



For Immediate Release

For Additional Information,
Contact: Lisa Marks
lmarks@sifinfo.org
+1.202.789.4460

National Organizations Release Final Report from Data and Learning Summit for State Departments of Education

Washington, DC, June 30, 2008 – The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA), Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), Data Quality Campaign, International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), the United States Department of Education, Pearson, Edustructures and Microsoft announce the release of the final report for its first *Data and Learning Summit: Collaboration, Assimilation and Connection – Planning for Systemic Integration*. This report is intended to provide state departments of education and local education agencies an understanding as to the universal need and use for data across the educational system.

“State Departments of Education and Local Education Agency representatives spent two days learning from experts and each other in the systemic use of data,” stated Jill Abbott, Learning Strategist for the SIF Association. “Sharing the valuable information ascertained provides others with lessons learned and recommendations for strategic use of data across the educational enterprise.” The Data and Learning Summit brought together teams from state departments of education across the country to engage in structured conversations around the systemic, statewide use of data, infrastructure, curriculum, assessment, educational technology and PK20 in order to improve teaching and learning.

“States and schools understand the importance that comprehensive data systems can make in teaching and learning,” explains Nancy Smith, Deputy Director of the Data Quality Campaign. “This was a great opportunity for states to share and highlight the exemplary practices underway.” The report outlines the lessons learned on the systemic use of data in assessment, curriculum, data reporting, education technology, p20 and using data for transformation. In addition, case studies and resources outlined highlight what others are accomplishing. Six key elements identified include communication, change management, leadership, policy, technical and training and professional development. In addition, supporting information is provided to assist other SEAs and LEAs as they begin and further planning for systemic integration of data.

The report also states, “It is widely agreed upon that to most appropriately impact the teaching and learning process you need the highest quality data available to inform the work of students, teachers, administrators, parents and policy makers. It is also widely agreed upon that from the local level through state departments of education, various aspects of this data access and utilization are owned by different silos of operations - many times never coming together for needed systemic, strategic development.” The Data and Learning Summit afforded this opportunity.

Irene Spero, Chief Operating Officer of CoSN, added, “The high level discussions at the Data and Learning Summit underscored the importance of involving multiple stakeholders in the discussion

of how data can be used effectively in the decision making process. *Collaboration, Assimilation and Connection - Planning for Systemic Integration* will provide educators and policymakers with the background and information necessary to move ahead with the strategic use of data to improve teaching and learning."

To access and download the report, please visit: <http://www.sifinfo.org/press-list.asp?type=W&title=White%20Papers>.

The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA) The SIF Association is an international, non-profit organization of over 1400 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 a dialogue in the development of open access and free use interoperability specifications that improve the efficiency, flexibility and dependability of data systems critical to education administration and teaching and learning systems. Visit www.sifinfo.org for more information.

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) is the country's premier voice in education technology leadership, serving K-12 technology leaders who through their strategic use of technology, improve teaching and learning. For further information, visit www.cosn.org.

The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is a national, collaborative effort by national organizations to encourage and support state policymakers to improve the collection, availability and use of high-quality education data and to implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. For additional information, visit www.dataqualitycampaign.org.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the premier membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in improving teaching and learning by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home of NETS and NECC, ISTE represents more than 85,000 education professionals worldwide. Learn more at www.iste.org.

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is the principal association for state directors of technology and their staff members providing professional development and leadership around the effective use of technology in education to enhance competitiveness in the global workforce. Additional information can be found at www.setda.org.

Pearson is the global leader in educational publishing, assessment, information and services, helping people of all ages to learn at their own pace, in their own way. More information about Pearson can be found at <http://www.pearsonschool.com>.

Edustructures is the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions for the pK-12 education market, making it possible for market-leading Student Information, Library, Transportation, Cafeteria and Directory solutions to reliably and securely share data in real-time. For more information about Edustructures, please visit <http://www.edustrucures.com>.

Microsoft was founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. For additional information about Microsoft, visit <http://www.microsoft.com>.

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