



# FedRAMP Authorization Guide

Anthology has made significant investments in security accreditation for Blackboard® Learn. FedRAMP® Tailored LI-SaaS was achieved in June 2018, and FedRAMP Moderate was achieved in April 2020 for Blackboard Learn deployed in AWS GovCloud (US). Anthology is committed to continuing these investments to best serve our United States government customers requiring higher degrees of certification or operation on government networks. Below are frequently asked questions to help you better understand Blackboard Learn FedRAMP authorization.

## Is Blackboard Learn FedRAMP authorized?

Yes. Blackboard Learn deployed in AWS GovCloud (US) has FedRAMP Moderate authorization, which is equivalent to Department of Defense (DoD) Impact Level 2 (IL2). Anthology received a Moderate-level authority to operate (ATO) from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in September 2019. Anthology received the Moderate authorization from the FedRAMP PMO in April 2020. Anthology maintains both the NGA ATO and FedRAMP PMO authorizations monthly, which are reassessed annually.

## What is the value of FedRAMP Moderate to my organization?

One of FedRAMP's core value propositions is facilitating government-wide reuse of security packages for cloud service offerings (CSO) like Blackboard Learn. Anthology completed the FedRAMP authorization process so that our security package can be reused by any US federal agency. Anthology submits updates to the FedRAMP PMO monthly.

## What are the benefits of choosing a FedRAMP Moderate solution such as Blackboard Learn?

- 1.** Substantive savings (in time and cost) and faster time to value by leveraging Blackboard Learn's FedRAMP security documentation, ongoing monitoring, and independent assessments by a third-party auditor
- 2.** Assurance that a consistent, best practice set of security controls has been and will continuously be implemented—verified monthly and audited by a certified third-party auditor annually
- 3.** Reciprocity with DISA for Impact Level 2
- 4.** Ability to meet cloud procurement rules for FedRAMP-only solutions

## How do I access and leverage Blackboard Learn's FedRAMP Moderate documentation?

FedRAMP developed a [quick guide](#) for agencies that outlines how to reuse a security package for a FedRAMP-authorized CSO. When reusing security packages, FedRAMP recommends agencies keep in mind the following best practices:

1. Review the [FedRAMP Marketplace](#) to determine if a cloud service offering (CSO) is FedRAMP authorized
2. Review the security materials and continuous monitoring deliverables
3. Follow your agency-defined process in issuing an authority to operate (ATO)
4. Review monthly continuous monitoring deliverables

If you have any questions regarding the reuse process, please reach out to [info@fedramp.gov](mailto:info@fedramp.gov).

## What are Anthology's plans for DISA Impact Level 4 (IL4)? What is the timeline?

Anthology is currently pursuing IL4. Anthology has a longstanding investment in our product portfolio supporting the government's teaching and learning mission, and we are committed to continuing that investment. This includes our partnership with an agency sponsor in pursuit of IL4. We understand that the process timeline will not be under the sole control of any one party—DISA, our agency sponsor, or Anthology—but are committed to working collaboratively and in good faith to meet customer training timelines.

## Does my organization need IL4?

Agencies need to weigh their requirements and security controls to determine whether IL2 or IL4 is appropriate. Blackboard Learn supports IL2 for dozens of customers and is currently pursuing IL4 for those agencies who require it.

In addition, Anthology offers multiple avenues to further secure the IL2 cloud environment, including:

- CAC authentication (for both application and content access)
- Third-party and multi-factor authentication (MFA) integration

## What if my organization requires IL4 today?

Please talk to your account team to help identify how Anthology can meet your IL4 requirements today and in the future.

- To learn more about Anthology learning solutions for government, visit [anthology.com/learn-government](https://anthology.com/learn-government)

