1. What is Blackboard PD?
Blackboard PD engages and deepens learning through interactive online professional development for educators. Blackboard PD is an innovative library of professional learning courses on 21st Century learning topics - from developing critical thinking skills in students to using data to inform instruction. Blackboard PD elegantly fuses the learning, doing, and social sharing needed for rigorous and relevant learning that results in enhanced classroom learning practices and positive shifts in mindset.

2. How do I get my district set up?
A consultant from the Blackboard services group will set up your district, schools and groups with a district-branded library of PD courses. We will either upload a .CSV file of approved users or integrate directly with your LMS for single sign on access. Invitations are then sent to authorized users. Users click a link, accept their course(s) and embark on personalized PD.

3. How are district PD engagements typically initiated?
A district official (Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Director of PD) typically announces the plan to move forward with personalized PD via an email or district newsletter. Once this happens, invites are disbursed, teachers accept courses and begin their course work on their own time, at their own pace and on their own device.

4. How do teachers access FAQs?
Teachers have access to FAQs on their district’s help desk. Beyond FAQs, a district/school coordinator is trained to field questions and trouble-shoot any issues. If an issue needs to be escalated, the Bb Admin should report the issue by opening a ticket won Behind the Blackboard. Tickets are tracked until resolution is confirmed.

5. Can we add teachers once pilots are completed?
Yes. Adding schools, groups and cohorts is easy. Once additional seats are procured, a Bb coordinator will work with district staff to add additional rosters / teachers to the district portal.

6. Can we add PD courses to our library?
Yes. Bb K12 PD is built on simplicity. We offer an entire library of courses that can be flexibly accessed by authorized teachers and administrators within the district. We are also updating our course library, and will let the district know when additional PD courses become available.

7. How do I track progress of teachers who are completing courses?
There are several ways to track progress. When Admins log in to Blackboard PD, they will see a rolled up dashboard of analytics on teacher registrations, course initiations, course completions, time in each course, activities completed, assessments mastered, mindset shifts and participation in the social community of practice. Course roster reports, District reports and leaderboards, and individual teacher portfolios are available and shareable. Progress reports are segmented and available to select “roles” within the Blackboard PD hierarchy including Partner Admin (Bb), District Admins (K12 district) and Principal Admins. This makes tracking registrations, course usage and learning outcomes that much easier.

8. Can we hire Blackboard PD to create a custom course?
Yes. We provide customization services that include the creation of custom courses for districts. Sometimes a specific issue falls outside of the list of courses that Blackboard PD offers. This could include specific courses to align Math or ELA instruction to Common Core or other state standards. This could include specific courses on Mastery, Competency or 21st Century Learning. This could include courses on administrative leadership, developing growth mindsets and closing the achievement gaps.