



Vision and Support for SIS (and other) Vendors & Education Agencies

The Ed-Fi Alliance provides powerful interoperability capabilities that meet several different use cases for a variety of entities: LEAs, SEAs, district collaboratives and educational service centers, higher education institutions, community partners, application providers, and vendors.

Education agencies adopt Ed-Fi for interoperability purposes, including:

- real-time or near real-time data flow exchanged among applications,
- integrating data from source applications,
- supporting collection, submission, and reporting,
- analysis, and data visualization.

The Ed-Fi data standard, APIs, and supporting technologies support these priorities and needs.

Specifically, local education agencies adopt Ed-Fi, in their vendor-provided solutions and applications, and in their own implementations of the Ed-Fi Technology Suite (ODS/API and other tooling). These solutions are deployed in their computing environment, be it on premises or cloud-hosted. Those districts may be a part of a district collaborative or a state data collection system that utilizes Ed-Fi and may use vendors that host Ed-Fi Data Standard-aligned implementations that use the Ed-Fi API for secure data exchange.

The EdTech market and the K12 field continue to grow, as does the use of the Ed-Fi Data Standard to address this range of use cases and priorities. This overview document is intended to convey supports available within and around the Ed-Fi Community to agencies and vendors that are on the path toward full interoperability.

Maximizing Value and Efficiency

Education agencies are moving toward data exchange standards because they are trying to derive the most value out of their applications, their data, their instructional time, and their use of public funding on behalf of their learners and constituents.

The Ed-Fi Data Standard and APIs support these needs and may be leveraged as a common data infrastructure to exchange data locally among source applications, operational data stores, and teaching and learning apps; this exchange supports:

- collaborative data sharing,
- state reporting and data exchange,
- data exchange with partners such as higher ed programs and research initiatives, community partners, and others.



Support and Resources for Providers and Education Agencies

The Ed-Fi Alliance and Community provide support, technical capabilities, guidance and expertise to empower providers and support priority business cases for adopting the Ed-Fi Data Standard to meet education agency needs.

Support

- Ed-Fi Certification – [Overview](#), [API certification details](#)
- Ed-Fi Tech Docs
 - Data Standard – [Overview](#), [data model documentation](#) and [UDM Handbook and a variety of other model information](#)
 - ODS/API – [Client API Developers Guide](#)
- [Ed-Fi Tracker](#) - for submitting issues, enhancement requests, and getting technical support
- Publicly hosted [Swagger instance](#) for early API exploration
- Cloud ODS / API (Azure or AWS deployment options) - streamlined deployment options for agencies and vendors who wish to implement a test or development version of the API themselves - [Cloud ODS / API Installation](#)
- Capability for agencies to support the enumerations and other components of a set of API endpoints to support what is needed/required at the local or state level ODS.
- Consolidated [directory of all community resources](#) and Single-Sign-On to a growing number of those services (currently, TechDocs, Tracker and MappingEDU)

Community Guidance/Expertise

- Ed-Fi Slack channel for peer to peer collaboration and sharing learnings - <https://techdocs.ed-fi.org/display/ETKB/Slack+for+the+Ed-Fi+Community>
- All [Ed-Fi Tracker](#) tickets may be viewed, commented, and voted on to communicate priority and supports needed, and to promote those needs into considerations for future releases
- Technical Congress, a regular event in which major design and implementation topics are discussed by the community.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and other working groups provide opportunities to deep dive into topics to recommend revisions to the standard/model/technology
- Active sharing of learning and approaches from others who have undertaken this work, for example in this case, a vendor approach to create configuration profiles within their SIS Ed-Fi connectors to support multiple/different endpoints and target ODSs as way to not just meet the agency requirements, but to do so in a way that optimizes maintainability and supportability to reduce vendor cost and impact long term.
- [The Ed-Fi Summit & Bootcamp](#)—annual user conference where over 400 Ed-Fi Community members meet in Austin over four days to discuss implementations, share best practices and learn from hands-on technical sessions.