

VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Due to immense growth in the South East Tucson region over the past decade, the Vail Unified School District is one of the fastest growing districts in Arizona. From only 1,000 students in 1990, Vail currently has an enrollment of over 9,000 in 13 schools, with a projected increase to over 10,000 students by 2010.

Challenge

Vail administrators were challenged to meet a district guiding principle: provide a “personalized and caring environment” in the face of exploding student population growth. Because student records-exchange was not automated, waiting days for a student to appear in the system was not uncommon—making it difficult to provide students with a personalized education experience. Vail also faced a tactical challenge to interoperability. Running the Mac OS district-wide, they needed to find a platform-agnostic solution to deliver secure, real-time data exchange without moving current systems to another platform.

Solution

The district is very aggressive in the use of technology to provide an optimal educational experience. For example, one of their newest schools, Empire High School, is the first entirely wireless and textbook-free public high school in the nation. As a result of this cutting-edge focus, Matt Federoff, director of technology for Vail, naturally looked for a technological solution to what might be considered a customer service issue. Having watched the evolution of the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF®) standard, Federoff determined the time was right for his district to move from their current inefficient processes to SIF interoperability. Key to this decision was the fact that their main software packages—including their SIS, library management, transportation, and IEP solutions—were SIF-enabled with Certified SIF agents. Further, the SIFWorks® Enterprise Zone Integration Server (ZIS) from Edustructures® provided the needed platform-agnostic messaging component. Finally, SIF had a significant track record of success in districts of varying size and need. Federoff was convinced SIF could provide real-time interoperability and thus, a higher level of personalization for each student.

Results

According to Federoff, Vail’s SIF implementation is a success. “The ability to provide students with immediate participation in their school is huge. Within 30 seconds of registration, a new student can login and begin their school experience. Previously, it was not uncommon for a student to show up in class and find that the teacher had no record of them. No more. With SIF, the sheer elimination of frustration for staff, teachers, and students is proving a huge return-on-investment.” As a result, SIF is now a mandatory capability of any new systems evaluation for Federoff and Vail.



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MATT FEDEROFF,
director of technology,
Vail Unified School District

Assuring Your Success

Edustructures ensures your SIF implementation success story by offering a comprehensive program of training, technical support and consulting services.

Implementation

Our implementation engineers have successfully installed more state and district projects than any other SIF vendor, experience that results in a superior implementation. The implementation process involves analysis and planning, installing the server software, creating zones, defining the agents that will be registered in each zone, and configuring access control permissions.

Project Management

As the first company dedicated to delivering SIF-based solutions, Edustructures offers a knowledgeable staff to deliver extensive, real world, best-practice project management for your implementation.

Training/Professional Development

Edustructures offers a variety of training options tailored to each district or state need. Basic SIFWorks training includes installation, configuration, and continued maintenance of the SIF infrastructure.

Ongoing Support

Edustructures maintains an experienced team of support professionals focused on your success via toll-free phone and email. Additionally, our Customer Support Center portal offers downloads of the latest versions of our products, the ability to open or view support cases, browsing of technical support bulletins and product documentation, and access to our technical knowledge base.

Edustructures: SIF is all we do!

- **MORE state and district SIF implementations than any other SIF solution provider**
- **MORE available certified agents than any other SIF solution provider**
- **MORE SIF agents have been built using our technology than all other technology platforms combined**
- **FIRST to market with a commercial Zone Integration Server (ZIS)**
- **FIRST to implement district-wide SIF solutions**
- **FIRST to scale SIF to State-level implementations**
- **FIRST commercial SIF development toolkit**

ABOUT EDUSTRUCTURES

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, Directory solutions and more to reliably and securely share data in real time. Through its SIFWorks integration platform, comprehensive professional services, and business relationships with technology providers and educators, Edustructures connects the systems that power education.

**To get your school, district or state connected, contact Edustructures:
877.790.1261**

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