



DATA STANDARDS UNITED
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT

June 9, 2021
V 1.6

CHARTER

INITIATIVE

Data Standards United for Lifelong Learning and Employment

CHARTER

Establish a "common ground" mechanism to coordinate and align disparate global data standards while respecting each organization's independence across systems, platforms, networks, sectors, and industries, produced, or supported by the respective standards bodies.

VISION

Collaborate and align standards to support the global education and workforce digital ecosystem.

MISSION

Establish a sustainable collaborative of Data Standards Development Organizations (SDO) and their stakeholders across education, employment, and training sectors.

VALUE PROPOSITION

With many data standards in use across many sectors and markets, coordinating and aligning data standards:

- 1) Support a seamless, lifelong learning infrastructure and sustainable standards.
- 2) Provide an open forum for emerging and innovative technologies and business applications wishing to work within a standards environment.
- 3) Promote existing standards-based solutions while not disrupting current investments in technology and systems.
- 4) Foster an understanding in each stakeholder's role across education, employment and training sectors.

CORE VALUES

Organizations within Data Standards United, will abide by the following core values:

- 1) Free access to data standards.
- 2) Transparent, voluntary, consensus-based standards development, approval, and maintenance processes.
- 3) Public support of the Data Standards United collaborative and lifelong learning and employment standards.

SIGNATORIES

Primary organizations within Data Standards United

Access 4 Learning (A4L)

<https://www.A4L.org/> <https://privacy.A4L.org>

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

<https://www.dublincore.org>

Edspex

<https://www.edspex.org>

HR Open Standards

<https://hropenstandards.org/>

IMS Global Learning Consortium

<https://www.imsglobal.org/>

Medbiquitous

https://www.medbiq.org/about_us/faq

Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)

<https://www.pesc.org>

Access 4 Learning (A4L)

Signatory Member



Who is this organization?

The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community, previously the SIF Association, is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of schools, districts, local authorities, states, US and International Ministries of Education, software vendors and consultants who collectively address all aspects of learning information management and access to support learning. The A4L Community is “Powered by SIF” Specifications as its major technical tool to allow for this management and access simply, securely and in a scalable, standard way regardless of the platform hosting those applications. The Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC), a Special Interest Group of the A4L Community, is designed to address the day-to-day, real-world multi-faceted issues that schools, states, territories, and vendors face when protecting learner information. SDPC’s vision is to develop common activities, artifacts, templates, tools and effective practices that can be leveraged through a unique collaborative of end users and marketplace providers working together.

What are their activities of interest?

- *SIF Specifications and Certification Program:* The most comprehensive K12 data model and internationally used infrastructure to allow marketplace providers to enable schools/states/territories to better manage and modernize their digital ecosystem data. These technical blueprints address everything from operations (busing, food service, etc.) all the way to state mandated federal reporting.
- *Privacy Resource Registry:* an internationally populated database of thousands of applications in use in schools, their privacy agreements with marketplace providers and a wealth of tools to better manage applications in school ecosystems.

Why Is Data Standards United of interest?

One of the Community’s mantras has always been “to focus on learning – no matter where the solution comes from.” Each partnership brings better solutions development to practitioners and learners and this group is ideal to continue partnerships and build new ones for enhancing learning.

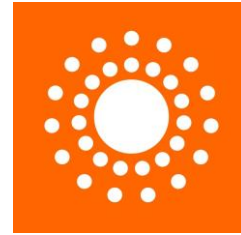
Where can I learn more?

<https://www.A4L.org/>

<https://privacy.A4L.org>

Official Representative

Larry Fruth, Ph.D., Executive Director, A4L



Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

Signatory Member

Who is this organization?

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) is an organization supporting innovation in metadata design and best practices across the metadata ecology. DCMI works openly and is supported by a paid-membership model.

What are their activities of interest?

DCMI maintains metadata standards, notably DCMI Metadata Terms (aka ISO 15836). DCMI is an umbrella for the Learning Resource Metadata Initiative (LRMI), which develops vocabularies related to education, and the Bibliographic Ontology (BIBO). For twenty years, DCMI has advocated the use of Application Profiles that combine and constrain multiple vocabularies, both generic and domain-specific, to meet application-specific requirements while maintaining a measure of global interoperability on the basis of Semantic Web principles. DCMI also provides a Competency Index for learners of Linked Data technologies.

Why is Data Standards United of interest?

Since 1995, DCMI stands for open standards, especially on the basis of Semantic Web principles. The Learning Resource Metadata Initiative (LRMI), a part of DCMI, works specifically on metadata for learning.

Where can I learn more?

<https://www.dublincore.org>

Official Representative

Phil Barker, LRMI Task Group

Edspex

Signatory Member



Who is this organization?

The Education Security and Privacy Exchange (EDSPEX) is a collective of individuals and organizations passionate about technology innovation and promoting safety & wellbeing. We align principles, guidelines, and specifications of information security and privacy practice under common objectives represented in open resources for educational authorities, providers, and communities of learning. Our framework helps organizations mature and track controls around people, processes and technologies to prevent and respond to risks/events while promoting evidence of compliance and meeting public expectations.

What are their activities of interest?

- Promoting awareness and commitment to actions that preserve proper data use. Members acknowledge responsibilities we have to the safety and protection of those around us.
- Attracting expertise to maintain a framework of controls mapped from education, legal, data security, and data privacy initiatives, as well as from accredited and certification programs.
- Activating a community of peers offering thought leadership or solution... to show or render new ideals in, as well as in responses to, compliance and public expectation challenges.

Why is Data Standards United of interest?

Where the student/parent and consumer expectations about data use grow, and as new and innovative distributed uses of data require added trust, a need exists to bridge known specifications for security and privacy as well as to discover and advocate for new means and mechanisms that protect individuals. Edspex recognizes the harmonizing position of DSU in helping be a conduit and anchor for utilization cross-initiative... advancing 'trust' while optimizing programs, reducing cost/resources, and better safeguarding people.

Where can I learn more?

<http://www.edspex.org>

Official Representative

Scott Gallant

HR Open Standards

Signatory Member



Who Is this organization?

HR OPEN IS A GLOBAL STANDARDS COMMUNITY

Founded in 1999, the HR Open Standards Consortium is the only non-profit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to the development and promotion of a full suite of human resource data specifications. Our voluntary consensus standards are free. Current, global HR vocabularies are developed in a transparent, collaborative based environment open to all HR professionals and organizations.

What are their activities of interest?

At HR Open we provide a place where industry leaders collaborate to enable innovation. Through our workgroups, Annual Meeting, website, and networking, HR Open provides various opportunities for technologists and practitioners to build and implement HR data standards. Our current projects include:

- Employer and Employee Earnings Records
- Background Checks between the Researcher and CRA
- Recruiting focused on Resumes and CV's
- Benefits for Health Reimbursement and Health Savings Accounts
- Assessments utilizing xAPI's

Why Is Data Standards United of interest?

HR Open partners with numerous associations and standards organizations to enable the adoption of standards throughout the education and workforce ecosystem. We believe that collaboration between organizations ensures the best outcome for the industry.

Where can I learn more?

<https://hropenstandards.org/>

Official Representative

Jim Ireland, Executive Director, HR Open Standards

IMS Global Learning Consortium

Signatory Member



Who Is this organization?

IMS Global Learning Consortium

What are their activities of interest?

IMS Global advances education through a community of committed leaders and innovators that understand that open standards are a better way. Putting standards first, institutions can develop an agile and equitable ecosystem capable of meeting the needs of teachers and learners in the 21st century. In addition to its leadership in privacy, security and accessibility, IMS and its members collaborate on the development of free and open interoperability standards for lifelong learning. The IMS portfolio is laser-focused on improving teaching, learning and credentials through interoperability. IMS standards apply to formal education, informal and community learning and to corporate learning and development.

IMS Global and its members have published breakthrough standards such as:

- Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI®) to seamlessly connect learning platforms and tools
- OneRoster® and EDU-API® to manage data sharing in an education institution's ecosystem
- CASE® the Competency and Academic Standards Exchange for skills frameworks
- Open Badges, and the Comprehensive Learner Record Standard.

Recognized by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars, the IMS CLR Standard has been selected as AACRAO's digital learner record standard. IMS Global further contributes to ecosystem interoperability by testing and certifying products' implementations of the standards.

Why Is Data Standards United of interest?

The data interoperability use cases call out for strong cooperation among ecosystem stakeholders including the adoption of standards across domains, building on each other's work and not reinventing standards that already serve the purpose. The potential social value of our work stands above the interests of any individual organizations and together we can make the lives of all education stakeholders better.

Where can I learn more?

<https://www.imsglobal.org/>

Official Representative

Mark Leuba, Vice President, Product Management, IMS Global Learning Consortium

MedBiquitous

Signatory Member

MedBiquitous



Who is this organization?

MedBiquitous is a community of health professions educators and technology innovators that utilize a rigorous consensus process to develop, approve, and disseminate health professions education data standards. This collection of open, free-to-use health professions education and credentialing data standards and technology guidelines includes standards for competency-based medical education, continuing education activity reporting, and curriculum mapping.

The MedBiquitous Program includes all sectors of the health professions education community and is not restricted to AAMC member medical schools and teaching hospitals. International and for-profit industry engagement is intentional and required for ensuring standards adoption and compliance.

What are their activities of interest?

Our current collection of data standards include:

- Activity Report
- Competency Framework
- Curriculum Inventory
- Educational Achievement
- Healthcare Learning Object Metadata
- Medical Education Metrics
- Performance Framework
- Professional Profile
- Virtual Patient

Upcoming initiatives include an education campaign designed to support the digital ecosystem for health professions education and credentialing by utilizing the MedBiquitous standards in harmony with standards from other standards development organizations in education and workforce.

Why is Data Standards United of interest?

The MedBiquitous community firmly believes in the principles of open standards and wherever possible would like to engage with other standards development organizations in providing the best open ecosystem for our collective communities.

Where can I learn more?

https://www.medbiq.org/about_us/faq

Official Representative

Johmarx Patton, M.D., Director, Educational Technology and Standards, AAMC

Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council

Signatory Member



Who is this organization?

The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is an open standards-development and open standards-setting body (governed by a voluntary consensus model), independently funded by meetings, membership dues and sponsorships, enabling PESC to provide, maintain and offer PESC Approved Standards free and without charge. Established in 1997, PESC operates as an international 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based, umbrella association headquartered in Washington, D.C. of Data & EdTech Vendors; Schools, Districts, Colleges and Universities; College, University and State/Provincial Systems; Local, State/Provincial and Federal Government Offices; Professional, Commercial and Non-Profit Organizations; and, Non-Profit Associations & Foundations.

What are their activities of interest?

- PESC governs nine major standards (Admissions Application, College Transcript, Course Inventory, Credential & Experiential Learning, ePortfolio, Financial Aid, High School Transcript, PDF, and Test Score) and governs their corresponding schemas and shared code sets in various technologies (e.g. EDI, XML, PDF, JSON); resource mapping and maintenance in alignment with education ecosystem taxonomies.
- One Standards Development Workgroup in process with expected completion by end of 2020 (JSON Transcript Workgroup) – free and open for participation.
- Four permanent User Groups are free and open for participation (Canadian PESC, EdExchange, Education Record, and GEO Code) and meet regularly.
- One Task Force, free and open for participation (JSON Task Force) and meet regularly.
- Two permanent Boards are free and open for participation (Change Control and Technical Advisory) and meet regularly.

Why is Data Standards United of interest?

PESC advocates for better coordination and recognition of all standards used in the new and expanding learning and employment ecosystem to support all stakeholders across the various industry sectors. With better coordination of standards and a neutral environment based on values, DSU can be the standards node in the global lifelong learning and employment network.

Where can I learn more?

<https://www.pesc.org>

Official Representative

Michael Sessa, President & CEO, PESC

AFFILIATIONS

Organizations supporting Data Standards United

Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative

<https://adlnet.gov/>

Common Education Data Standards

<https://ceds.ed.gov/>

Credential Engine

<https://credentialengine.org/>

Learning Technology Standards Committee (LTSC)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

<https://sagroups.ieee.org/ltsc/>