



From SIF to Unity: The Complete and Most Utilized K12 Education Data Standard Alive and Growing in States!

PRESENTED BY:

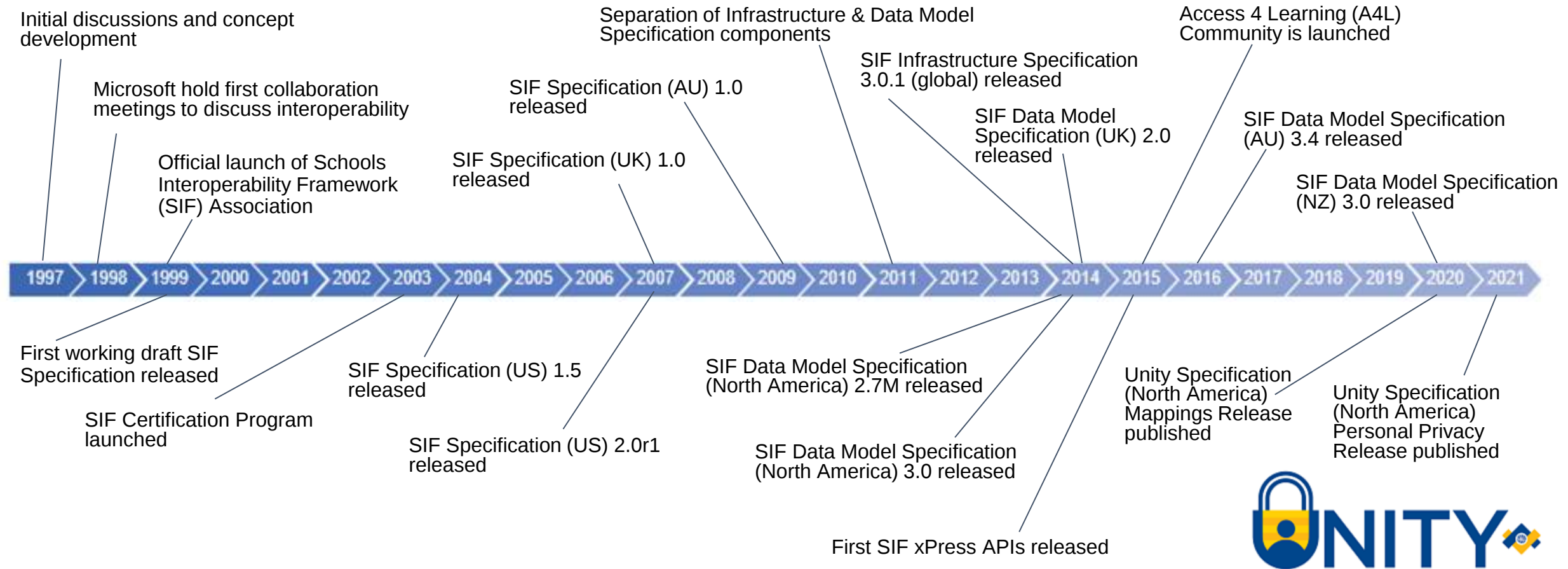
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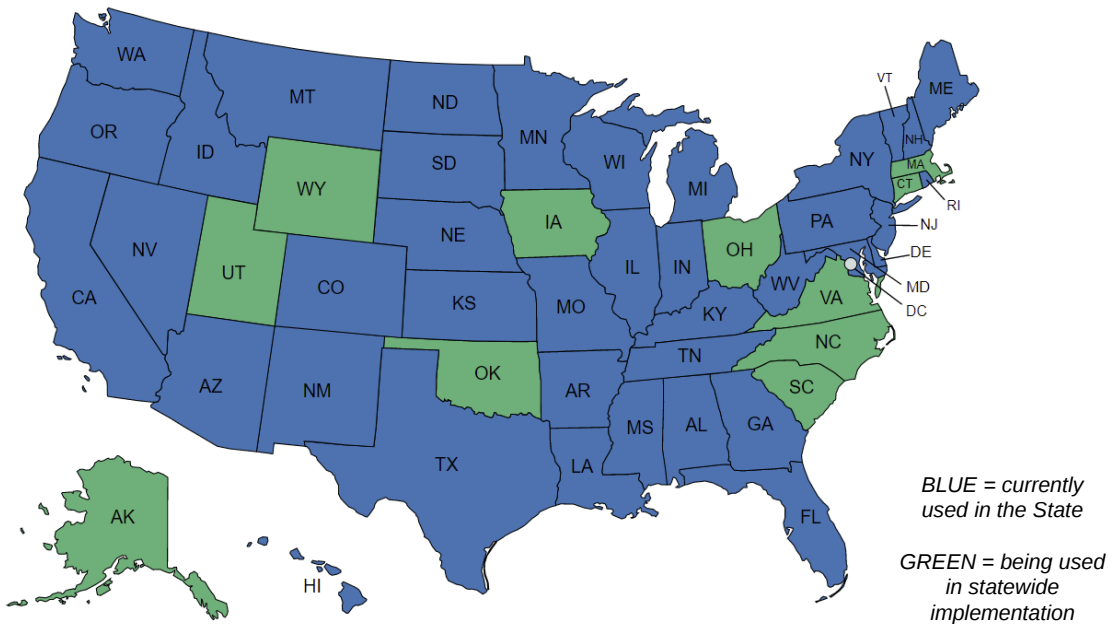
STATS-DC Data Conference - August 19, 2021 - Session 12D

Evolution of an education standard



Utilization of an open, education standard

SIF Specifications used in all States



Data Function Usage

Horizontal Interoperability

Rostering

State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)

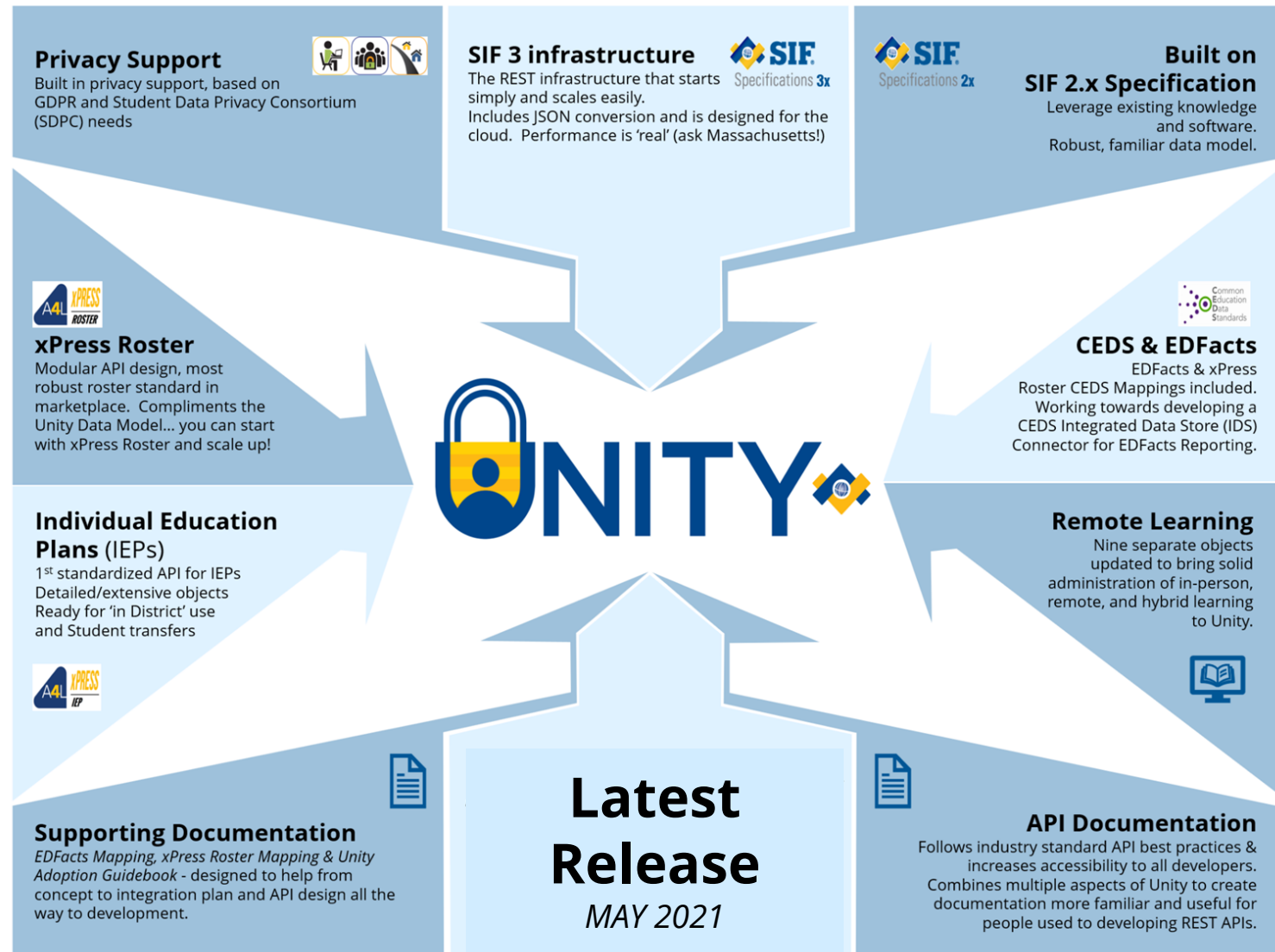
Student Locator

Student Records Exchange

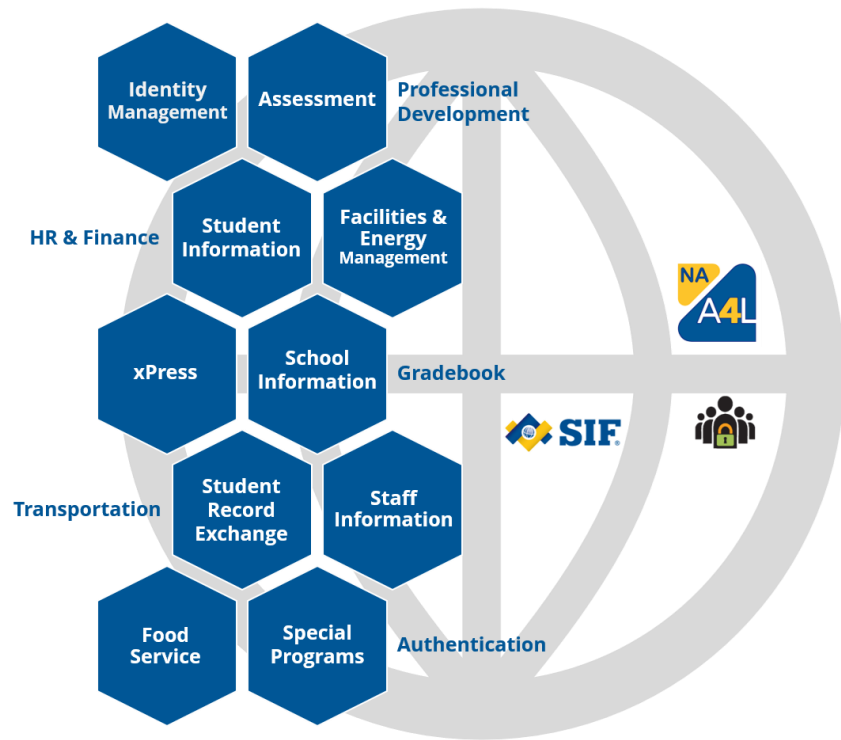
Transcripts

Unity Specification

<https://www.a4l.org/page/Unity>



Common Uses for Unity...



- **Reporting:** Federal and often by State
- **Attendance:** By period or as a summary
- **Assessments:** Administration, recording and between app movement
- **Learning Applications:** Rostering
- **Lunch System:** Access and Account Status
- **Transportation:** The perfect address for every situation
- **Library:** Access and Fines

Future world and beyond....

- **Unity Development:** Enhancing the specification
- **State Requests:** Directly drafting changes into Unity and reviewing
- **Unity Adoption:** Updating Grade Pass Back to focus on Data Hub ecosystems
- **CEDS Alignment:** Contributing Privacy Domain to CEDS
- **Infrastructure:** Friendlier documentation



Oklahoma: Use Cases

- SIF Unity Use Case:
 - English Language Learners data exchange
- SIF 2.X Use Cases:
 - Oklahoma's overall Student Information System
 - Student Data Collection
 - 25 SIF Objects (near real-time)
 - 7 different SIS vendors
 - OK Special Education statewide platform data exchange with the EdPlan SPED application
 - Integration with EduSkills
 - Integration with Ellevation





Oklahoma: Features

- Integration with Pandemic PEBT in collaboration with OMES, the Oklahoma Department of Health Services, Google, SpringML, and CPSI
- Integration with Early Learning for Unique IDs
- Real-time validations of data entering the ODS
- Automated Student ID numbers returning to districts
- Near-real-time data exchange
- Recently moved entire system into the cloud





Oklahoma: Statistics

- Started in SIF 2.0 in 2008 for K-12 Data Collection of student, course, education professional, and student incident and discipline data
- 520 districts sending real-time SIF data to our Wave data system using CPSI tools and ODS
- 100% of districts use SIF
- 46 million + total number of records updated and entered into the Wave ODS on a weekly basis via real time events and the Request Response Process



Massachusetts: Use Case



Statistics

- Started in SIF 2.0 in 2012 for K-12 Data Collection of student, course, education professional, and student incident and discipline data
- 423 districts sending real-time SIF 2.7x data to our SIF Unity Messaging Platform, CedarLabs
- **99% of districts with 99.99% students**
- 12 SIF certified SIS Vendors sending 18 Objects
- Average 1.2 M transactions per day

SIF provides a rich, extensible standard for Data Collections messaging!
Implementation and systems integration choices matter most for implementation success.

Massachusetts: Use Case



Features

- Student ID Request/Return Messages
- Homeless and Foster Care
- SLDS (Edwin) and the Statewide Data Research Hub
- Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)
- Teacher Candidate Assessment of Performance (CAPS)
- 10 other applications and growing, including Pandemic -EBT
- Self-Service BI & Data Analytics for policymakers

Massachusetts: Next Steps



Standardization

- Standardizing on SIF Unity Messaging and data Collection Platform for Education
- Districts without SISs to file data to the Unity Platform using a flattened version of the SIF Objects

Integration

- Integrate High School College Student records between K12 and Higher Ed.
- Integrate Community and State College with State
- Expand District Data Hub local integration pilots

Massachusetts: Next Steps



Modernization

- Modernizing and consolidating all applications in EOE Portfolio
- Encourage and facilitate vendors adopting Unity Architecture as able

Enhancement

- Exploring implementation of Global Education Privacy Standard (GEPS) in Unity



Linking privacy to interoperability

- Increased interoperability without the inclusion of privacy requirements = increased **RISK**.
- **BOTH** data sharing and privacy parameters must be identified and communicated.
- Learning institutions often do not have the human and/or fiscal resources to successfully address both parameters.
- A4L and Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) is the **ONLY** community collaboration that is addressing **BOTH** interoperability and privacy.

The A4L and SDPC Communities will help schools and marketplace providers establish 'connected, secure and effective k12 ecosystems'

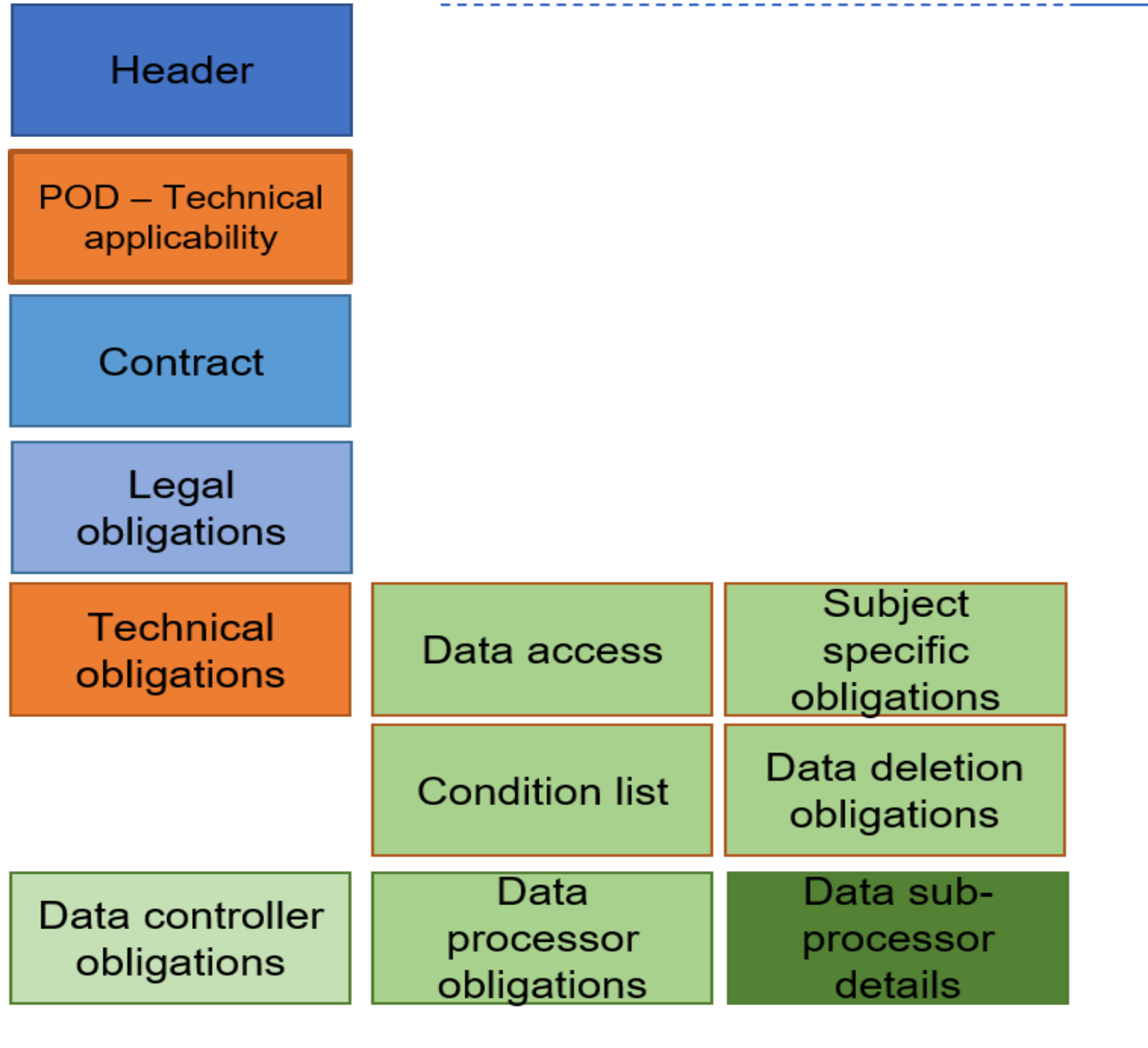


Enabling Privacy Expectations

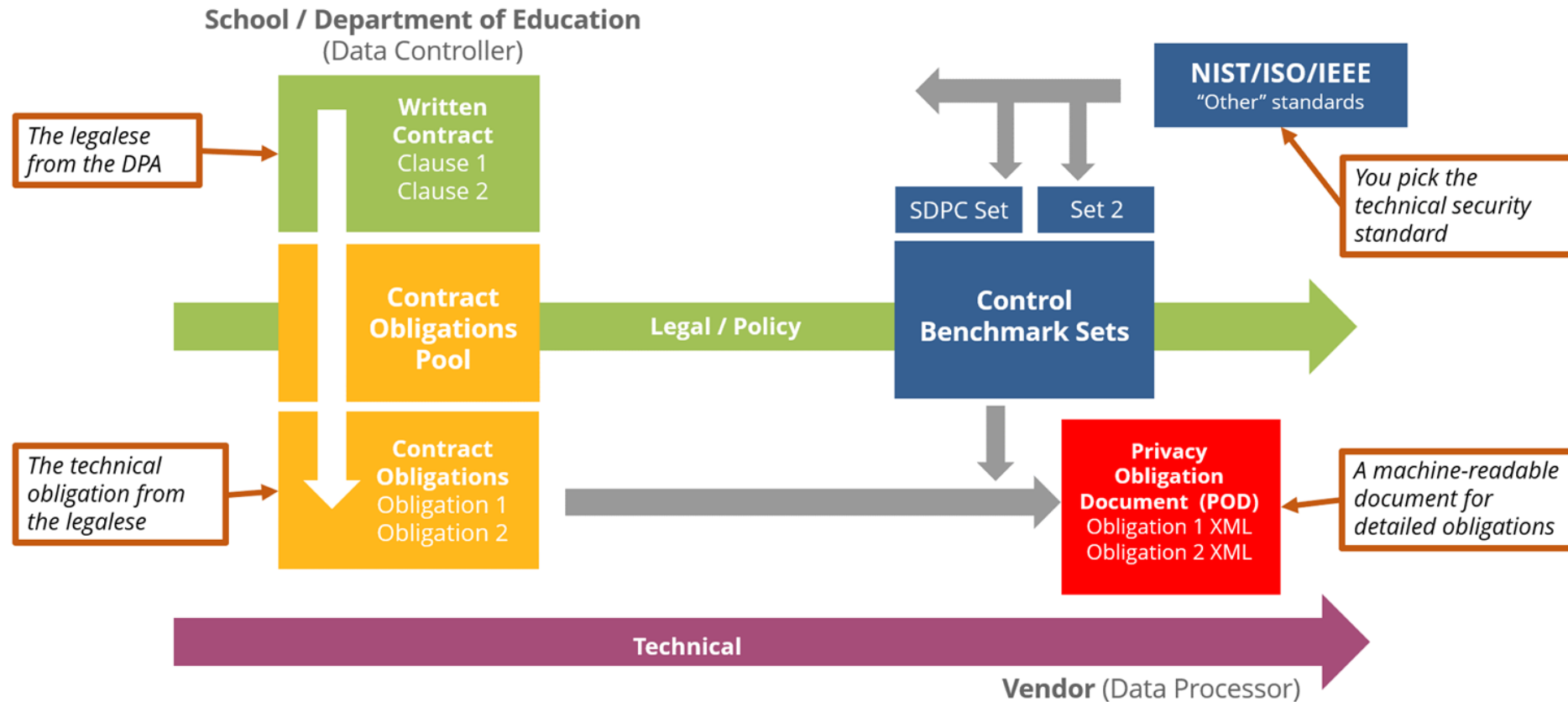
Automate Contract Clause Expectations Exchange and Vendor Verification

The 'POD'
(Privacy Obligation Document)

Enabled in global SIF Infrastructure



Global Education Privacy Standard (GEPS)



Benefits of the SIF Standard...

LEAs want:

- ✓ State reporting streamlined
- ✓ Rostering
- ✓ Identity management

SEAs want:

- ✓ Data collection streamlined for internal accountability
- ✓ Federal reporting streamlined
- ✓ Flexibility and performance



Benefits of the A4L Community

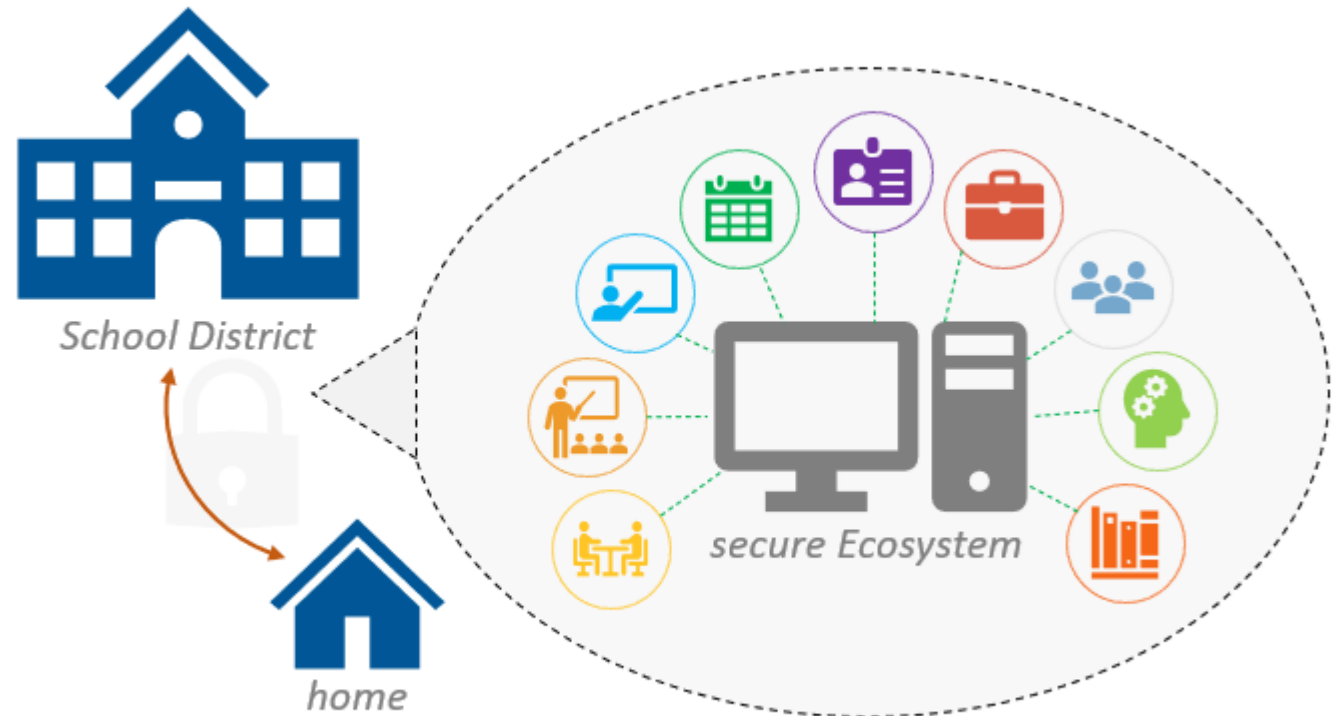
- Responsive to End User needs and use cases
- Looking to work with other standards and mapping to them
- States helping States Project Team - enabling best practice conversations between States
- Open, friendly Community looking to help the education marketplace
- Developing the most comprehensive standard
- Ready and willing to listen to the needs of their members, and respond swiftly
- Ready to grow with their members - willing to modernize with new and upcoming technologies
- Large, engaged international Community with extensive use cases and willing to share



Connecting and Securing Effective Learning Ecosystems™

CIOs MUST address:

- Application Vetting
- Contracting Process
- App Management
- Integration
- Secure Data Exchange
- Quality Control
- Professional Learning



Additional Resources

Application Vetting

- SDPC Resource Registry Workflow: <https://privacy.a4l.org/sdpc-resource-registry/>

Contracting Process

- National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA): <https://privacy.A4L.org/national-dpa>

App Management

- SDPC Resource Registry: <https://privacy.a4l.org/sdpc-resource-registry/>

Integration

- Getting Started with Unity: https://www.a4l.org/page/Getting_Started_with_Unity
- Ecosystem Empowerment Guide: https://www.a4l.org/resource/collection/7F785EA1-9AC7-4081-8DCC-3287AFA6675F/Ecosystem_Empowerment_Guide.pdf

Secure Data Exchange

- Ecosystem Empowerment Guide
- Unity Adoption Guidebook: https://www.a4l.org/resource/collection/7C6E2370-9264-4E10-B6C9-9DAD9B6D8608/Unity_Adoption_Guidebook.pdf

Quality Control

- Certification Registry: <https://www.a4l.org/page/SIFCertRegistry>

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