

Intended Use:

This template is intended to document proposed SIF Unity change sets in a consistent, reviewable format by identifying the problem being addressed, the new capability being supported, the expected implementation impact, the exact specification text to be changed, and any non-normative guidance needed to support correct implementation.

It can also be used as a strong starting point for AI-assisted proposal development. When paired with a clear description of the problem, the affected data, the current limitation, and the desired future behavior, the template gives AI a structured path from idea to reviewable standards language. In that role, AI can help organize the proposal, identify missing details, distinguish normative requirements from implementation guidance, draft precise specification language, and surface compatibility or conformance questions for the project team to review.

Areas to be covered:

1. Change Set Header / Label

- Short name of the change set (e.g., “Student Attendance Summary additional Use Case”, “Student Participation (increasing flexibility)”).
- Urgency Level: (Low, Medium, High)
- Date Required: (N/A unless provided)

2. What This Change Set Accomplishes

a. Problem it resolves

- Explicit statement of the current limitation or pain point in existing Unity implementations.

b. New capability / new reality supported

- Description of the desired model or behavior now supported (e.g., persistent SAS identity; program-centric participation modeling).

c. Net effect (when applicable)

- How implementers can operate after the change:
 - what stays the same,
 - what becomes newly possible,
 - how current vs advanced implementers are affected.

3. Enhanced Capabilities Going Forward

- Summary of how the standard behaves after the change:
 - **Modes / patterns** (e.g., Mode A vs Mode B; Traditional / Hybrid / Transactional).
 - What each mode/pattern allows or optimizes (e.g., timelines, auditability, event-friendliness).
 - **Backward compatibility posture** (e.g., legacy behavior remains valid, new behavior is optional but standardized).
 - How the change improves event flows, histories, reconciliation, etc.

4. Detailed Changes to the Specification

For each affected object/field:

a. Location in the standard (“Where”)

- Object or section name and approximate position (e.g., “StudentAttendanceSummary.Refld field definition”, “Top of StudentPersonal object”, “Top of StudentParticipation object”, “Between the description of the object and the graphic”).

b. Current text (for reference)

- Exact existing specification text that is being modified.

c. Replacement / added text (normative)

- New specification wording:
 - Updated field definition or object description.
 - Explicit behavior rules (e.g., transient vs persistent Refld semantics; requirement to return the same Refld when identity fields are unchanged).
 - Conformance expectations (MAY, MUST, MUST NOT).

d. Mode-specific semantics where applicable

- For example:
 - Legacy/transient vs persistent Refld behaviors for SAS.
 - Traditional / Hybrid / Transactional patterns for StudentParticipation vs StudentPersonal.

e. Event support adjustments (if applicable)

- Change to event behavior:
 - Previous event stance (e.g., “SIF_Events are not reported for this object.”).
 - New stance (e.g., “SIF_Events are reported for this object.”).

5. Non-Normative Guidance / Behavioral Notes

- Implementation-oriented explanation of *why* and *how* to use the new capabilities, separate from strict conformance rules, such as:
 - SIS/state division of labor and query coordination (e.g., SIS with its own calendar issuing accurate SAS via Events).
 - Guidance on when to use:
 - **StudentPersonal-centric** modeling,
 - **Hybrid** approaches,
 - **StudentParticipation-centric** transactional modeling.
 - Expectations about defining authority and synchronization rules when both objects are used.