Data Standards United (DSU)
May 2025 Newsletter
Issue #1

Overview

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Data Standards United Newsletter!

At Data Standards United, we believe that collaboration across education, workforce, and government sectors is the key to achieving true interoperability. Our initiative brings together leading organizations, agencies, and funders to align data standards, simplify adoption, and create a seamless, future-ready ecosystem. By working together, we are making it easier for learners and workers to have their credentials, achievements, and opportunities recognized across systems, sectors, and borders.

Our January Slide Deck for an overview:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MIIk3L9bypvnJ3wyo4dh5teQRGFw-XvD1sLiqZW62ek/edit?usp=sharing

Join the Data Standards United Virtual Community

You should have recently received an email invitation to join the *Data Standards United* virtual community on the AAMC's virtual community platform. This private, invitation-only forum is a space for discussion, networking, and resource sharing within a safe and respectful environment.

To get started, visit https://communities.aamc.org/login to register a new account or log in if you are already a member of another AAMC virtual community. Please note you have 60 days from May 1 to activate your account with the DSU community before your invitation expires.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact us at **medbiq@aamc.org**.

How To Participate

We invite you to help grow the Data Standards United community!
 If you know colleagues, partners, or organizations who would benefit from participating, or if you would like to suggest someone to be added to our updates, please reach out to:
 ✉ **alex@bardicsystems.com**
 We welcome all those who share our commitment to unified, learner-centered, workforce-connected data standards.

May Update

This space will be used to allow members to post articles they want to get out to the community. This version just has a short update from me but if you are interested in adding any articles please reach out to me. - Alex Jackl

Article #1 DSU May 2025 Update
 Title: May Update
 Author: Alex Jackl

Happy May everyone!

There is a lot happening!

CEDS

We have put links to all the CEDS content and structures at
https://datastandardsunited.org/ceds

We will be rallying around the work being done with the CEDS Sustainability work group and the Special Education Data Model work.

EDU

I want to introduce people to the newly expanded board of the Education Data Unlimited (EDU), a non-profit charitable organization, built as a collaboration of many data standards, dedicated to DSU's principles!

- Alex Jackl, <u>Chair</u>, Bardic Systems
- Kathy Warren, <u>Co-Chair</u>, Maine
- Francisco Valines, <u>Vice-Chair</u>, Florida International University
- Jeff Simons, <u>Secretary</u>, WSIPC
- George Gatsis, <u>Treasurer</u>, 95% Group
- Mark Cohen, CA Community Colleges
- John Kraman, Mississippi
- Jay Pennington, Iowa
- Robert McGough, Arkansas
- June Gerred, Oklahoma
- Greg Nadeau, <u>non-voting Clerk</u>, PCG

Digital Freeway Project
We are still working towards doing the Digital Freeway project, the CEDS Support project, and the new Standards Library project and want to thank the US Chamber of Commerce and the Strada Foundation for their assistance in getting these efforts started.

Event Calendar

If any member or partner wants to add an event just let us know!

May 20–22, 2025 **— Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) EIMAC Spring Meeting**
Minneapolis, MN
State education leaders come together to advance innovation in information management and reporting.
NOTE- this is an invite only meeting of a [collaborative](#), contact CCSSO for more information.

May 23, 2025 @ 11AM ET — **[A4L Webinar: FERPA Updates](#): An Overview of the Department's FERPA Priorities and Recent Enforcement Activities.**
- The Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) recently identified several priority concerns of the department related to FERPA compliance and launched new FERPA investigations in California, Maine, and Washington State.
- Now is the time for educational agencies and edtech vendors to revisit their current policies for safeguarding student data, making revisions as necessary to ensure they are compliant with federal and state law.
- To help you navigate FERPA's requirements, the A4L Community and PIPC are hosting a webinar on May 23rd from 11am-12pm ET that will provide clear and actionable guidance on practical FERPA application in the day-to-day operations of schools.
- Join us as student privacy expert, Amelia Vance, details what FERPA requires and highlights best practices for FERPA compliance at the local-level, followed by time for Q&A
- **[REGISTER HERE](#)**

May 28-29, 2025 **— [Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) Regional Meeting](#)**
 Toronto, Canada
 Join global leaders discussing mobility, digital credentials, and interoperability.

May 28, 2025 **— [MedBiquitous 2025 Data Symposium: Designing the Future](#)**
Minneapolis, MN
Stakeholders from health professions, industry, data standards, and educational technology will collaborate to advance data quality, standardization, and innovation. Open to all, the symposium features expert panels, interactive workshops, and networking to shape strategic priorities

June 02–05, 2025 **— [1EDTech Learning Impact 2025](#)**
Indianapolis
The Power of Possibility: Launching AI in Education.

June 11–13, 2025 **— CEDS Open Source Community (OSC) Meeting**
Virtual
Help shape the Common Education Data Standards roadmap and tools for open, connected data systems.

Collaboration Opportunities

MedBiquitous

Register Now for the 2025 Data Symposium: Designing the Future!
Join MedBiquitous, the AAMC's Standards Program, in Minneapolis on May 28 for the inaugural **2025 Data Symposium: Designing the Future**, where health professions, industry, data standards, and educational technology leaders will collaborate to shape the future of data in health professions education.

Registration is Open! **Check out the exciting agenda we are planning for you.**

Why Attend?
- Expert Panels: Hear from top organizations like AAMC, AMA, AACN, and AACOM.
- Interactive Workshops: Explore data standardization, competency-based education, and tech-driven innovation.
- Networking: Connect with AI, edtech, and data standards professionals.
- Strategic Planning: Help set priorities for data and technology advancements.

The symposium is held the day before the 2025 Information Technology in Academic Medicine Conference (May 29-30)—register for one or both events!

Don't miss this chance to drive impactful change!

Credential Engine

1. **Participation Opportunity:** Credential Engine's CTDL team completed the Credential Type Focus Group and a public webinar that shared the CTDL Credential Type Terms Proposal. While CTDL already defines many credential classes issued by providers, it does not yet support full descriptions of formally defined credential types embedded in qualification systems. This proposal aims to close that gap. The public comment period concludes May 23rd. Learn more and review the proposal https://credentialengine.org/2025/05/07/ctdl-credential-types-proposal-webinar-summa

ry-request-for-comments/

2. **Participation Opportunity:** CTDL currently supports over 10,000 published Transfer Value Profiles—including information on credit recommendations and credit transfers accepted. However, it does not yet describe the policies, agreements, and criteria that govern whether and how prior learning is accepted. To address this gap, Credential Engine is convening a global, time-limited task group starting in June to expand CTDL by making this essential information transparent, connected, and reusable—supporting successful learn and work pathways for all. Learn more and join this task group: https://credentialengine.org/2025/05/12/invitation-to-join-the-global-task-group-to-make-prior-learning-recognition-transparent-and-connected/

3. **Participation Opportunity:** Credential Engine invites organizations to participate in a focused, collaborative pilot launching in ~June/July 2025 to advance the transparency, comparability, and interoperability of qualifications data globally.
In partnership with the *Groningen Declaration Network (The GDN Network)*, *South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)*, *American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)*, and other key stakeholders, this Qualifications Frameworks (QF) Publishing Pilot will demonstrate how regional and national qualifications frameworks, related credentials, and information that supports quality assurance can be structured as linked open data using the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL). Learn more and submit participation interest: https://credentialengine.org/2025/04/30/join-our-global-qualifications-frameworks-publishing-pilot-to-unlock-the-power-of-qualifications-and-credential-data/

4. **Info Sharing:** Credential Engine and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) have partnered to explore global credential transparency beginning with a proof of concept (POC) using CTDL linked, open data structure. This POC will publish qualifications frameworks (QF) at a granular level to support mappings between their progression levels, credentials and their alignments to QF progression levels, quality assurance, and potentially outcomes metrics. The Qualifications Frameworks and Alignments Global Pilot will build upon this POC. Subscribe to the Credential Engine newsletter for updates https://credentialengine.org/subscribe/.

Topical Areas by Organization

This is an initial sample and by no means exhaustive or exclusionary.
- 1EdTech
  - LTI+QTI+TCC
  - OBv3
  - CLR

- - CASE
    - One Roster
- A4L
    - IEP
    - Grade Pass Back
    - EDFacts
    - Student Personal
    - Attendance
    - Schedule
    - Infrastructure
        - Unity Test Harness
        - JEDx Test Harness
        - Simple Transport
    - Privacy
        - PODs
        - SPDC Registry
- ADL (incubator)
    - Military Specs
    - Total Learning Architecture
- Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)
    - Ontology
    - P20W Data Dictionary & Vocabulary (Global)
    - Generate
    - SEDM
- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
    - Community of Innovation
    - Other Projects
- Credential Engine
    - Registry
    - CTDL
- ED3 (incubator not standards org)
    - Supported SEDM project
    - Supported IEEE LER Model
- EdFi
    - Teacher Training Model
- GDN
    - International Networks of Networks
    - National and Regional Qualification Frameworks
- HR OPEN

- ○ Worker objects
- ○ LER-RS
- ○ JDX+
- ○ JEDx API
- **IEEE LTSC**
  - ○ LER Ecosystem Recommended Practice (IEEE 1484.2)
  - ○ Learning Metadata Terms (IEEE 2881)
  - ○ Sharable Competency Definition (IEEE 1484.20.3)
  - ○ Experience API (xAPI)(IEEE 9274.1.1)
  - ○ Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM)(IEEE 1484.11.x)
- **Internet 2**
  - ○ SSO
  - ○ InCommon
- **Medbiquitous**
  - ○ Medical Record Standards
  - ○ Competency Framework Standards
- **PESC**
  - ○ Transcripts
  - ○ Finance & Financial Aid
  - ○ GeoCode
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (incubator not standards body)**
  - ○ T3 Innovation Network
    - ■ LER Wrapper Spec (with multiple standards orgs)
    - ■ LinkedClaims (with W3C)
    - ■ Data Ecosystem Mapping Tool (with multiple standards orgs)
    - ■ Competency Explorer (with Credential Engine)
  - ○ Jobs and Employment Data Exchange (JEDx) (Data Dictionary and API with HR Open)
  - ○ Skills Savings Accounts
- **W3C**
  - ○ Verifiable Credential (VC)
  - ○ Schema.org

Stay Connected!

We look forward to growing this community and advancing the mission of unified, future-ready data standards. We have a meeting every 4-6 weeks and will send a newsletter in between meetings with updates , events calendars, and other information.

Visit www.datastandardsunited.org to learn more and get involved.

If you prefer not to receive future newsletters, simply reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.