



The decision to **[Implement SIF<sup>®</sup>]** is clear.

**FEDERAL FUNDS  
SUPPORT THE  
GROWTH OF PK-20  
DATA SYSTEMS**

- The State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Program (\$250m) for ARRA cites that data systems must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines of the National Center of Education statistics to the maximum extent feasible - including SIF.
- One of the four core reforms detailed in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for education (\$100b) outlines the establishment of pK to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement.

**THE BEGINNING OF SIF** More than a decade ago, the state of data transfer in the education sector was less than ideal. Each education organization had multiple, separate applications requiring unique data entry. The result was incomplete, unreliable information that couldn't reasonably be used in reporting. In response to the ensuing demand from educators, a series of meetings began in 1998 between key companies to discuss the challenges of interoperability between education applications. It was concluded that the best solution was to collectively define standards such as data formats, naming conventions and rules of data transfer that all software vendors could adopt. These informal meetings became the SIF Association, and the standards developed became known as the SIF Specification.

**SIF BECOMES A MOVEMENT** The vision of SIF has matured and expanded over the last 12 years. The original SIF Implementation Specification has gone through 6 substantive releases, each one growing and deepening the available feature set. It has expanded internationally to include the United Kingdom and soon to be Australia. There are over a hundred SIF Certified Applications covering more than 20 different education systems. SIF has emerged as the dominant data interoperability standard utilized by administrative and instructional applications and implemented by thousands of education organizations worldwide.

**RAPID GROWTH** The rapid adoption of SIF by educational organizations is attributable to the concrete benefits they have realized from local implementations as well as the high priority the federal government has placed on standardizing pK-20 data systems. States and LEAs have leveraged SIF to improve operational efficiency, cut costs, increase data reliability, and increase student achievement.



To learn more, visit  
[www.sifassociation.org](http://www.sifassociation.org)

## WHAT YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING:

### Trustworthy Data

"SIF® has been critical in ensuring all our district data systems have **consistent and accurate information** to address the needs of our students."

**Tom Waller**, Technology Director, Wilson County Schools, Lebanon, TN

### It Works

"I have been won over by the **close integration of multiple applications** from different vendors. We are now able to add or change applications as needed without overhauling our infrastructure."

**Sheryl Abshire**, Chief Technology Officer, Calcasieu Parish Public Schools, LA

### Help Students & Teachers

"With SIF, we have data we can trust. We now have time to focus on what to do with that **data to help students and teachers**."

**Bart Kunz**, IT Administrator, Lincoln County School District 2, WY

# SIF® is [The PROVEN Choice]

There are countless reasons why educational institutions throughout the world have chosen to implement SIF® to meet their data interoperability needs. Here's why you should too:

#### ESTABLISHED DATA INTEROPERABILITY

A SIF Implementation has been the right choice to address data interoperability needs for thousands of educational organizations throughout the world.

#### CONSISTENT DATA YOU CAN TRUST

When implementing SIF, the data only needs to be entered once and then automatically propagates to the applications that subscribe to it, eliminating the need for redundant data entry. The result is consistent and reliable information you can trust.

#### SIMPLIFIED FEDERAL AND STATE REPORTING

A SIF Implementation puts quality data in a universally accepted format to simplify state and federal reporting efforts.

#### REDUCED COST

Your organization cannot afford to spend endless hours entering and quality checking data. It is more cost-effective to have the information you need quickly to inform decisions.

#### IMPROVED STUDENT SERVICES

Real-time updates lead to faster provisioning of new student services in areas such as the library, instructional services, student information, and transportation. Students can access these services the day they enroll in school.

#### INFORMED DECISIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

By making information more accessible, SIF allows administrators and teachers to quickly gather data to help inform decisions about instruction and student learning.

#### ABOUT THE SIF ASSOCIATION

The SIF Association is an international, non-profit organization of over 2300 community members including schools, government Departments and Ministries of Education, software vendors and other organizations active in the pK-20 education market. The goal of the community is to create and develop open access, free use interoperability specifications that improve the efficiency, flexibility and dependability of educational systems.



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