CONNECTING & SECURING EFFECTIVE LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS™

The MA Data Hub Solution
AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Presenters
  - Attendees
- Problem Statement
  - What are we trying to solve - homework done
- Goals
  - Goals of the project
- Solution
  - MA Data Hub
    - Overview
    - Demonstration
- Real World Impact
- Resources

Connecting & Securing Effective Learning Ecosystems™
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ClassDojo

Kimonon
Our Hosts

Danielle Norton
*Integrated Digital Data Services Program Manager*
MA Executive Office of Education
Fun Fact:

Ben Silberglitt, Ph.D., CETL
*CSO*
*Cedar Labs*
Fun Fact:

Steve Smith
*CIO*
*Cambridge (MA) Public Schools*
Fun Fact:

Dave Armstrong
*Sr DBA*
*Cambridge (MA) Public Schools*
Fun Fact:
Attendee Introductions

• Name
• Affiliation
• Role

Your most pressing data management issue;
- What do you worry about?
  or
- What frustrates you the most?
  or
- What takes the most resources to accomplish?
  or
- What do you wish there was a better answer for?
Problem Statement

- District Data Management Very Complex
- Most Districts lack resources to do this well
- Not all Edtech vendors leverage a rostering standard
- Too many Rostering standards
- Even when Edtech providers leverage a standard they do not implement with fidelity
Problem Statement  ....continued

- State reporting is a huge lift for districts
- Unique District implementations and scenarios do not translate easily to standards
- Historical rostering solutions do not address privacy requirements
MA DESE Implementation

- Historical picture of district systems
- Historical picture of state reporting
- Evolution & Merging of State & District needs
  - Why not address both problem sets at the same time
  - Leverage State technology enhancements for districts
  - Reduce repetitive tasks
The District Perspective
A New Approach
Goals

- Lessen the burden on Districts
- Leverage State mandated reporting that ALL districts are doing to address other data management needs
- Leverage SIF/Unity to automate as much as possible
- Provide a mechanism to address variations in rostering formats including all standards
- Provide mechanism to address individual district unique needs
- Enforce privacy requirements BEFORE sharing any data
- Clearly report out all privacy obligations and data sharing at the element level
Our Journey

- A4L Conference two years ago in Portland OR
  - AU & NZ Presenting on their Data Hubs
    - State (AU) or Country (NZ) wide data hubs that all member districts contributed to
    - Why not replicate in US
- Cedar Labs, MA DESE & Cambridge Public Schools Partnership
  - Leverage new MA statewide data collection architecture to establish a statewide data hub
- First year spring 2019-Spring 2020 Ben & Steve met with many edtech vendors to explore leveraging standards to roster applications
  - Whack-a-mole - best describes our experience
    - We found no vendors that use any rostering standard as a standard. They all had unique tweaks!
    - Very frustrating!
The Costs to Districts

- Infrastructure
- Expertise
- Staff Time
- Security
Universal Data Integration

“MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE”

REDUCE RISK

ENSURE ACCURACY

ENSURE PRIVACY
Key Concepts

- Manage *what* data and *which* students are sent to each vendor
- Transform and anonymize data
  - Connect non-compliant vendors
  - Provide de-identified data for research or to NGOs
  - Go beyond “cookie cutter” rostering
- Work in partnership with SDPC
- Integrated, one-stop experience for data integration & privacy

[Website Link](www.cedarlabs.com)
The MA Data Hub Demonstration
The MA Data Hub
Real World Impact

- Flexibility (not tied to SIS vendor)
- Managing transformations
  - Provides element level control over all data exchanges
- Logging & archiving
- Leveraging most reliable data set via SIF
- Ease of use to integrate any standards or flat files
  - While providing needed control over all data
- Privacy controls and reporting built in
  - Privacy over the wire
  - Privacy reporting
The MA Data Hub

What’s Next?

● More software system connections
● POD implementation
● Onboarding additional districts
● Continuing to adapt to MA DESE needs
Q and A Time

"On the Ground” Reality Checks?
Resources

- Danielle Norton
- Ben Silbergliet
- Steve Smith
Thank you for attending!

Presentations slides and follow-up information will be sent to you shortly…

For more information:
https://www.A4L.org
https://privacy.A4L.org