Education Data Unlimited

Overview

Mission Statement

At Education Data Unlimited (EDU), we are building the foundation for a world where data seamlessly connects learning to opportunity. By uniting agencies, organizations, and industries across the entire education and workforce continuum, we eliminate fragmentation, harmonize data standards, and enable lifelong learning to be accurately recognized and valued. Through collaboration and sustainability, we create a future-proof ecosystem where data flows without barriers—supporting students, workers, and employers in an ever-evolving global economy.

Organization Description

Education Data Unlimited (EDU) is a non-profit catalyst for data collaboration across the entire education and workforce spectrum. We bridge horizontal sectors—from Pre-K to graduate education and workforce development—and vertical industries spanning government, military, healthcare, HR, and upskilling initiatives. Our goal is to unify standards, streamline interoperability, and reduce inefficiencies that hinder progress in learning, credentialing, and employment.

EDU serves as a strategic convening force, providing a stable, long-term home for initiatives and frameworks that drive data interoperability. We champion an approach that is market-responsive yet mission-driven, ensuring that evolving technologies—including AI, digital credentials, and lifelong learning records—are built on a strong, sustainable foundation.

By fostering open collaboration among key stakeholders and reducing redundant efforts, EDU advances a data standards ecosystem that is future-proof, cost-effective, and impactful. Our work empowers organizations to shift from proprietary silos to a shared digital infrastructure that supports innovation, accelerates workforce mobility, and unlocks new economic opportunities for individuals and communities worldwide.

Things EDU Will Do

- Act as a conveying and organizing system for data standards
- Operate as a project home for initiatives and data standards work that don't have another home
- Act as a unifying force to reduce the confusion and proliferation of data standards
- Conduct research and educate the public on issues related to developing and encouraging the adoption of data interoperability standards, specifically designed to meet the needs of the education and workforce markets
- Include testing and validating interoperability systems,
- Sponsor conferences, forums and collaborative events,

- Perform other activities designed to meet the needs of the education and workforce market as they emerge

Things EDU Won't Do

- No substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as is otherwise provided by section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- No part of any activities of the organization will include participating in or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

An Opportunity For Unification

Education Data Unlimited (EDU), in partnership with funders, leading organizations, and the signatories of **Data Standards United (DSU)**, offers a groundbreaking opportunity to **reduce the fragmentation of data standards** that has long plagued education and workforce systems. The current landscape is filled with competing, overlapping, and disconnected standards, making it difficult for learners, educators, employers, and policymakers to navigate and exchange data effectively. By uniting key players—including **1EdTech, Access4Learning (A4L), Credential Engine, DublinCore, ED3, the Groningen Declaration Network, HR Open Standards (HROS), Medbiquitous, and the Postsecondary Education Standards Council (PESC)**—EDU is spearheading an effort to consolidate and harmonize critical data frameworks. This ensures that educational and workforce data flows **seamlessly across sectors, from Pre-K through higher education and into employment and lifelong learning.**

Through its role as a fully open, neutral convening force, EDU fosters collaboration among **standards organizations, industry leaders, and government entities**, creating a unified approach to data governance. Instead of each sector developing and maintaining separate, incompatible systems, EDU—together with **affiliates such as the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) initiative, Common Education Data Standards (CEDS), IEEE Learning Technology Standards Committee (LTSC), and the T3 Innovation Network**—is working to establish a **foundational core model.** This model aligns the **ontologies, vocabularies, and technical frameworks** that underpin existing standards, allowing organizations to integrate their data more efficiently while preserving the specificity needed for different domains. By leveraging collective expertise, EDU will eliminate redundant efforts, **accelerates adoption of interoperable solutions**, and reduces compliance burdens for institutions and employers alike.

This partnership-driven strategy is the **only scalable, sustainable way to ensure a future-proof data ecosystem.** Without proactive coordination, the number of competing standards will continue to grow, further **complicating innovation, limiting workforce mobility, and increasing costs for organizations.** EDU and its DSU partners are changing that trajectory by building a **shared digital infrastructure**, much like the **electrical grid or the internet**, where stakeholders can plug in and operate efficiently without reinventing the wheel.

By consolidating and modernizing data standards under one collaborative framework, EDU ensures that data becomes a **trusted, accessible, and strategic asset**—empowering learners, streamlining processes for institutions, and **unlocking new opportunities for workforce development and economic growth.**

Incorporation Information

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) in the District of Columbia. The organization will engage in activities permissible under section 501(c)(3).

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