



Access 4 Learning Community

Powered by:  **SIF**

Simple. Secure. Scalable. Standard.

FACT SHEET

IT'S TIME TO FOCUS ON USING DATA TO IMPACT LEARNING...

Introducing the xPress API Suite

xPress is a new line of open, standard APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) built on the SIF 3 infrastructure, which provides schools and developers with a way to simply and securely exchange data among modern apps, whether they are hosted locally, in the cloud or on mobile devices.

xPress APIs are developed by end-users and product/service providers, from real-world use cases with an explicit focus on practical, easy to implement solutions that use contemporary technologies. The two xPress APIs currently available are Roster and Student Record Exchange... with more currently under development by the Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community!

Who should use xPress? xPress is suitable for schools & districts that require immediate, quick access to specific pieces of data. For example, a content provider who has agreed to allow access to a district, school, or even class, can quickly and easily read just the related students' information.

Why should I choose xPress? By utilizing open standards already available (JSON, REST, OAuth) there are no hidden costs to implementation.

Why try to re-invent the wheel, when there are already non-proprietary standards – developed by educational leaders – available to you immediately?

Unlike other offerings in the marketplace, an xPress API:

- ✓ does not provide 3rd party organizations with access to your data,
- ✓ does not require you to provide them with credentials to access your data store,

How do I start? You could develop a xPress API in one of two ways... either contract development out to an external company or start developing your own xPress API by reviewing the [SIF 3 infrastructure Specification](#) and [xPress object](#) documentation, then exploring the [xPress Sandbox](#), and finally writing code to implement your own xPress API/service from your application.

You can try out xPress Roster NOW from the A4L website, www.A4L.org/Simple, use the 'Explore' button to test out xPress functionality and see what it could do for you!

The technical bit... The xPress API suite embodies simplicity in its design by using contemporary technologies like REST, JSON and OAuth, enabling direct communication among systems (the "broker" is optional) and representing commonly used data in a straightforward manner. Most developers will immediately grasp the concepts and implementation because xPress APIs look and act just like other modern APIs. xPress simplifies the overall interoperability playing field by offering an open standard that all developers can take advantage of. It also 'opens the door' to build on your integration, with the SIF standard able to scale up to an enterprise level solution, should that be required.

xPress, using the SIF 3 infrastructure, moves away from the traditional SIF 2 zone implementations and therefore allows data movement outside the cloud, reducing additional overheads. To review which xPress data items are available to you, just click on the xPress objects in the SIF Implementation Data Model (North America) 3.3 [here](#).

