

# SIF DATA MODEL SPECIFICATION: COMPARISON



Moving from one version of anything to a new version can always have scary pitfalls. The central question always revolves around “what’s new” and “is it worth it for what I want”? This is true whether you are making your initial “leap” into SIF or looking to enhance the functionality of your product by a new version of the Specification. Below is a quick “cheat sheet” for you to determine which version of the SIF Specification might be right for your use case. This comparison sheet will continue to be updated as the Unity data model continues its maturation and alignment to Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) federal work.

Feature / Description	SIF Data Model Specification (North America)		
	2.7M	2.8	Unity
<b>Assessment</b> <i>Assessment concentrates on ensuring that assessment results can be made available in a timely manner and that the results are transmitted in a meaningful manner.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Assessment for SIF 3</b> <i>Assessment rehailed to primarily support adaptive assessments. In order to maximize backwards compatibility, the classic Assessment objects were included in Unity.</i>	X		
<b>Authentications</b> <i>Authentication allows a system that stores usernames and/or passwords to share them with other applications through SIF.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Common Elements</b> <i>Complex elements designed for reuse that are expressed in the XML Schema as having their own roots. These have been converted to Common Types in newer releases.</i>	X		
<b>Data Warehouse</b> <i>Data Warehouse encompasses the detailed data that schools, and parents need to improve student achievement and organizational effectiveness.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Facilities and Energy Management</b> <i>Energy Management reports energy usage and associated environmental information; and conveys the results of the analysis of that information in standardized reports.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Food Services</b> <i>Food Services allows computer applications for the food service sector of the education industry to effectively exchange information with all SIF applications.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Grade Book</b> <i>Grade Book supports the entire SIF structure, allowing for easy, bi-directional transfer of data integral to grading.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Human Resources and Financials</b> <i>Human Resources &amp; Financials defines the SIF specifications for human resources and financial application software.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Identity Management</b> <i>Identity Management empowers sharing and using digital identities within an educational enterprise.</i>	X	X	X

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<b>Infrastructure Payloads</b> <i>The Global SIF Infrastructure (now defined separately) leverages pre-existing standards to define secure, efficient, and increasingly private interoperable sessions.</i>	X		
<b>Instructional Services</b> <i>Instructional Services covers information needed in instruction and educational service delivery in the classroom and instructional settings.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Library Automation</b> <i>Library Automation allows for reporting on the overall status of library including checkouts, overdues, fines, and refunds.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Pluggable Code Sets</b> <i>Both a relaxing of validation around most fields that hold codes and corresponding new attributes throughout the data model, allow for the localization and documentation (URL) of the code sets used.</i>			X
<b>Professional Development</b> <i>Professional Develop includes training and assessment of staff particularly as it relates to qualifications and requirements over time.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Special Programs</b> <i>Special Programs enables effective data exchange regarding special education and other individualized programs.</i>	X	X	X
<b>State Reporting</b> <i>State Reporting adds the fundamental concept of a State Education Agency and other needed fields to the SIF (NA) Data Model for state reporting.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Student Information Systems</b> <i>Student Information Systems data includes student, teacher, school, and enrolment and is core to most educational agencies and processes.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Student Record Exchange</b> <i>Student Record Exchange is designed to streamline the enrolment process when moving a student between schools.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Transportation and Geographic Information</b> <i>Transportation and Geographic Information provides bus planning and location information from the transportation department to the rest of the school community.</i>	X	X	X
<b>Vertical Reporting (&amp; StudentLocator)</b> <i>Vertical Reporting comprise alternative objects and methods for moving, matching, and verifying information up to a reporting authority.</i>	X		
<b>xPress IEP</b> <i>Information to support Special Education students transferring into a new educational institution.</i>			X
<b>xPress Roster</b> <i>A simpler set of core data objects that can be used by itself or in conjunction with the rest of the rich enterprise data.</i>			X
<b>Zone (Functional) Services</b> <i>Functional Services define a beginning, middle, and end to a multistep process. Similar functionality is empowered by the Global SIF Infrastructure, but details must be defined anew.</i>	X		