

Access⁴

December 2024

Thankful for the vibrant Community we are part of...

by Ben Silbergitt, Co-Chair, Association Board of Directors

The school year is in full swing, and as we approach the holidays one thing we can all be thankful for is the vibrant community that we're part of. True grassroots community initiatives are strong, long-lasting, and directly connect to the needs of their members. A4L exemplifies that approach. As the ball drops and we turn the calendar to 2025, there is so much to look forward to. A4L continues to strengthen its ability to meet members' needs around both interoperability and privacy.

On the interoperability front, A4L hosted a convening of state leaders to discuss Unity implementation. Five states and three vendors were able to attend in person, with a total of eight statewide implementations of SIF Unity being shared. As you know, Unity represents a modern, REST API-based infrastructure on which the SIF data model (or any other data model) can be transported. As we learned at the convening, this flexibility to support any data model not only reflects the needs of our membership, it also reflects an inclusive approach to in-

teroperability – one that doesn't dictate a specific approach or require software systems to make drastic changes. "SIF just works" became the theme of the meeting, and states demonstrated that in a variety of ways:

- Virginia is implementing Unity for statewide ID assignment, supporting interoperability for statewide assessments.
- Iowa is the first state to implement Unity for full state data collection, with the Alma student information system. Rather than adopt the existing SIF 2.x approach (which has been working well for the other 3 student information systems in Iowa), when Alma entered this new state they jumped immediately into Unity, allowing them to meet Iowa's state reporting requirements in a very compressed timeline.
- Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Massachusetts have been implementing Unity for state-level interoperability, connecting both SIF and non-SIF data to other data systems via the Unity REST API.

The two newest adopters of the SIF standard, Maine and Idaho shared their plans to roll out Unity as part of their state modernization, and

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Global Community News

Thankful for the vibrant Community we are part of...; Welcome new members!; Welcome David Sallay, Director of Data Privacy; New A4L collaboration tools available!; Scheduled Maintenance; Join Us for the A4L Annual Meeting 2025; A4L Community and PESC announce Joint Venture Agreement; In Case You Missed Them...; Coming Soon: SIF Infrastructure Specification 3.7 (global); Want to get more involved in the Community?; Under Development: SIF Test Harness; Stronger Together: Highlights from the PESC October 2024 Summit; and Community Project Team Updates.

[Page 2](#)

NA Community News

Empowering Federal Reporting: Your Input is Needed for the Proposed EDFacts Information Collection Package!

[Page 9](#)

Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) News

Keep an eye on the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act (KOSPA) before the end of the year...

[Page 10](#)



Thankful for the vibrant Community we are part of...

(Continued from page 1)

we look forward to hearing about their successes in the coming months. Both shared their perspectives on the benefits of SIF, and why they selected it over the alternatives.

On the privacy front, A4L continues to lead the way for our members, providing services that save money and improve members' ability to maintain the privacy and security of their data. In addition to webinars and thought leadership, A4L will soon be offering

an online, self-paced privacy training program to help our members keep their staff up to date. A4L is also offering legal services through a pilot partnership program, to help members address their legal needs around privacy.

Last but certainly not least, the Board recently approved the establishment of a Director of Data Privacy position. This full time position will allow A4L to continue to grow its support for our membership around privacy, parallel our interoperability efforts in terms of

dedicated staff, and allow our Executive Director to focus on their role as leader of the entire organization. If "SIF just works" is a theme that resonates with the interoperability crowd, maybe "A4L just works" fits the organization well. Or, more specifically, "A4L just works for you".

We are proud to be part of such a thriving organization, and to help make sure that A4L maintains its member-driven ethos, to truly be putting the needs of members first.

Welcome new members!



2hr Learning Inc.



Coursemojo



Everett Public Schools, MA



GoTeacher Inc



Grammarly



Idaho State Board of Education



Lyceum AI



Orrville City Schools, OH



Raise 365



Telocon Solutions



Westerville City Schools, OH



Windsor C-1 School District, MO

Connecting and securing effective learning ecosystems.

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Global Community News

Welcome David Sallay, Director of Data Privacy

by Steve Smith, Executive Director

We are very excited to be welcoming David Sallay as the newest A4L staff member.



David Sallay,
Director of
Data Privacy

David joined the A4L Community on December 2nd as our new Director of Data Privacy. David brings a wealth of experience in student privacy issues. As the Director of Youth and Education Privacy at the Future of Privacy Forum, David served as a thought leader in the world of education and child privacy, speaking regularly on conference panels, to the media, and with policymakers on emerging issues in children's privacy, including artificial intelligence in K-12 space. As the Stu-

dent Data Privacy Auditor and Chief Privacy Officer for the Utah State Board of Education, David oversaw day-to-day operations of the privacy team, which included serving as the primary liaison for the state board on student privacy issues; ensuring compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards; and providing support and training to school districts, including a well-received series of videos explaining the ins and outs of FERPA.

David will oversee the SDPC as well as all other privacy related initiatives within A4L. He has already begun to attend and contribute to project team meetings. By adding to our capacity in the privacy space we hope to continue to build upon the community's positive momentum and growth. With the addition of David to the team we are even more excited about the future of the A4L Community.

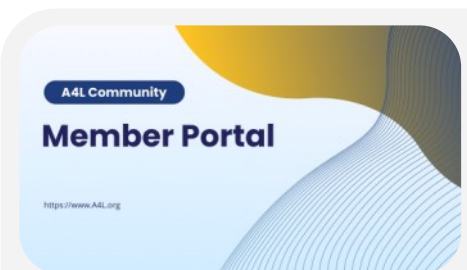
New A4L collaboration tools available!

We are delighted to invite A4L Community Members to visit the new Member Portal & A4L Community Site, which launched in November 2024!

The **A4L Member Portal** will help with keeping our membership connected and will also be the workhorse that will collect member dues and support event registration and payment.

The **A4L Community Site** is the new place for sharing documents and resources, as well as the communication hub to support Project Teams, Committees, & Leadership Groups and we can use it to help highlight great work being done and get more members involved!

You can find out more about each of the new areas on the images below >>



Scheduled Maintenance

Our regular maintenance schedule is timetabled for the last Friday of each month.

Please be aware of the following scheduled maintenance that will be taking place over the coming weeks:

SDPC Resource Registry, SIF Test

Harness and operational databases: Maintenance will take place from **8pm ET on Friday, December 27 until COB on Sunday, December 29, 2024.**

We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause and advise you to plan your work accordingly.

Join Us for the A4L Community Annual Meeting

DATE: March 17-19, 2025

VENUE: Hilton Arlington National Land-
ing Hotel, VA

Empowering Education Through Interoperability and Privacy in a World of Uncertainty and Rapid Change

Be part of a transformative movement! The A4L Annual Meeting is where the brightest minds and passionate leaders converge to revolutionize data standards and privacy in education. With dedicated tracks on privacy, interoperability, and an exclusive SDPC Registry 2.0 workshop, there's something for everyone. Whether you're an educator, administrator, tech enthusiast, or policy maker, this is your opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

Why Attend?

Build a Secure Data Foundation: Collaborate with like-minded professionals to securely move data across pK20W systems, ensuring privacy, meeting regulatory compliance, and enhancing transparency practices.

Stay Ahead of Privacy Obligations: Gain insights into the latest privacy obligations and how to effectively address them, ensuring your institution remains compliant and trustworthy.

Drive Innovation in Education: Learn about innovative strategies to identify and monitor security controls, improve transparency, and achieve certification, all while contributing to the future of data standards in education.

Shape the Future: Together, we are making lasting impacts on the lives of students, educators, and educational institutions worldwide. Your participation helps shape the future of education data standards.



What to Expect

Engaging Sessions: Delve into cutting-edge topics with experts and thought leaders who are pioneering the intersection of technology, data, and privacy in education.

- **Interoperability Sessions:** Virginia Project Update; Infrastructure - working with other standards bodies...; AI Supporting SIF; Unity Adoption (multiple states presenting); CEDS & SIF; JEDx Certification; TIA Transcript; and Data Sharing Best Practices (forum)
- **Privacy Sessions:** SDPC Registry 2.0 workshop; Best Practice Sharing; National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA) update; AI & Privacy; GESS Updates; COPPA; Privacy Obligation Documents (PODs); and Data Minimization

Networking Opportunities: Connect with a growing community of professionals dedicated to advancing lifelong learning through open data standards and privacy.

Inspiring Conversations: Participate in dynamic discussions that will challenge your thinking and spark new ideas.

Innovative Solutions: Discover the latest tools and technologies that are driving progress in the education sector.

Join us as we continue to build a brighter, more secure future for education. Don't miss out on this unique event—be part of the change and help shape the standards that will define the next generation of learning.

FIND OUT MORE



Connecting and securing effective learning ecosystems.

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A4L Community and PESC announce Joint Venture Agreement

PRESS RELEASE: *A4L Community and PESC announce Joint Venture Agreement*

Washington, DC, 16 October 2024—Today, at the PESC October DSU-focused summit, the Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community and the Postsecondary Education Standards Council (PESC) announced the creation of a joint venture to facilitate their work together. This is a major step forward for the education standards communities, with two standards bodies taking the first step towards formalizing their collaboration through the creation of an agreement in the form of a joint venture.

This agreement will enable the standards bodies to collaborate in a safe space on common projects. It will allow the organizations to share resources and work more efficiently together without requiring additional legal or contractual agreements. The structure provided by the joint venture

will enable the collaborative work to flourish and enhance the traditional efforts of the organizations. This initiative is anticipated to serve as a model for additional standards bodies to join and further streamline the PK20W standards landscape.

"The creation and adoption of data standards and protocols are central to orchestrating how the P20W ecosystem can scale to serve the objectives of our key constituents. We look forward to a long-term relationship that stimulates insights, infrastructure and innovations to increase collaboration, reduce costs, streamline data access, enhance privacy and security, and improve interoperability." David Moldoff, Chair of PESC.

"A4L has a long track record of standing up the SIF architecture and ex-

panding technologies to support privacy and security commitments. The EdTech community is composed of thousands of members. A4L is well-positioned to broaden the platform to reinforce the benefits of implementing data standards through our collaboration." Steve Smith, Executive Director, A4L Community.

[View Press Release PDF >>](#)



In Case You Missed Them!

The A4L Community have held a few webinars over the past few months... and are planning more for 2025! All our presentations can be found in our [Presentation Archive](#), but in case you missed them, here are the links to the most recent recordings:



WEBINAR: Data Minimization (Dec 2, 2024)

Data minimization is a privacy principle that states that organizations should only collect and store personal data necessary to accomplish a specific purpose, and only for as long as needed. It's a key principle for reducing the risk of data breaches and respecting individual privacy. [VIEW RECORDING >>](#)

WEBINAR: AI's Impact on Privacy & Interoperability (Sept 17, 2024)

AI, AI, AI. You can't open your computer, browse a social media feed or watch traditional broadcast news without hearing something about AI. When boiled down, most of these headlines are around the intersection of automation and privacy. Or in our world, interoperability & privacy. [VIEW RECORDING >>](#)



Connecting and **securing** effective learning ecosystems.

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COMING SOON: SIF Infrastructure Specification 3.7 (global)

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

The next evolution in data interoperability is just around the corner! The SIF Infrastructure Specification 3.7 brings key updates to align with modern cloud standards and improve system integration.



What's Changing?

- **Cloud Compatibility:** Transitioning from HTTP Matrix Parameters to Header and Path Parameters for better alignment with services like Amazon, Google, and Microsoft.
- **Asynchronous Choreography:** Improved clarity in how systems handle asynchronous responses to simplify integrations and ensure compliance.

These updates enhance performance, security, and future-proofing while providing the tools needed for smooth transitions.

When to Expect It?

Estimated publication: Jan 21, 2025

We expect this release to help drive adoption and certification in the new year!

Want to get more involved in the Community?

Take a look at the current activities of the A4L Community Project Teams on [page 8](#).... Several groups are looking for new members and would love your participation! In addition, login to the A4L Community Site and take a look at all the various Project Teams that you can get involved in, YOUR Community needs YOU!

UNDER DEVELOPMENT: SIF Test Harness

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

Exciting updates are underway as we continue to enhance the SIF Test Harness to better serve our community!

Here's a preview of what's in store:



Simplified Test Session Access

Creating SIF Test Sessions will soon be more seamless than ever. We are integrating community credentials using MemberClicks, enabling same sign-on for streamlined access. This improvement is aimed at making test sessions more user-friendly and efficient.

Unity Test Suite Nearing Completion

The Unity Test Suite development is wrapping up, with initial testing scheduled to begin in the New Year. This milestone aligns with the release of our new Infrastructure update, ensuring a robust foundation for future innovations.

Collaborative Pilot

We are partnering with HR Open Standards and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to pilot JEDx using the Test Harness as the platform. This collaboration highlights our commitment to driving interoperability and fostering innovation across industries.

As these new features roll out, users should anticipate additional maintenance windows to support the necessary updates and enhancements. We appreciate your patience as we bring these exciting developments to life.

Stronger Together: Highlights from the PESC October 2024 Data Summit

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

The PESC October 2024 Data Summit, held October 16–17 in Garden Grove, CA, marked a historic moment for the educational data standards community. The announcement of the [Joint Venture Agreement](#) between the Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community and PESC signalled a bold new era of collaboration and innovation.

“The creation and adoption of data standards and protocols are central to orchestrating how the P20w ecosystem can scale to serve the objectives of our key constituents. We look forward to a long-term relationship that stimulates insights, infrastructure and innovations to increase collaboration, reduce costs, streamline data access, enhance privacy and security, and improve interoperability.” David Moldoff, Chair of PESC.

This landmark partnership aims to eliminate barriers and align efforts across organizations to create seamless, integrated solutions that serve learners, educators, and institutions throughout their lifelong journeys. With this agreement as a foundation, leaders from A4L, including Steve Smith, John Lovell, and Alex Jackl, advanced critical discussions that will shape the next generation of data-driven solutions.

Collaborative Highlights: Data Standards United (DSU)

In a continuation of this collaborative spirit, Steve Smith represented A4L in the transformative session, “**Data Standards United: Myths and Movement.**” This session championed the power of cooperation among standards bodies, dispelling myths about data standardization and focusing on unified solutions to serve learners from cradle to retirement.

Key session takeaways included:

- **Myth Busting:** Dispelled myths discouraging collaboration in data standardization, such as the false belief that organizations must compete for influence.
- **Unified Approach:** Highlighted the DSU initiative as a collaborative movement focusing on cooperation for the greater good.

Data Standards United exemplifies the spirit of collaboration fostered by the Joint Venture Agreement, uniting standards bodies to create interoperable solutions that benefit learners at every stage of their lives.

This panel, chaired by Alex Jackl, included leaders like David K. Moldoff (PESC), Michael Feldstein (1EdTech), and Alexis Rossi (AAMC), with additional insights from HR Open Standards and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

AI and Standards: Charting a New Path Forward

Building on the collaborative foundation of the Joint Venture and DSU, the Summit also explored how cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence are reshaping the standards space.

In the session “**AI in the Standards Space: No Hallucinations Welcome!**”, John Lovell joined a distinguished panel of experts to delve into the intersection of artificial intelligence, data usage, and educational standards. AI is no longer just a buzzword—it is a transformative force reshaping how standards evolve and operate.

Key topics explored included:

- **AI Tools for Standards:** Highlighted the latest AI technologies redefin-

ing the standards space and their practical applications.

- **Integration with Standards:** Examined how standards can adapt and evolve alongside rapid AI advancements.

Alongside Marc Booker (University of Phoenix), Anne Valentine (DegreeData), and Alex Jackl, this session reinforced the importance of leveraging AI responsibly to enhance educational outcomes.

Why This Matters

The Joint Venture Agreement between A4L and PESC is more than a partnership—it is a call to action for the entire educational data standards community. By uniting efforts, these two organizations are breaking down silos and building bridges to a more integrated, collaborative future.

Whether through initiatives like **Data Standards United** or cutting-edge explorations of AI, A4L continues to lead the charge in fostering innovation and collaboration. Together, we are stronger. Together, we shape the future of education.

This collaboration not only improves interoperability and security but also ensures that data systems are designed to adapt to future innovations, meeting the needs of an ever-evolving educational landscape.

Be Part of the Movement

How can your organization contribute to this unified vision? Begin by joining A4L and/or PESC, and become an active participant in shaping the future. **Together, we can create lasting change that benefits learners and institutions everywhere.**

Community Project Team Updates

ASSOCIATION

Association Board of Directors: The Board continues to meet monthly with a full agenda. In recent months the board has discussed and considered many issues including but not limited to: Strategic investment in A4L to support continued growth; contract approvals; AU Data Model; Infrastructure Community Review; and overall monitoring of A4L's progress towards this year's strategic targets.

Policy & Procedures: This group are currently focused on updating policies for the Community.

INTERNATIONAL

International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG): The ITP-LG is in the midst of carrying SIF Infrastructure Implementation Specification 3.7 to final approval. See *'Coming Soon'* on [page 6](#) for more details!

Data Privacy: This project team is overseeing two sub projects: Development of Privacy Training & Certification curriculum for both vendors and educators; and a POD Proof of Concept project. Both of these projects are making positive movement forward.

Global Education Security Standards (GESS) Project Team: The GESS project team is focused on strategies to build awareness and promote adoption. The project team is always looking for new members to contribute. If you have an interest in EdTech security benchmarks requirements please consider joining this project team.

Infrastructure: The Infrastructure team has already shifted to looking towards the future. Having no backlog of features or issues, the team hopes

to highlight the capabilities of the specification through stronger documentation and white papers.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project Team: The AI Team is excited to help the North American effort to map SIF Unity to CEDS more fully and accurately using AI based tools. We expect this effort to only build our relationship with CEDS as we collaborate and align.

Vendor: The group recently reconvened their meeting (every other month), providing a forum for Vendors to get together and discuss any issues and/or questions.

AUSTRALIA

AU Leadership Group (AU-LG): The AU Management Board continue discussions on AU activities.

AU Technical Project Team: The AU Technical Board continue to discuss proposed updates to SIF Implementation Specification (AU).

NORTH AMERICA

North American Leadership Group (NA-LG): The NA-LG continues to meet monthly with a full agenda. In recent months the Leadership Group has discussed and considered many issues including but not limited to: establishing a new NDPA Project Team; and monitoring the work of all other project teams.

North American Technical Advisory Committee (NA-TAC): With a SIF Unity release slated for next year, NA-TAC is carefully considering all the ways it can ensure quality going forward. The first step is utilizing the full AI generated example objects, so that unintended changes in the schemas can be detected automatically.

CEDS Alignment: Our CEDS alignment work is currently being done by our Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project Team with humans to provide oversight expected from the State Requests team. If you would like to be involved with this work, please contact our Technology Director John W. Lovell.

State Requests: This group is excited to dig into the reporting guidance provided by CEDS (see [page 9](#)) and ensure that SIF Unity can meet the needs of states for years to come.

Unity Adoption: The Unity Adoption team helped organize and host our convening of state leaders to discuss Unity implementation. This provided us with many topics to discuss and success to share in the new year. See [page 1](#) for more information.

NDPA: This group has been reviewing NDPA V2 modification requests to determine what non-substantive edits may be included in a V2.1 release.

SDPC Alliance Leadership: The Alliance Leadership group continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss any issues and questions that arise for Alliance Admins.

SDPC Resource Registry Roadmap (R3): This group has determined that all enhancement requests for the current Registry will be halted pending the implementation of the Registry 2.0. Enhancement requests will still be accepted but put into a queue for the Registry 2.0



News from the North American Community

Empowering Federal Reporting: Your Input is Needed for the Proposed EDFacts Information Collection Package!

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

The opportunity to shape the future of federal reporting is here! The proposed EDFacts Information Collection Package for school years 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 is now open for public review and comment. This essential work, announced on the Federal Register, is a critical step in ensuring SIF Unity continues to empower federal reporting and meets the evolving needs of our education system.

What's in the Package?

This package, available on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), provides a comprehensive look at the data collected on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). It includes performance data for pre-kindergarten through grade 12, covering students, schools, staff, services, and educational outcomes. This data is sourced from states, territories, and educational entities like the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

With over 170 data groups, the proposed package outlines current and new data requirements, changes to existing collections, and deletions. Key components include:

- Attachment A: Data Groups and Categories – A sortable and filterable list of all data to be collected.
- Attachment B: Overview – Infor-

mation on how data are associated with schools and districts.

- Attachment C-1 and C-2: Metadata Collections – Details on general metadata and IDEA Part B metadata.
- Attachment D: Directed Questions – Areas the ED is seeking specific input on.
- Attachment E: IDEA Part C 618 Inclusion – Incorporation of IDEA Part C data collections into EDFacts.
- Supporting Statements A & B – Justification and methodology details.

Why Your Participation Matters

Our State Requests Project Team relies heavily on this foundational work to align SIF Unity with the needs of federal reporting. Your comments will help ensure the data collection package is comprehensive, effective, and practical for the wide range of stakeholders involved. By participating, you'll play a vital role in shaping tools that empower education at all levels.

How to Get Involved

The public comment period closes on January 27, 2025. To submit your comments:

1. Visit [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

2. Select "Docket Documents."
3. Navigate to "Forms and Instruments" and "Supporting Statements" for package documents posted on November 27, 2024.
4. Submit your feedback electronically through the website.

Additionally, an EDFacts Virtual Data Webinar is scheduled for December. This session will guide participants on where to find the package, what it includes, how to navigate the details, and how to effectively provide comments.

Share and Collaborate

We encourage you to share this opportunity widely within your state—reach out to state superintendents, program offices, and local education agencies. Together, we can ensure that this critical work meets the highest standards and continues to support impactful educational outcomes.

Don't miss your chance to make your voice heard.

Let's work together to keep SIF Unity a cornerstone for streamlined, effective federal reporting!

News from the Student Data Privacy Consortium

Keep an eye on the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act (KOSPA) before the end of the year

By David Sallay, Director of Data Privacy

At the start of December, a [new draft](#) of the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act (KOSPA) was released along with a [letter from several senators](#) urging the House to pass what would be the first significant kids safety and privacy bill since COPPA in 1998. For those who have not been following this proposal in Congress, here is some quick background, including what passage might mean for schools.

Quick background

KOSPA takes two previously separate proposals related to children's online safety and privacy and combines them into one package. The first of these, the Kids Online Safety Act, focuses on ensuring that social media and other tech companies where children and teens spend their time exercise a duty of care when designing online experiences while also providing parents and teens with better transparency and more controls over safety and privacy. The second bill, COPPA 2.0, builds on the familiar COPPA requirements by raising the age of covered users from under 13 to minors under 17 while also requiring that companies make it easier for parents and teens to delete information about their children online.

Despite bipartisan support, the bills have faced significant scrutiny, largely due to components that deal with content moderation, which likely falls under first amendment free speech pro-

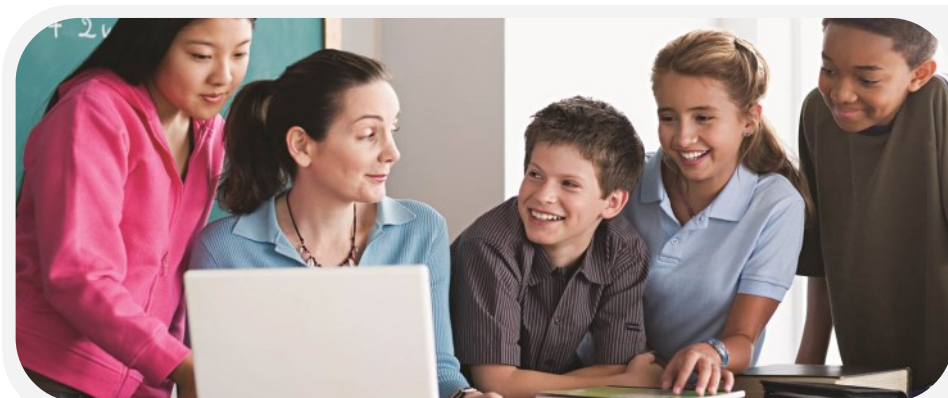
tections. KOSPA passed the Senate over the summer, so for those who remember their Schoolhouse Rock, this means the bills only need to pass in the House before being sent to the president for signature.

What would KOSPA mean for schools in my Alliance?

One of the key issues with any proposal like this is how Congress may have one type of technology in mind, like social media, but write the bill broadly enough to encompass other sectors, like edtech, where more nuance is needed; otherwise, parents could be given the ability to modify privacy controls set by the district or delete information from education records. The current version of the bill includes an exception where these privacy and safety controls would be given to the school—not the parent—provided that the edtech provider is acting on the school's behalf and subject to a contract that complies with

both COPPA and FERPA. Furthermore, the COPPA 2.0 portion would formalize [long-standing guidance from the FTC](#) that so long as an operator is acting within the educational context and subject to a contract, the school may act on the parent's behalf.

Many of the SDPC's initiatives from this past year should put your alliance ahead of the game should this bill pass and especially once the FTC finalizes amending the COPPA [rules to clarify requirements in schools](#). Other privacy validators may only review the edtech company's public privacy policy, whereas the SDPC's NDPA clearly addresses the requirement for a contract mentioned in KOSPA.



Community Meetings Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Staff Liaison</u>
ASSOCIATION			
<i>meetings are based on US Eastern time zone</i>			
Wednesday	2nd Weds, monthly	Association Board of Directors	Steve Smith
Tuesday	4 th Tues, monthly	Policy & Procedures	Penny Murray
INTERNATIONAL			
<i>meetings are based on US Eastern time zone</i>			
Tuesday	2 nd Tues, monthly	Data Privacy	Penny Murray
Wednesday	Every 2 weeks	Infrastructure	John Lovell
Wednesday	Every 2 weeks	Artificial Intelligence Project Team	John Lovell
Thursday	Every 4 weeks	International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group	John Lovell
Thursday	4th Thurs, monthly	Global Education Security Standards (GESS)	Steve Smith
Thursday	2nd Thurs, bi-monthly	Vendor Project Team	Penny Murray
NORTH AMERICA			
<i>meetings are based on US Eastern time zone</i>			
Monday	Every 2 weeks	State Requests	John Lovell
Tuesday	1 st & 3 rd Tues, monthly	Unity Adoption	John Lovell
Tuesday	1 st Tues, monthly	SDPC Resource Registry Roadmap (R3) Project Team	Penny Murray
Wednesday	3rd Weds, monthly	NA Leadership Group	Steve Smith
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	SDPC Alliance Leadership	Penny Murray
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	NA Technical Advisory Committee (NA-TAC)	John Lovell
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	NDPA Project Team	Penny Murray

Connect with us!

Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community



Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC)



About the Access 4 Learning Community

The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community, and its special interest group the Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC), is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of schools, districts, local authorities, states, US and International Ministries of Education, software vendors and consultants. The Community is “Powered by SIF” as its major technical tool to help manage learning data simply, securely and in a scalable, standard way regardless of platform. The SDPC is designed to address the day-to-day, real-world multi-faceted issues faced when protecting learner information by setting common expectations between market providers and end users. The A4L Community has united these education technology end users and providers in an unprecedented effort to **“connect and secure effective learning ecosystems”** to give teachers more time to do what they do best: teach. For further information, visit <https://www.A4L.org>

Contact Us



Steve Smith
Executive Director

Provides direction and leadership toward the achievement of the organization’s philosophy, mission, strategy, and its annual goals and objectives. Support includes; Board Administration and Support, Program and Service Delivery, Financial and Human Resource Management, Community Relations and Fundraising. ✉ ssmith@A4L.org



John Lovell
Technology Director

Provides technical leadership and as the primary resource for all things technical – from internal IT support to driving the global community efforts state-wide, nationally and internationally focused on both technical specification development and privacy support. ✉ jlovell@A4L.org



Penny Murray
Community Director

Provides leadership and ownership over providing “value-add” for members and potential members of the Association. This position gauges all aspects of member services including communications, marketing, support member working activities, organizational meetings and strategic partnerships to ensure initiative success. ✉ pmurray@A4L.org



David Sallay
Director of Data Privacy

Provides advice on the implications of student privacy regulations to schools and vendors, identifying emerging trends, and managing and expanding the SDPC’s data privacy agreements; contributes to the sustainability of the A4L community, building relationships with school districts, technology providers, and policymakers to strengthen and promote A4L and SDPC’s privacy initiatives. ✉ dsallay@A4L.org



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