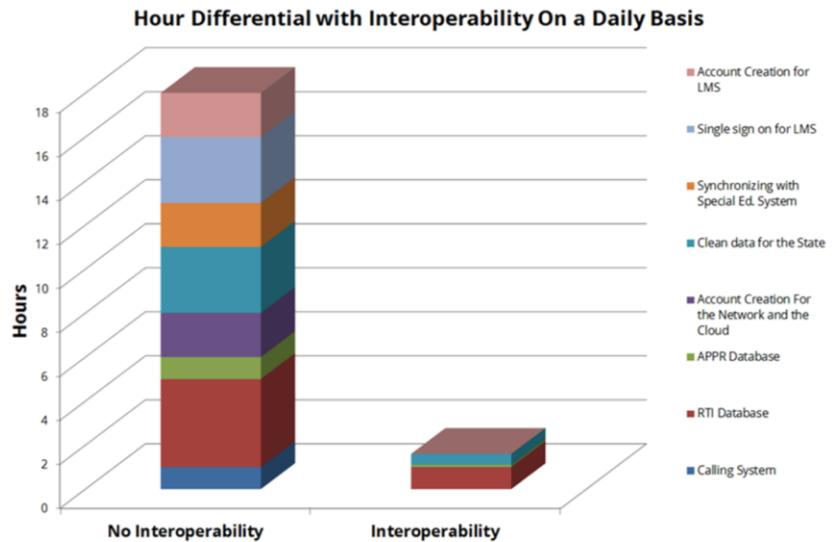# Protecting YOUR Data Investments

"Interoperability is the ability of making systems and organizations to work together considering the technical, social, political, and organizational factors that impact system-to-system performance – and this paper begins the focus on supporting organizations working together to navigate the data management landscape".

The usages of technical standards (like those set for electrical outlets, websites etc.) set expectations and level the playing field for marketplace products. In education, their usage can mean more effective leveraging of YOUR investments in technology. This diagram illustrates a high-level example of the benefits of using SIF, based on actual figures provided by a New York mid-size School District calculating the total time taken to perform regular daily tasks before and after implementing SIF. Based on these figures, a School District could save over 40% of their time allocated to these tasks every week *using SIF alone*.

Hour Differential with Interoperability On a Daily Basis

To prove it – we have compiled some helpful links to empower you in asking for standards TODAY!

Have You 'Seen' SIF Lately?
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.
http://bit.ly/1hoJl33

'Access 4 Learning' Toolkit
The stakes have never been higher in addressing the privacy and security issues around student information but also and sometimes lost in the pressures we face, the successful learning progression for all students. SIF puts you in charge – and this "Access 4 Learning" SIF Toolkit will show you how!
http://bit.ly/1guXQ0W

Data Integration Readiness Assessment Survey
The survey is designed to measure individual perceptions about your school/district's readiness for a data integration initiative.
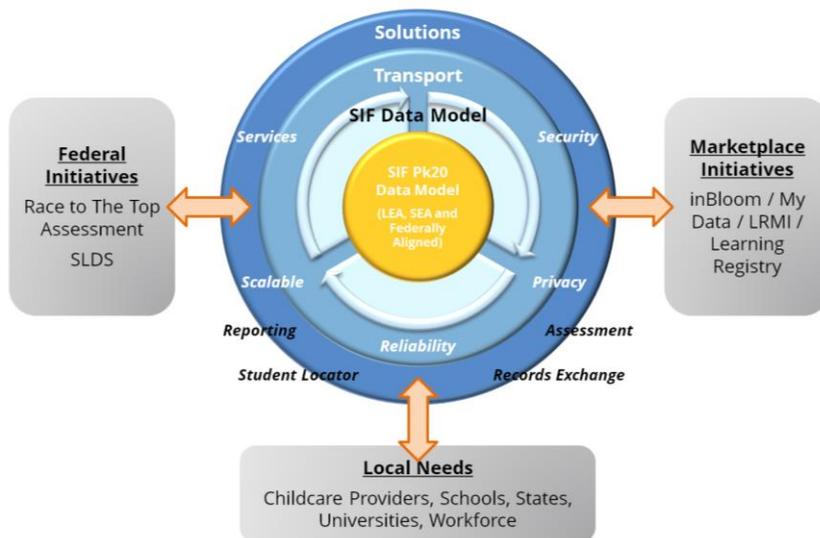http://bit.ly/1geQJtw

RFP Language
In Use Examples of SIF RFP and Legislative Language
http://bit.ly/1n618PI

We all know that rapid technology change impacts all of our work. Layered on top of that is the expectation from our stakeholders "why can't I get that data now?" which is rapidly changing our current roles and work focus. The technology you need now may not be the same technology you need in the coming months and years. In our collective change management, it is critical that we think to the future and how we can optimize our data ecosystems to work together in a safe and secure manner using widely adopted effective practices. Open standards should be just that – open, transparent and the direct results of the work of hundreds of end user and developers, rather than a closed group all of whom are employed or contracted to a single organization. The long established SIF Community has committed to the full support of the management, movement and utilization of data and, with its recent 3.0 release, has made it easier than ever to complete the puzzle.

Centralized vs Distributed Educational Solution Architectures
Data Confederacies compared to Data Unions. There are real and growing privacy concerns about Local and Government Education Authorities ceding, or being forced to cede, control over exactly who can access their student's sensitive data and for what purpose.   http://bit.ly/1cz0q4A

Ed Tech: Ensuring All the Pieces Still Fit Together *– Metrics for 'Either-Or' Data Propositions*
"The more technical standards the better it is for us – it means there are NO technical standards" - Large Education Marketplace Vendor   http://bit.ly/1jcmB4s

The SIF Association release 2.7M (North America) Specification and Test Harness to support the first 'migration' stage towards utilizing REST based infrastructure
This Certification is major step in transitioning the data model forward towards compatibility with both 2.x and 3.x infrastructures. This is represented by the 'M', which stands for migration, in the title. For those running 2.x SIF environments, this is a critical piece in adding new features and functionality to address their immediate and long term needs.   http://bit.ly/1ijpu2H

The SIF Association releases quality assurance testing for SIF implementers to support CEDS
This is the first and only marketplace verification process for software developers to provide evidence of their products supporting the National Center for Education Statistic's (NCES) Common Education Data Standards which are now embedded in the SIF Data Model. SIF 3 Enabled Certified applications utilizes the widely marketplace adopted REST technology which is a major component of the SIF Infrastructure Implementation Specification 3.0.1.   http://bit.ly/1kQFDhl

SIF Association video
Do you want to learn more about SIF? SIF is <u>the</u> open standard for interoperability between educational applications.   http://bit.ly/PLfFSy

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