

Data Standards United

Common Education Data Standards

EDS Sustainability Tiger Team

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Overview

This document is an effort of the Data Standards United ([DSU](#)) initiative to capture the scope and requirements of a project to protect and sustain the CEDS assets and to provide a public, open, centralized interface to those assets.

This is a living document and not static. It is being maintained by participants and partners in the Data Standards United effort (datastandardsunited.org).

CEDS has four "areas" that make up its impact on the education ecosystem:

1. **The Standard:** This is the vocabulary, ontology, data model standard, and definitions that make up the content of CEDS. This is about storing and maintaining this structure in a neutral manner that empowers the Open Source Community.
2. **Standard Support:** This is handling of tickets where states and agencies are asking for changes and enhancements to CEDS to meet their needs. This could also include the tools the Initiative has built to allow for interoperability and implementation like the Connect and Align tools.
3. **Project Development Support:** This is of critical importance to our development of the space - things like the LER, Special Education Data Model (SEDM), and CEDS Ontology- will make an impact on state agencies, projects, and AI developers.
4. **Reference Implementations:** This is key because implementations like John Kraman's SLDS in Mississippi, the ETC in the K12 SouthEast US, and Generate are where the rubber meets the road.

I think the first three areas are best handled by standard's organizations that have sustainability and governance in these areas already built in. The fourth area also needs support but should probably be project by project in ways that are project and horizontal space specific.

Data Background

At its core, CEDS has always been two connected models:

1. **IDS/ODS Model** (top below) - an abstracted ontological model (expressed as ERD or RDF XML) optimized for storage
2. **DW/DES Model** (bottom below)- with expanded, normalized, attribute view for strongly typed entities (expressed as Domain Entity Schema taxonomy with CSV interface) optimized for reporting and analytics

The first priority should be to secure those two assets and establish trusted, sustainable governance. We have begun to work through Ed3 with DSU to create sustainable governance and stand up a canonical version of the core. From that core, one or more robust open-source communities, data standards, and reference implementations can flourish.

Most importantly

1. the core should be cheap and easy to maintain, mirror, and extend – no single fail point
2. a governing board should be established with equal representation from state agencies and technology standards/providers
3. The governing board should not be restricted to only state education agencies, or workforce agencies or vendors, or standards bodies. It should cover the breadth and depth of CEDS.

Hosting

Although DSU is driving this effort it is not yet determined where funding and governance will end up. This is an interim step to protect this important national resource.

We are proposing that the 501(3)(c) non-profit collaborative Education Data Unlimited, Inc. (EDU, Inc) be the house and centralized data registry for the CEDS Initiative. There are also multiple reference implementations (Mississippi, ETC, Ohio, Michigan, SIF, JEDx) that will be referenced and pointed to by this site but will likely be funded and managed separately.

We will plan on mirroring the web site assets among the DSU signatories (like 1EdTech, Access For Learning [A4L], Credential Engine, ED3, HR Open Systems [HROS], Medbiquitous, and the Postsecondary Education Standards Council [PESC]) to ensure the safety and longevity of the information and preserve it as an asset regardless of politics or any single organization's situation. We would like to thank PESC for hosting the DSU website and housing the CEDS pages, and 1EdTech for offering to mirror the CEDS pages.

Overall Scope

Phase 0 Scope

Outcomes

- PCG will stand up a landing page at CEDS-SEDM.org with links to
 - SEDM Conceptual Model
 - Sheet of elements and maps filtered from all CEDS elements
 - CEDS RDF XML visualization filtered to SEDM elements
 - Links to SEDM@Ed3 and other relevant events
- Bardic Systems puts up an initial CEDS Sustainability page on the DSU site.

Timeline

This is a moving target but it is intended to be done in a week or two.

Phase I Scope

Phase I is to do a quick and immediate retrieval of assets and to provide some basic web pages that will serve four functions:

1. Provide links to the GitHub resources supported by the CEDS Open Source Community (OSC)
 - a. Provide very basic instructions and links as to how to deploy those assets
2. Provide a list of projects supporting CEDS, including reference implementations. These lists will include, where available:
 - a. where to get more information (links),
 - b. what the project is in a brief description,
 - c. how to get involved with the project, and
 - d. who the contact points for the project are.
3. Provide SEARCH functionality that allows anyone to search either the elements and terms or to browse the ontology. This will be primitive in this phase and designed just to provide the basic functionality. It can be prettied up later.

Phase I Timeline

The intent is to execute this over the month of March and April to be complete by mid-April. This phase will be rolled out as components are ready over the time of the phase. For instance, the initial phase 0 tasks should be complete by late March.

Phase I Team

This project does not have grant or government funding and is powered by individual effort and sponsorship by organizations committed to keeping access to this resource in an **open, free sustainable way** that will allow education institutions and agencies to continue to be able to utilize these resources in an easy and simple manner, and collaborate with each other across verticals and horizontal segments in the most cost-effective, and low resource way possible.

Team List

This list is a living thing and will adjust as people are added to the team.

Alex Jackl, DSU, CEO Bardic Systems (alex@bardicsystems.com)

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Phase I Design

As an initial surge we will be building several web pages to act as open, public information resources. They are listed below. Our design structure is that we will build Google documents

that represent each page and when we have the in a close to ready state we will upload them to the DSU site and any mirrored sites.

Most of these pages will just be content with some links in it and maybe some pictures.

CEDS Pages

CEDS Sustainability Page

URL:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BfbDjpVqdvX2yxMNz1mnt-iq8r6S2n2pXqd-R78_kTA/edit?usp=sharing

Description: This page centralizes and summarizes the core CEDS resources and provides a starting place and reference to the CEDS eco-system.

CEDS Search

URL: TBD

Description: The CEDS Search page will be an interface to an AI tool that allows for searches of a database.

PROJECT Pages

DSU Open Projects

URL:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ahM2om6Vxt7723WeabZFniTTFlqZMhPMe7l5rJDg-aE/edit?usp=sharing>

Description: This page contains all those key collaborative projects being supported by the Data Standards United Initiative and its signatories.

CEDS Collaborative Exchange

URL: <https://github.com/CEDS-Collaborative-Exchange>

Description: The purpose of this site is to provide a location where contributors, who build open source resources that use the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) data models, can distribute and maintain the resources in a collaborative way.

DSU Pages

EDU, Inc.

URL: [EDU Page](#)

Description: 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.

Digital Freeway

URL: [DSU Digital Freeway Concept Note](#) (original November 2024)

Description: The Digital Freeway project is a project that is envisioned inside the DSU program. The analogy is that we would build an international infrastructure — much like the electrical grid, the Internet, or the US highway system that people can build cars to drive on and use to get valuable goods to everyone who needs it. It would be built as a common good- we would not build cars or compete with people providing cars, vehicles or services. Our goal is that if someone wants to build an AI Agent to support learners or workers or healthcare workers they only have to build the functional components — they can just plug into the socket and GO!