24/7 access to your school and learning data is essential. Enabling your applications to interoperate allows for this access and must be a major component of your 24/7 world planning.

SIF is designed specifically for technology providers and educators. It is not a product, but a ‘data transfer’ standard for software that:

- enables your current applications to share data seamlessly in real time
- manages your current educational data
- works cross-platform
- allows automated reporting

SIF is a freely available, open, global standard developed by a Community of professionals who are passionate about improving education!

Recent developments within the SIF Community provide us with an opportunity to shout about our latest specification – SIF 3.0.

The SIF Implementation Specification (US) 3.0 has been architected to incorporate the entire CEDS 3.0 Logical Data Model and define payload formats of messages exchanged between data sources – “on the wire”. Because the requirements for interoperability have been standardized, end users can deploy best of breed compliant applications at both the District and State levels.

As a result, the full breath of the CEDS 3.0 Data Model, from Early Childhood to K12 to Higher Education to the workforce, as well as support for other important data initiatives such as Race to the Top Assessment, Common Core State Standards, and the SLDS Program initiatives are all encompassed within one secure, robust, open standard for data transfer - “SIF 3.0 - enabling CEDS on the wire!”

Have You “Seen” SIF Lately?

The new SIF 3.0 allows you to future-proof your institution and manage YOUR data...

interoperable (ˌɪntərəˈprɛəbəl) n

- adj of or relating to the ability to share data between different computer systems, esp on different machines: interoperable network management systems

interoperability

- n
Using the SIF 3.0 transfer framework, education organizations can guarantee:

- **Data Security**: In addition to standardizing Data Encryption, SIF 3.0 standardizes Authentication so that no application can access or update sensitive data such as ‘in care’ or health information, unless specifically enabled by local data leaders.

- **Data Management**: Every element in the data model can be traced back to the issuing application.

- **Data Quality**: A standardized Error Reporting facility as well as a complete set of document schema enables data quality checks. The well-established SIF Certification Program will provide conformance testing and validation capabilities.

- **No Vendor Lock-Ins**: Selecting SIF 3.0 as the framework for SIF-compliant data transfers allows an education establishment to select "best of breed" components when implementing interoperable solutions.

What can you do now?

*Demand SIF-certified solutions from your software vendors and partners!*

"SIF should not be viewed purely as a technical solution. Successful data integration is now business-critical... and is becoming more so on a daily basis. We would not be able to offer the services that we do to our schools... without our SIF infrastructure being in place."

**SIF Member since 2009**

About the SIF Community

The SIF Community is a group of educational professionals with a passion for improving education.

The SIF Association boasts a unique quality – unlike other member organizations – every member has an equal voice. Whether you are a large corporate or small independent vendor, government representative or school employee you all have one seat = one vote within the Association.

The Association relies on volunteer effort to drive the specification and the standard forward. Without the many education ‘champions’ we are proud to have as our members, we would not be able to address the education needs at ground level.

What is the value of SIF Membership?

There are numerous benefits of being a SIF Association member - depending on which sector of the marketplace you work in. Benefits include:

- Providing you with the opportunity to get engaged in the working group discussions, and influence the direction of the SIF Specification to meet your needs.

- Providing you with the opportunity to share best practices with a wide variety of education decision makers

- Providing you with direct access to implementation tools and support from Staff, Community members and your peers

- Enabling face-to-face conversations with other marketplace decision makers and providers.

To find out more about SIF Association membership, please visit our [website](http://www.sifassociation.org).

To find out more about the SIF 3.0 Specification, download the fact sheet, and find out how it could impact your work, please click [here](http://www.sifassociation.org).