



Oklahoma Makes Great Strides with Special Education Data Interoperability and Collaboration

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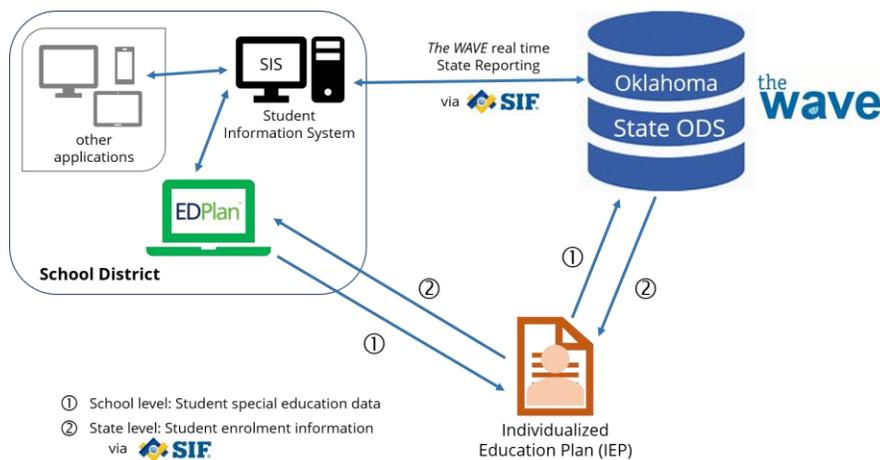


Succeeding the highly successful [The Wave](#) project, the Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE) is adding another application to their integrated SIF infrastructure. For years, Oklahoma increased interoperability by using an open standard framework (SIF Specification) for data exchange. In fact, **OSDE has been collecting data in REAL TIME for over 10 years** using the SIF specification and an extensive toolset from Computer Power Solutions of Illinois (CPSI). The solution is based on a SIF-based Operational Data Store (ODS) and a collection of tools for real time data quality and business rules validation. CPSI's tools are used for building real-time data connections between the State, district student information systems, and other education products like Public Consulting Group, Inc's EdPlan™ EasyIEP. EdPlan EasyIEP is an internet-based solution for the development of Individualized Education Program (IEP) and for the management of special education reporting.

The main goal of this project is to take specific data points collected by OSDE from the 556 Oklahoma districts and share that information more efficiently with EdPlan. Edplan holds special education data at the student level, whereas the State Department of Education holds the student enrolment information. This integration allows for a more comprehensive picture of the student information between the two entities. As in many states, current IEP data exchange processes have flawed pain points, and this may delay communicating vital, current data pertaining to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This project prioritizes seamless student data transfers by supporting Special Education case management through EdPlan.

Currently in Phase One, the project focuses on taking up SIF standardized data

into the EdPlan System and removing the need for manual intervention during the process. Upon completion of this phase, PCG will transmit data back into *The Wave* from EdPlan. Once data collections into *The Wave* from EdPlan begin, the State will enhance and expand the current data transmission process from OSDE to each district's student information system (SIS). The State will provide the student-level IEP information directly to the district's SIS. The current process includes the state testing number (STN) for each student and OSDE will expand this to include PCG's EdPlan data. OSDE will enhance the communication between pertinent entities: the district, the State, vendors, and EdPlan. With this project, appropriate district personnel and vendors who do not typically use EdPlan will be able to access student-specific, IDEA-related information. The increased efficiency and effectiveness are critical for all Oklahoma learners, educators, parents, and administrators.



EDPlan is a suite of tools and services from PCG that helps promote a plan for student success—in special education, academics, behavior, and beyond. EDPlan's features have been designed in partnership with teachers, education professionals, and project management experts; it is used in more than 30 states, supporting thousands of schools and districts nationwide. For more information: <https://publicconsultinggroup.com/products/education-products/edplan-student-success-platform/>



CPSI was founded in 1990 with the idea that technology could be used to help students if it was easier to manage and use. We are truly committed to the K-12 education world by only working in the K-12 sector.



We offer products that help in nearly every aspect of data integration. Our products center around the idea that there is valuable data locked away in your SIS and HR systems that is essential to the rest of the apps used by your district. Our tools collect and combine data into an easy to use data store that can automatically send data to nearly any app as well as Active Directory. For more information: <https://www.cpsilt.com>

The SIF Specification is not a product, but a technical blueprint for enabling diverse applications to interact and share data related to educational entities in instructional and administrative environment. The Specification is designed to: facilitate data sharing and reporting between applications without incurring expensive customer development costs; enhance product functionality efficiently; and provide best-of-breed solutions to customers easily and seamlessly.



The SIF Implementation Specification defines architecture requirements and communication protocols for software components and the interfaces between them; it makes no assumption of specific hardware or software products needed to develop SIF-enabled applications and middleware implementations, other than their ability to support technologies leveraged as the foundation for SIF, most prominently XML and HTTP(S). For more information: <https://www.a4l.org/page/SIFSpecifications>

“We have been asked to provide a real-time transfer of IDEA data and IEP documentation so educators can ensure students with disabilities receive the appropriate services in a timely manner.

We have worked deliberately towards this solution and are encouraged to say that the work for phase one is nearing completion.”

*Erik Friend
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