

## LiveText

The College of Education provides public information, FAQs, and handbooks for the LiveText portfolio and assessment system [on our main website](#). LiveText is managed by the Associate Dean and Administrative Services within the College of Education.

### STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

<https://www.livetext.com/>

The College of Education has to abide by state and federal standards that recently have indicated the College of Education needs to provide our students with resources beyond graduation, including a portfolio tool and the ability for students to retain work completed in your Education program(s). With these new federal requirements, it became necessary to update our former assessment system (COEdata) with a more comprehensive tool. In Fall of 2013, the College of Education reviewed multiple commercial assessment and e-portfolio programs (including taskstream, LiveText, Chalk&Wire, Tk20, and Blackboard). The College of Education ultimately decided that LiveText provides the most comprehensive suite of features for all users at the most reasonable cost to the College of Education as well as students. The College of Education shares the cost for LiveText with students: we have to pay for faculty and cooperating teacher accounts, as well as implementation fees for using LiveText.

LiveText is a leading, international provider of campuswide solutions for strategic planning, assessment, and institutional effectiveness. Their system has been successfully used by institutions across Michigan, including Eastern Michigan University, Madonna University, Ferris State University, Andrews University, Northwestern Michigan College, and Miller College. With LiveText, the College of Education is able to effectively measure outcome-based learning goals and provide students with a professional portfolio system. LiveText provides students and faculty with personal accounts that they use to create/submit assignments, manage data, and build electronic portfolios. These electronic portfolios can be used to showcase professional skills or as a classroom management portfolio. Additionally, submitted materials in LiveText are retained in the system across semesters and beyond graduation, allowing students to showcase work to potential employers.

Faculty were notified of the transition to LiveText in April of 2014. The College of Education publically announced the decision to begin using LiveText in July of 2014, with implementation beginning in Fall of 2014. Students were notified of the transition both in their courses and through email and online announcements. The key benefit for students is LiveText provides access to assessments faculty complete for assignments within the programs (as well as copies of students' self-assessments). Unlike Blackboard that typically deletes assignment information after the end of each semester, LiveText assignment materials will be available across semesters and beyond graduation. Having access to this data allows students to share their assessments and showcase standards and areas that they excel in within your program.

It is the College of Education's hope that students will be able to continue to use their LiveText account beyond graduation to showcase the work they have completed within their program(s). Additional information on LiveText can be found on our website's [Student FAQ page](#) and our [Faculty FAQ page](#).

(\*former in-house assessment system was <http://www.coedata.com>)

## LIVETEXT SYLLABI STATEMENT

All\* College of Education syllabi (with the exception of a few courses noted below) need to include a statement informing COE students that LiveText Student Membership: Field Experience Edition is a required purchase for College of Education programs. Faculty, please share this information *orally* with your students at the beginning, middle, and end of the term. PLEASE NOTE: A few courses do not complete assessments at this time and are therefore currently not requiring students to purchase LiveText. Those courses are as follows:

- ED 180, ED 600, ED 601
- EDC 680, EDC 699
- EDF 100, EDF 380, EDF 399, EDF 499, EDF 635, EDF 650, EDF 653, EDF 680, EDF 699
- All EDH Courses
- EDI 380, EDI 399, EDI 499, EDI 680, EDI 699, EDI 780, EDI 799
- EDL 680, EDL 699, EDL 780, EDL 799
- EDR 317, EDR 380, EDR 499, EDR 599, EDR 612, EDR 613, EDR 680, EDR 680, EDR 699
- EDS 380, EDS 399, EDS 499, EDS 550, EDS 680, EDS 699
- EDT 380, EDT 399, EDT 680, EDT 699

\*PLEASE NOTE: The Higher Education (M.Ed.) in Adult and Higher Education or College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) programs do NOT use LiveText. Students in these programs are exempt from purchasing LiveText.

The language below should be included in College of Education course syllabi:

### LiveText Assessment System

**An active LiveText membership is a required resource for this course because at least one assignment must be submitted electronically using this online platform. LiveText is used by Grand Valley State University in Education programs to demonstrate the quality of our academic programs, provide students with documentation of their growth, improve teaching and learning, and maintain accreditation. Student have the opportunity to use your LiveText account for secure online storage of all of your academic work and to create digital portfolios and reflective journals, which can be shared with prospective employers or other parties.**

**Students may purchase their copy of LiveText Student Membership: Field Experience Edition (ISBN: 9780979663567) either in-store from the GVSU University Bookstore (LiveText is listed under a generic department holding/course number, ED 999), or directly from the LiveText website at <https://www.livetext.com/purchase-register-membership/> . The program currently retails for \$133.00 (effective 2017).**

**Your student LiveText account is a one-time purchase that is valid for 5 years from the date of purchase. You will be using LiveText throughout your Education courses and have access to your files and portfolio across semesters and beyond graduation. LiveText will be a required resource in many courses throughout your program. You will use the same account for any course that requires it for up to five years, so you only need to purchase the account one time. If you already have an active LiveText membership, you do not need to purchase another one. After five years, you can choose to extend your membership if you need it for additional coursework or would like to maintain it for your**

personal use. More information on LiveText can be found on our student FAQ page at: [www.gvsu.edu/coe/livetext](http://www.gvsu.edu/coe/livetext)  
**Please see the COE website for LiveText user FAQs and handbooks at [www.gvsu.edu/coe/livetext](http://www.gvsu.edu/coe/livetext) .**

#### LIVETEXT COMPANY MERGES WITH TASKSTREAM-TK20 (2017)

LiveText announced on Friday, 9/22/2017, that their company will be merging into [Taskstream-Tk20](#). Taskstream and Tk20 are two commercial assessment, accreditation, and e-portfolios systems that merged earlier this year (2017). With the acquisition of LiveText, their company now boasts 50+ years of experience, 280+ employees, and over 1,000 institutions that use their products. The following FAQ points are taken from [Taskstream's site](#):

- **Company Name change in 2018:** The company will retain the names Taskstream-Tk20 and LiveText through 2017. A new name and brand is expected be launched sometime in 2018.
- **Existing products retained:** The merger will not impact your use of Taskstream-Tk20's or LiveText's products. The company will continue to support the products you are currently using.
- **Existing price models, user memberships, and technical support retained:** LiveText will honor the terms of all existing contracts. Clients will continue to follow the same process for contacting and receiving technical support and support hours will remain unchanged. LiveText users will continue to login to LiveText.com for all accounts.

The College of Education's Administrative Services office is actively following the merger and will ensure that College of Education faculty, staff, students, and field partners continue to receive clear communication and training materials for our assessment system. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Alex Jacobsson at [jacobale@gvsu.edu](mailto:jacobale@gvsu.edu) or the Associate Dean, Dr. Caryn King, at [kingc@gvsu.edu](mailto:kingc@gvsu.edu).