

# Canvas - Course Scores (Elementary)

**Audience:** Teachers, Canvas Course Developers

**Summary:** This article provides a brief overview of the Course Score badge that appears within a student-facing Canvas course.

## Why Course Scores?

The Course Scores program has several goals:



### Objective #1: Recognition

Provide recognition for excellence in Canvas course development (and for improvement over time).



### Objective #2: Development

Provide self-guided professional development to help teachers use Canvas more effectively.



### Objective #3: Expectations

Ensure all district courses meet a set of minimum essential expectations.

## Feature Overview

A course's current course score will display at the top of the course. Different courses will have individual scores.

The screenshot displays a Canvas course interface for a 'Science' course. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with navigation links: Account, Admin, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, Commons, and Help. The main content area has a header with a 'Manage Subject' button, a 'Course Score 625' badge (highlighted with a red arrow), and a 'View as Student' button. Below the header is a large red banner with the text 'Welcome to WE Wolfe' and a stylized atom logo. Underneath the banner, there are tabs for 'Home', 'Modules', and 'Resources'. The 'Home' tab is active, showing a section for 'Science' with a message: 'New announcements show up in this area. Create a new announcement now.' and a '+ Announcement' button. At the bottom of the page, there are four circular icons with labels: 'My Learning' (document with pencil), 'Class Information' (magnifying glass over 'i'), 'Student Tech Help' (person at a laptop), and 'Parent Tech Help' (laptop with a checkmark). An 'Immersive Reader' button is also visible in the bottom right corner.

Clicking the Course Score will bring up additional information, including personalized feedback on improving that particular course and an option to view the full scorecard.

The screenshot shows a Canvas LMS interface for a 'Science' course. A modal window is open in the center, titled 'Minimum Essential Expectations'. The modal contains the following text:

**Minimum Essential Expectations**  
To improve this Canvas course, ensure you have customized the "Schedule" section on the "Class Information" page. [Learn More](#)

**Continuous Essential Expectations**  
Complete all minimum essential expectations above to unlock continued advice on how to take your course to the next level!

Course scores are created by looking at the overall organization, navigation, content, and interactivity of each individual course. Scores range from 350 to 850 and refresh at least once each day. Only you (the teacher) can see the score. If you think we've missed something, email [elxlove@katyisd.org](mailto:elxlove@katyisd.org) so he can improve this tool!

At the bottom of the modal are two buttons: 'Got it!' and 'See Full Scorecard'. A red arrow points from the 'See Full Scorecard' button to the 'Immersive Reader' button in the bottom right corner of the page.

The background page shows a 'Science' course header with 'Home' and 'Modules' tabs. Below the header, there is a 'New announcements show up in the' section with a '+ Announcement' button. At the bottom of the page, there are four circular icons representing different sections: 'My Learning', 'Class Information', 'Student Tech Help', and 'Parent Tech Help'. In the top right corner, there is a 'Course Score' of 62.5 and a 'View as Student' button. In the top left corner, there is a 'Manage Subject' button. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with icons for Account, Admin, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, Commons, and Help.

The "Full Scorecard" shows, in detail, which aspects of the course earned points.

**Can't wait to max out your Course Score?** Here is the full rubric. Keep in mind that scores only refresh about once per day - progress won't show up until we assess this course again.

### Minimum Essential Expectations

<span style="color: green;">+</span> Course is published.	15 / 15
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course Schedule is missing. <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 50
<span style="color: green;">+</span> Course has been named correctly.	25 / 25
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course Newsletter is missing. <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 50
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course "About the Teacher" is missing. <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 50
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course does not have any published modules.	0 / 35
<span style="color: green;">+</span> Course Front Page is standardized.	25 / 25

### Continuous Essential Expectations

<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course does not have any type of recent assignments with due dates. <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 100
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course does not have recent multimedia files (audio, video, or images). <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 75
<span style="color: red;">-</span> Course has less than two published instructional materials (pages, links, files). <a href="#">Learn More</a>	0 / 75

**Close**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How does this work?

A: We have developed a robot that crawls through student-facing courses and looks for key indicators of excellent courses. Scores are assigned based on the rubric that you can see when you click on your course score. Scores are refreshed at least once per day as the robot moves through the courses.

### Q: Who can see the a Course Score?

A: Only the teacher(s) of that course will be able to see the badge within the course. Students cannot see the course score. Instructional Technology staff and campus administration have a separate dashboard where they can view scores and send messages to the following groups: "Teachers with above (a certain Course Score)", "Teachers with unpublished courses", and "Teachers with courses that need attention".

### Q: What specifically is this robot looking for?

A: Our robot looks for indicators of excellent course design. The rubric was assembled with the help of teachers, CTDs, and Instructional Technology staff working together to find common elements of great courses. See the table below to understand specifically how each factor is measured.

Criteria	Indicator
Course is published.	Course is published.

Criteria	Indicator
Course has been named correctly.	Course name does not have the eSchool name structure (i.e. LANGUAGE AND READING (403-4)) and keeps the name set by the Classroom Technology Designer.
Course Front Page is standardized.	District template code from the Blueprint is detected on Front Page with the four essential buttons.
Course Newsletter is customized.	The Newsletter section of the Class Information page has content.
Course 'Meet the Teacher' is customized.	The Meet the Teacher section of the Class Information page has content.
Course Schedule is customized.	The Schedule section of the class Information page has content.
Course has at least one published module.	At least one module is published.
Course has multiple assignment types with due dates.	Counts the number of unique assignment types (i.e. Classic Quizzes, New Quizzes, Assignments, External Tools, File Uploads) with due dates over the past 30 days.
Course includes multimedia elements (i.e. images, video, audio).	At least one Classic Quiz, New Quiz, or Assignment has multimedia elements (i.e. images, video, audio) in the past 30 days.
Course has at least two published instructional materials (pages, links, files)	At least two of any combination of pages, links, or files published in modules in the past 30 days.

If you believe we've made a mistake in your course - we'd love to know so we can teach our robot. Please reach out to the email below.

**Q: Who can I contact if I have an issue, would like to offer feedback, or want to share a suggestion?**

A: This was developed in-house; please share any feedback, issues you encounter, or suggestions for improvement directly via email with [elxlove@katyisd.org](mailto:elxlove@katyisd.org).