district data to fulfill annual state reporting related to educator evaluation or any other data reports?**

No, the CSDE does not have direct access to the system during the 2013-14 school year. The reporting requirements will not be automatically pulled without the district’s authorization. However, at the end of the school year, the CSDE may send a release form to districts requesting data from BloomBoard for compliance purposes. BloomBoard will only release data to the CSDE with the district’s permission.

7. **inBloom, which collects student data to personalize learning pathways, recently faced controversy regarding user privacy concerns. What is BloomBoard’s relationship with inBloom?**

The two companies are entirely separate entities with no connection. However, BloomBoard does work with inBloom in some districts and/or states that choose to utilize the inBloom platform data architecture. The sharing of the word ‘Bloom’ in our names is purely coincidence – and we actually called it first. Additional questions regarding Privacy and Security can be sent to: support@bloomboard.com.