



June 2024

## Positive momentum

by Steve Smith—Executive Director, A4L Community

I hope the 2024/25 school year was successful and rewarding for you all!

Although the A4L Community has gone through a lot of changes over the last year, there is a great deal of positive momentum. We have many new members stepping up to leadership positions, our overall membership continues to grow and the Association Board has adopted new strategic goals, actions and targets that will drive our work for the year to come.

There is a lot to look forward to in the coming year:

- ◇ The Registry 2.0 development is ongoing. Soon we will be releasing a project status page where you can keep track of the progress.
- ◇ SIF Unity Certification is being developed with lots of excitement about renewed interest in SIF Unity and the SIF Infrastructure by US States to support their centralized data collections.

- ◇ The Global Education Security Standard (GESS) is gaining lots of attention as we strive to normalize cyber security controls for all EdTech vendors across North America, Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Soon you may see calls to action to join a project team or committee. As a Community we are stronger together. I encourage you all to join in the community work and get involved. The more involved you are, the more you will gain in return.

Enjoy your school break, whether it is summer or winter where you are!

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# Welcome new members!



Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology (ALET)



Elite Academic Academy, CA



Grade Corner



Leominster Public Schools, MA



Magpie Literacy



Open Architects



Pragmatica Law



schoolsToday



Scribe



Snap! Mobile



Sonoran Schools, AZ



South St. Paul Public Schools, MN



Varsity Tutors for Schools



Xello Inc.



Zionsville Community Schools, IN

## Scheduled Maintenance

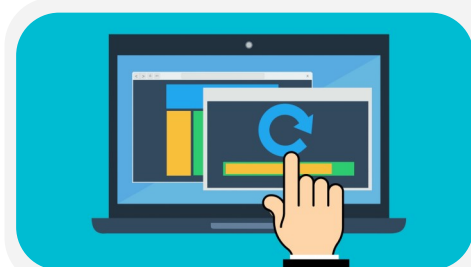
Our regular maintenance schedule is timetabled for the last Friday of each month.

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, June 28 until COB on Sunday, June 30, 2024.

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



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## Global Community News

# Overview: PESC-A4L Summit (A4L Community Annual Meeting)

The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community was proud to host its Annual Meeting jointly with PESC (Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council) in Arlington, VA during April-May 2024.

The Association Board of Directors and International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG) held separate meetings to the main Summit, then came together for a strategic meeting before the main Summit commenced. It was invaluable for these international Community members to meet face-to-face and discuss various issues.

The Summit started early in the afternoon, with a welcome session lead by Steve Smith, A4L Executive Director, followed by PESC updates from David Moldoff, PESC Chair and Ben Silbergliitt & Ramah Hawley, Association Board of Directors Co-Chairs, providing A4L Community updates. These A4L Community updates included announcing the election results for the International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG) and North American Leadership Group (NA-LG) for the



coming terms ([see page 6](#)).

We were delighted to host two keynote speakers on day one — Mark Schneider, Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, US Department of Education; and John Kraman, Chief Information Officer, Mississippi Department of Education discussing 'Laying the Foundation: What have we learned over the past 25 years?' and 'Modernization Through Standards

and Simplification' respectively. Between the two keynotes, the group split into two breakout sessions, one focussed on ED Facts, CEDS and the P20W+ Col Reference Architecture (led by Public Consulting Group, AEM & CedarLabs) and the other group focusing on AI & COPPA: Statutory Analysis and Contract Drafting (led by Mark Williams, F3 Law and Jim Siegl, Future of Privacy Forum).

Day one concluded with our 'Social Networking Evening' providing attendees with a chance to meet each other in an informal setting and continue the discussions from the day!

Day two was packed with 18 separate sessions through the day, starting with our final keynote speakers—Steve Wheat & Ted Rounsaville, McKinsey &

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## Overview: PESCA4L Summit

(Continued from page 3)



Company—presenting ‘Standards Enable Learning Journeys at Scale’. This was followed by many different breakout sessions covering K12, privacy, higher-ed, and pK20W+, including safeguarding student data; Teacher Talent Pipeline; Credentials across Lifelong Learning, an overview of the National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA), version 2; A Comprehensive Approach to Student Data Privacy: Lessons from Utah; exploring the SIF Infrastructure for postsecondary and workforce; Using a reference architecture to connect standards and build a comprehensive data modernization plan; embracing AI; enhancing ethical reviews for Research projects; meeting the needs of postsecondary student data privacy; Spooked By Apps; An overview of the Virginia Project using SIF Unity Specification; fostering re-



sponsible use of AI; and improving

international document exchange to name a few!

Day three, started with group breakout sessions on GESS; Federal & student privacy law updates; SDPC Alliance Best Practices; data sharing with Community Partners; and transforming transcript delivery with JSON and JSON-LD. The attendees then came back together as a group for a panel discussion on ‘The Future of Privacy & Security’, conducted by Alex Jackl, Bardic Systems; Jim Siegl, Future of Privacy Forum; Brian Rowse, ParentSquare; and Jennifer Thorpe, University of Missouri, followed by closing statements from Steve Smith & David Moldoff.

We were also delighted to host the [K12 Tech Talk Podcast](#), which provided a unique perspective on the summit and its impact on K-12 ed tech. If you missed the summit or just want a recap, it can be accessed on most Podcast services.

A big thank you goes out to our Presenters for their guidance, enthusiasm and leadership; AND a big thank you to all the attendees for your enthusiasm, involvement and commitment to the Community. Without all of this, the Community would not be making the progress we currently see.

**We hope you can join us at our Annual Meeting in 2025!** (dates/venue to be confirmed)

Any finally, if you are a member, don't forget to sign-up to any/all Project Teams (via the Community Site) and get involved!

The presentations from this event can be found in our [Presentation Archive](#).

## Thank you to our Sponsors

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# A4L Community Announces Major Milestones

## PRESS RELEASE: A4L Community Announces Major Milestones

Washington, DC, 9 May 2024 — Last week the Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community held its Annual Summit in Arlington VA, in collaboration with the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and HR Open Standards Consortium. The joint Summit demonstrated the standards body's vision to collaborate and work together with other standards groups, towards the ultimate goal of improving interoperability, privacy and security for lifelong learning.

During the Summit, the A4L Community announced 4 major milestones:

- SIF adoption by state educational agencies continues to grow with the announcement of two new statewide SIF Unity implementation projects. The state of Virginia is rolling out an implementation of the SIF 'Unity' Specification to facilitate statewide student ID assignment. Also, the state of Maine has announced plans to leverage the SIF Specification for their statewide student data gathering. The implementation of the SIF standard in Maine is expected to streamline and automate the Maine Department of Education's data reporting requirements from all Local Education Agencies (LEAs), saving countless staff hours, as well as ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the data reporting process.
- The release of the National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA), version 2. This was the culmination of nearly two years of collaboration between local and state education agencies and marketplace providers. The result is a highly anticipated NDPA v2 that further streamlines the EdTech onboarding pro-

cess across the marketplace. Building upon the NDPA v1, version 2 addresses common edits and pain points experienced in the 4 years that version 1 had been in use. Over the next several months the NDPA v2 will be adopted and put into practice by A4L Community members.

- The kick-off of the Student Data Privacy Consortium's (SDPC) Resource Registry redevelopment. The 'Registry 2.0' project is expected to take approximately 18 months to build a new and improved SDPC Resource Registry for all A4L Community members. The 'Registry 2.0' is expected to provide a more user-friendly interface, streamlined workflows and enhanced functionality to further facilitate the execution and management of data privacy agreements (DPAs). Today the SDPC Resource Registry contains over 130,000 DPAs representing over 12,000 local education agencies.
- Lastly, the A4L Community announced the development of a FREE and confidential self-assessment for all EdTech providers in meeting the Global Education Security Standard (GESS) controls. The self-assessment will be made available to any marketplace provider that would like to begin aligning with the GESS controls, which are a crosswalk of existing controls in various cybersecurity frameworks. The intention is to provide a superset of controls that are applicable across and meet the minimum control sets in all jurisdictions. Much like how the SDPC brought the marketplace together on privacy legal obligations, GESS is

expected to do the same for security controls.

The A4L Annual Summit was also captured by the [K12 Tech Talk Podcast](#), a unique perspective on the summit and its impact on K-12 ed tech. If you missed the summit or just want a recap, it can be accessed on most Podcast services.

Find out more:

- ◇ SIF 'Unity' Specification - <https://data.a4l.org/sif-specifications-north-america/>
- ◇ National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA), v2 - <https://privacy.a4l.org/national-dpa/>
- ◇ Global Education Security Standard (GESS) - <https://sdpc.a4l.org/gess/>
- ◇ A4L Community membership - <https://home.a4l.org/join-the-community/>
- ◇ K12 Tech Talk Podcast - <https://k12techtalkpodcast.com/e/episode-165-data-privacy-interoperability-at-the-pesc-a4l-summit/>



[View the press release >>](#)

# A4L Community Announces International & North American Leadership for 2024

*PRESS RELEASE: A4L Community Announces International & North American Leadership for 2024*

Washington, DC, 1 May 2024— The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community is proud to announce the International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group 'At-Large' and North American Leadership Group for 2024. The Leadership Groups bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in education, data management, privacy, security, and business acumen. The Leadership Groups will oversee management of the SIF Specification and the Student Data Privacy Consortium as well as contribute to the development of strategies for the global Community, with the North American Leadership Group also guiding development of the A4L Community in North America.

Community members elected to serve as 'At-Large' members on the 2024 International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG) for a two-year term are:

- Joerg Huber, Systemic Pty Ltd
- Heather Mahoney, Mohawk Regional Information Center
- Roger Petersen, Iowa Department of Education
- Neal Richardson, Richardson Cybersecurity

Community members elected to serve on the 2024 North American Leadership Group (NA-LG) for a two-year term are:

- Connie Coy, MOREnet
- Louise DeCandia, New York State Department of Education
- Patrick Devanney, Classlink
- Ramah Hawley, The Education Cooperative
- Tim McIlvain, Learning Technology Center of Illinois
- Josh Olstad, Oyster River School District
- Ben Silbergliitt, CedarLabs
- Jeff Simons, WSIPC

Due to the level of interest in serving on the North American Leadership Group, the following candidates are invited to serve a one-year term:

- Patrick Bennett, Incident IQ
- Alex Jackl, Bardic Systems
- Jim McGlynn, Public Consulting Group
- Dawn Schiavone, NWOCA
- Wes Sims, Snap! Mobile

These join fellow A4L Community members who will serve the second of their 2-year term on the North American Leadership Group:

- Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education
- Jennifer Sauro, Infinite Campus

"I am delighted to welcome this incredible set of educational marketplace leaders who are actively involved in supporting education data management, privacy and security, to the North American Leadership Group and International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group for this coming term," states Steve Smith, Executive Director, A4L Community. "It is very encouraging to have such a strong interest from our Community Members in serving on a Leadership Group for the Community. With the wealth of experience on these Leadership Groups we look forward to developing our collective vision in 'Connecting and Securing an Effective Learning Ecosystems'™ across the country and the entire global Community."



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# AI Integration: Transforming Data Management and Support with Advanced Technologies

by John Lovell, Technology Director

The A4L Community is on the cutting edge of innovation, and we are excited to announce a significant new initiative to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into our workflows. By combining the efforts of our Data Model Migration & Mapping (D3M) team with the Open Source Developers Network (OSDN), we are set to revolutionize our existing areas of work and drive unprecedented advancements in educational data management.

## *Leveraging AI for Enhanced Specifications and Testing*

Our first major project under this initiative focuses on utilizing AI to generate example data that empowers better specifications and more intuitive testing processes. By leveraging A4L's existing investment in AI-driven data generation, we aim to provide more precise and effective tools for our community. This will not only improve the accuracy of our specifications but also ensure a smoother and more efficient testing process. We are committed to spreading the good news of these advancements to the entire A4L Community and beyond, highlighting the transformative potential of AI in education technology.

## *Creating an AI Knowledge Base for Quick and Accurate Support*

Another key area of focus is the development of an AI knowledge base that incorporates the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) specifications. This AI-driven knowledge base will enable users to get direct answers to their questions quickly and accurately, significantly enhancing our support capabilities. By integrating AI into our knowledge management processes, we aim to provide instant, reliable assistance to all members of the A4L Community, ensuring that your needs are met promptly and efficiently.

## *Mapping Between Standards with AI*

In addition, we are embarking on a project to map between different educational data standards, starting with SIF Unity and the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS). This AI-powered mapping initiative will facilitate seamless interoperability between these standards, simplifying data management and reporting processes for educational institutions. By creating automated, accurate mappings, we aim to reduce the complexity and

effort involved in aligning different standards, enabling smoother data integration and utilization.

## *Join the AI Revolution*

We believe that the integration of AI into our workflows will bring about a new era of efficiency, accuracy, and support for the A4L Community. To make this vision a reality, we need your active participation and engagement. Whether you are involved in data management, reporting, or support, your insights and contributions are invaluable to our success.

If you are interested in working side-by-side with some of the most active and innovative members of the A4L Community on these AI initiatives, please reach out to our Technology Director, [John W. Lovell](#). Your involvement is crucial as we embark on this exciting journey to transform educational data management through AI.

Together, let's harness the power of AI to drive progress and innovation in education technology. Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for your continued support and dedication to the A4L Community.

## The Community Needs YOU!

As a membership organization, there are two key components to our survival ...

- the **income** generated by membership dues (our only source of funding) which enable us to develop our Specifications, enhance the SDPC Resource Registry, and provide additional tools and resources for our members

PLUS, and most important...

- our league of **volunteers!** Without member engagement and participation in our locale & global Project Teams, Management Boards and Technical Boards we would not function.

So, as we enter a new school year, please assess your participation and

consider joining one of the many Project Teams **that need YOU!** Further details of current group activities can be found on [page 9](#).

If you are not sure where to get 'plugged in', feel free to drop our Community Director, [Penny Murray](#) an email—we'd be happy to help!

# Collaborative Leadership: PESC and Partners Drive JSON-LD Advancements

by John Lovell, Technology Director

The A4L Community is excited to spotlight the groundbreaking efforts of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and their close collaboration with partners as they lead the charge in defining and implementing JSON-LD standards. PESC's JSON-LD Task Force has been at the forefront of this initiative, establishing comprehensive guidelines and tools that are set to revolutionize data interoperability and validation across the education sector.

## *Innovative Components of the JSON-LD Standard*

The PESC JSON-LD Task Force has meticulously developed a suite of resources to ensure robust and efficient data management, including:

- **Application Profile:** This foundational element, created as a spreadsheet workbook, serves as a cornerstone for automation. By leveraging this profile, other workgroup deliverables or their initial frameworks can be efficiently generated, streamlining the development process.
- **Context File:** One of the standout features of the JSON-LD standard is the Context File. This not only provides the necessary typing but also enhances human readability and developer friendliness. By clearly outlining the structure and semantics of the data, the Context File simplifies the process of understanding and working with JSON-LD, making it more accessible to developers and stakeholders.
- **SHACL Specification:** SHACL (Shapes Constraint Language) is a powerful specification used to validate JSON-LD instance documents. SHACL enables the definition of

rules and constraints that JSON-LD data must adhere to, ensuring data quality and consistency. This process is crucial for maintaining the integrity of data exchanges and ensuring seamless interoperability between systems.

- **JSON-LD Examples:** JSON-LD example instance documents are invaluable for both education and testing. These documents provide clear, practical examples of how JSON-LD data should be structured. By covering all classes and properties, these examples serve as essential references for developers and stakeholders, illustrating correct usage and helping to identify potential issues. Providing comprehensive instance documents ensures that everyone involved has a clear understanding of the standards and can effectively apply them in real-world scenarios.
- **JSON Schema:** The JSON Schema defines structural validation rules that go beyond those required by the JSON-LD graph, ensuring data integrity and consistency. By establishing a standardized format for data transmission, the JSON Schema promotes seamless interoperability between different systems. This standardization not only mitigates the risk of inconsistencies and compatibility issues but also enhances the predictability of the resulting structure, object, or payload. For both machines and developers, this predictability means accessing the data they are interested in becomes straightforward and reliable. Developers can trust that the data will conform to expected patterns, simplifying the process of building and maintaining applications that interact with

JSON-LD data.

- **Implementation Guide:** The Implementation Guide is a crucial resource for anyone building software that complies with the JSON-LD standard. It serves as the human-readable source of guidance, offering detailed explanations of each class and property within the JSON-LD framework. Specific to use cases like transcripts, the Implementation Guide provides developers with the necessary context and instructions to create compliant software, ensuring that all aspects of the JSON-LD standard are correctly implemented. This guide is essential for facilitating understanding and practical application, making it easier for developers to build robust and interoperable systems.

## *Pioneering Use Case: The JSON-LD Transcript Work Group*

The JSON-LD Transcript Work Group is spearheading the first use case to integrate these technologies into a cohesive standard. This initiative not only showcases the practical application of the developed tools and specifications but also sets a precedent for future projects. By bringing together various components of the JSON-LD framework, this use case demonstrates the potential for creating meaningful and standardized data exchanges within the education sector.

PESC's leadership in advancing JSON-LD standards, in collaboration with other key partners, is a testament to their commitment to innovation and excellence in education technology. The A4L Community is proud to support and collaborate with PESC on this transformative journey.

# Community Project Team Updates

## ASSOCIATION

**Association Board of Directors:** The Association Board of Directors continue to ensure the sound strategic and financial direction of the Community.

**Policy & Procedures:** This group are currently focused on updating the Specification Development processes for the Community.

## INTERNATIONAL

**International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG):** The ITP-LG has moved smoothly into its new role nominating its first representative to the Association Board of directors and approving project charters.

**Data Model, Mapping & Migration (D3M):** The D3M is considering an identity change see *AI Integration: Transforming Data Management and Support with Advanced Technologies* on [page 7](#) for more details.

**Data Privacy:** This team, focused on combining privacy with interoperability, is seeing a critical mass of participation at each of its meetings and is having increasingly meaningful conversations around the future of privacy in our space and more projects piloting the Privacy Obligation Document (POD).

**Global Education Security Standards (GESS) Project Team:** See [page 12](#) for update.

**Infrastructure:** The Infrastructure Team has kicked off the process to take the work we have done over the last year and turn it into the SIF Infrastructure Specification 3.7.

**Open Source Developers Network**

**(OSDN):** With the work of the OSDN increasingly aligning with the D3M and the opportunity to look at all the areas these two groups do through an AI lens, the OSDN is considering joining this enhanced effort. See *AI Integration* on [page 7](#) for more details.

**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 are discussing updates on AU activities.

**AU Technical Project Team:** The AU Technical Board are continuing their discussions on proposed updates to SIF Implementation Specification (AU).

## NORTH AMERICA

**North American Leadership Group (NA-LG):** This group are discussing updates on NA activities, and will shortly begin overseeing progress on the Strategic Goals set for the NA Community.

**North American Technical Advisory Committee (NA-TAC):** NA-TAC is in the process of chartering as an international (through the ITP-LG) and local (through the NALG) project team. This dual status is important so the development of SIF Unity is transparent to the entire community.

**States helping States:** This group is currently 'on pause'.

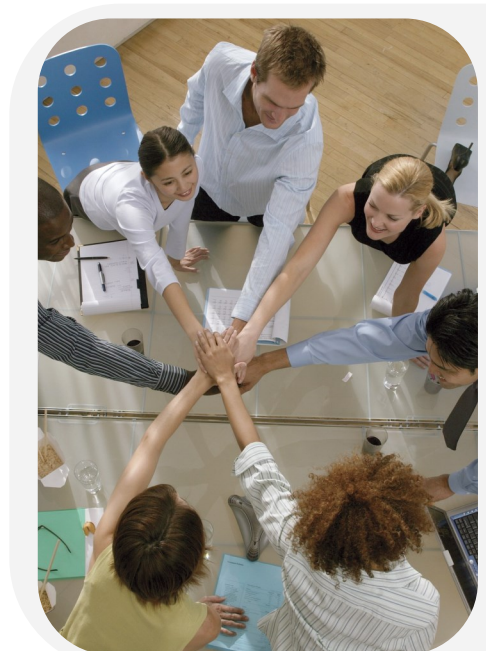
**State Requests:** See *"CEDS Alignment and State Requests join forces on updated EDFacts mapping"* on [page 10](#) for the exciting times this project team is living in.

**Unity Adoption:** While still immediately focused on supporting the project in Virginia, the Unity Adoption team has some exciting future projects on our project charter and will be looking to expand the group in the not too distant future!

**Legal:** This group is currently 'on pause'.

**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 continues to review SDPC Resource Registry performance enhancement suggestions for the Registry.



## News from the North American Community

### CEDS Alignment and State Requests join forces on updated ED Facts mapping

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the imminent need to update our ED Facts mapping to align with the recent changes published in the federal register. We are excited to announce that this critical work is now underway, and we have made significant strides towards our goal.

Following the recent elections, we have taken a proactive step by officially merging our CEDS Alignment Project Team with our State Requests Project Team. This unified effort is aimed at addressing the extensive updates required for ED Facts reporting, ensuring that our processes remain compliant and efficient.

The combined expertise of these teams positions us to tackle the complexities of the new ED Facts requirements effectively. Our focus is on providing seamless integration between the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) and our SIF Unity solutions, facilitating accurate and

streamlined federal reporting.

Key initiatives currently in progress include:

- **Mapping Updates:** We are diligently working to incorporate the changes from the latest CEDS release into our existing mapping framework. This involves a thorough review and adjustment of data elements to ensure compatibility with the updated ED Facts specifications.
- **Collaboration with SIF States:** We are collaborating closely with some of the most active SIF states to pilot these updates. This partnership allows us to gather valuable feedback and make necessary refinements, ensuring that the final product meets the diverse needs of our users.
- **Community Engagement:** Active participation from the A4L Community is crucial during this period of transition. We encourage all mem-

bers involved in ED Facts reporting to engage with our teams, share insights, and stay informed about the latest developments.

As we move forward, our priority is to maintain transparency and open communication with all stakeholders. Regular updates will be provided through our newsletters and community forums, keeping everyone informed about our progress and any upcoming changes.

For those looking to get involved or seeking more information, please reach out to our Technology Director, [John W. Lovell](#). Your input and collaboration are invaluable as we work together to navigate these changes and continue to uphold the integrity of educational data management.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for your continued support and engagement in this important endeavor.

### The Community Needs YOU!

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If you are not sure where to get 'plugged in', feel free to drop our Community Director, [Penny Murray](#) an email—we'd be happy to help!

## News from the Student Data Privacy Consortium

# SDPC Announce the release of the National Data Privacy Agreement, version 2

*PRESS RELEASE: Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) Announce The Release Of The National Data Privacy Agreement, version 2*

Washington, DC, 24 April, 2024 – The Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC), a special interest group of the non-profit Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community, is proud to announce the release of the National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA), version 2, which has been further developed to streamline application contracting and set common expectations between schools/districts and marketplace providers.

Currently, the freely accessible SDPC Resource Registry hosts over 130,000+ signed Data Privacy Agreements (DPAs) between more than 12,000 schools/districts and 6674 education application providers. This NDPA has been developed by the 28 state Alliances addressing common obligations across the U.S. as well as their specific state needs. The version 2 release incorporates feedback from Alliance leaders and Vendor Community Members, and has been reviewed by legal representatives through A4L Community Member Review. It is designed to address common student data privacy concerns and streamline the educational application contracting processes for schools/districts who do not have the legal or fiscal resources and vendors who previously had to sign “one off” contracts with each of the over 13,000 US school districts. While the NDPA allows for any state specific legislative requirements, the majority of the privacy expectations are stand-

ardized and can be used by any entity as part of their Terms of Service Agreements.

“The NDPA v2 represents the byproduct of hundreds of hours of thoughtful input from the SDPC Vendor and Alliance community. The goal was to clarify the language, and balance substantive changes and create a structure that makes the NDPA easier to use. The result is a new NDPA, and updated usage guide, that will save time and money for schools, districts, and edtech companies, ultimately benefiting students by allowing schools and districts to allocate more resources to learning and less to negotiating.” Jim Siegl, Senior Technologist, Future of Privacy Forum.

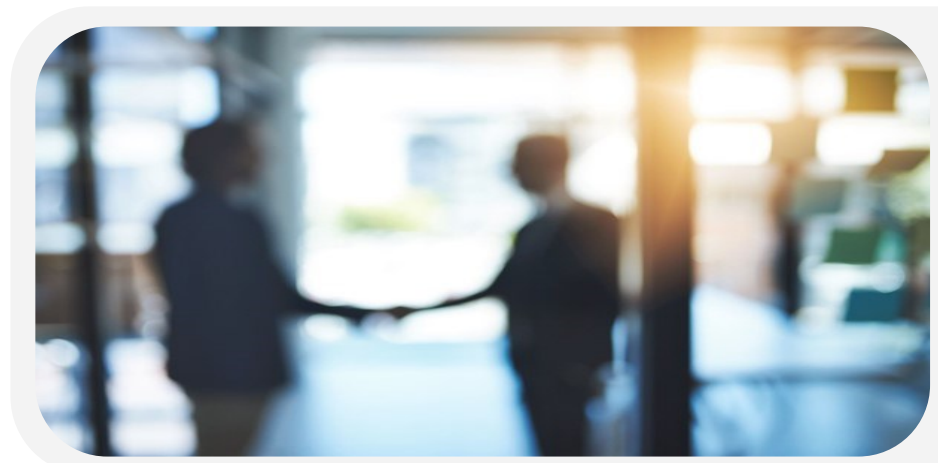
“The community input and support during this process was incredible. Many, many people from districts,

alliances, non-profits and vendors provided hundreds of thoughtful and usable comments. The new version is organized better for our users and their legal advisers, which is going to save a ton of time in both new contracting and ongoing management. I’m especially excited for process changes that’ll make life easier for our vendors doing business in multiple states. And as Jim said, we’ll all be able to put more of our effort to learning and less to negotiating.” Steve Setzer, CEO, Loop Data.

To access the work of the SDPC, including the SDPC Resource Registry, visit <https://privacy.A4L.org>

[View the Press Release >>](#)

[View the National Data Privacy Agreement \(NDPA\), version 2 >>](#)



## UPDATE: Registry 2.0

Development work on the Registry 2.0 has begun.

We will be launching a project status web page very soon; watch for that announcement!

Meanwhile, multiple teams of A4L Staff and SDPC Resource Registry users are meeting regularly with the development team to ensure a smooth kick-off to the development work.

## UPDATE: Global Education Security Standard (GESS)

The Global Education Security Standard (GESS) Project Team is actively working to complete two major tasks; reorganizing the GESS controls and developing the initial self assessment.

Both of these tasks are targeted to be completed in July. We will be looking for marketplace providers to beta test and provide feedback on the initial self assessment. Please watch for this announcement.

In the meantime we are always looking for additional project team members. To get involved, please 'Join' the group via the [GESS Group Page](#) on the A4L Community Site.



## Enhanced Exhibit E Creator: Tips for Searching

*Reproduced with kind permission from The Education Co-operative (TEC).*

There have been some recent changes concerning searching within the Exhibit E Creator. Here are some additional tips, empowering you to make the most of the search process.

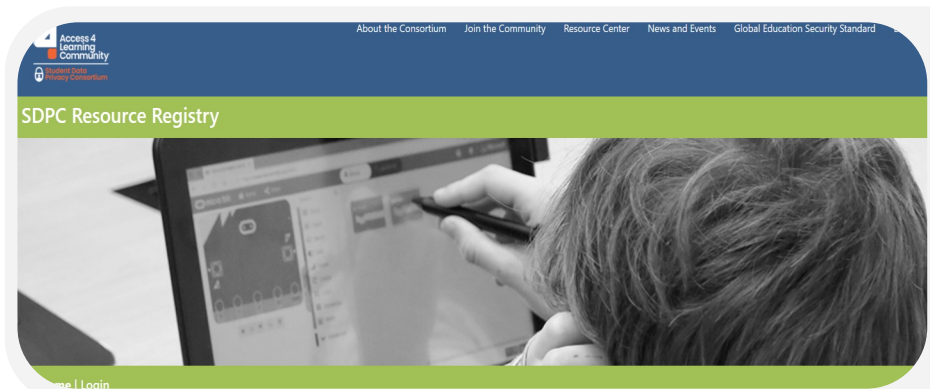
- Searches are not case-sensitive.
- A search string must be three characters or more.
- You must now be specific when searching for a resource in the Exhibit E Creator. Please make sure that you have the correct name and that it is spelled correctly.
- For resource names with multiple words, it's best to use double quotation marks. This will help narrow down your search and reduce the

number of irrelevant results. While it may still work without the quotation marks, you might end up sifting through other product names.

- You can search for just the words that you do know by attaching a plus sign (+) directly on each word (i.e., +Accessible +Learning)

OR

- If unsure, you can also truncate a search term by using an asterisk at the end of a word, typically a root word, to provide you with all possible variations. (i.e., educat\* (educate, education, educational, etc.)



# Community Meetings Schedule

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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