

Access⁴

March 2024

So much positive energy...

Foreword by Steve Smith, Executive Director

Happy Spring, except for our Australian and New Zealand members who are marching towards Fall!

It has been a very exciting and fulfilling first month as full time Executive Director. There is so much positive energy and engaged members it is difficult not to get excited!

There are great new developments both in the SDPC and with SIF. In SDPC work has begun on developing the Registry 2.0! This is a very large project and many of you will be engaged throughout the process. In the end we will be delivering a much more robust and user friendly Resource Registry. Much more to come on this in the near future.

In addition there is renewed excitement about statewide SIF implementations including one that will require SIF Unity certification.

This year's [Annual Summit](#) is shaping up to be an amazing two and a half days of great keynote speakers and sessions. There are a variety of sessions in strands of Interoperability Standards and Privacy crossing both K12 and Higher Ed. The agenda can be found [here](#). We will also be hosting the [K12 Tech Talk Podcast](#) on May 1 which will be an exciting opportunity to share our work more broadly.

We are welcoming Mississippi as our 27th SDPC Alliance, with others soon to follow.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Summit!

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PESC



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Global Community News

A4L Community Elections 2024: Announcement to Membership

PRESS RELEASE: 2024 Elections: Announcement to Membership

The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community has continued to have phenomenal leadership over the past year. The leadership, guidance and overall dedication to the Community prove critical to our collective successes... it is hard to believe that it is time for elections again! **Nominations for the International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group and North American Leadership Group will be available from March 6-28, 2024 (inclusive).**

International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG): The At-Large International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group is elected for a two-year term. There are a maximum of four (4) seats open for At-Large International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group members. At-Large International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group members must represent the interests of the International Project Teams. A4L Community Voting Participant Member institutions (including associated subsidiaries of an A4L Community Voting Participant) may have at most one elected repre-

sentative on this Leadership Group at one time.

You can download the policies and procedures for the ITP-LG Annual Elections as outlined by the Elections Committee on the A4L Community Site [here](#).

North American Leadership Group (NA-LG): The North America Leadership Group is elected for two-year terms. This year there will be seven (7) seats open for the North America Leadership Group. All Association Members or their designee(s) in good standing shall be eligible to serve on any Leadership Group. An A4L Community Voting Participant Member institutions (including associated subsidiaries of an A4L Community Voting Participant) may have at most one representative on this Leadership Group at one time.

PLEASE NOTE: Since the Leadership Groups were created as 'new' groups, tenure and terms were reset upon the creation. Time served previously on the North American Management Board or SDPC Governance Board does not count toward terms on the North America Leadership Group.

You can download the policies and procedures for the NA-LG Annual Elections as outlined by the Elections Committee on the A4L Community Site [here](#).

For the 2024 A4L Community Annual Election process, the following dates apply:

- **February 28, 2024:** Announcement to membership that elections will occur
- **March 6, 2024:** Nominations open
- **March 28, 2024:** Nominations close
- **April 2, 2024:** Elections Committee convenes to confirm ballot
- **April 9, 2024:** Ballot released
- **April 23, 2024:** Voting closes at 5:00 pm Eastern
- **April 25, 2024:** Elections Committee convenes to confirm results
- **April 30, 2024:** Elections results announced during the PESC-A4L Summit

We will use a virtual election tool and all nominations must be submitted electronically. The Primary Business Contact will be the official vote for each A4L Community Voting Participant, unless a designee is provided. Please contact [Penny Murray](#), Community Director, to confirm or change your Primary Business Contact for the 2024 Elections.

Please consider nominating yourself, asking someone to nominate you or nominate someone else to run for one of these leadership positions within the A4L Community!



Welcome new members!



Alachua County Public Schools, FL



Life Lessons Education



Mississippi Department of Education



New York State Education Department



Prodigy Education



Screenbeam, Inc.



Student Provisioning Services

Check those email addresses!



We ask that those of you who remember when the Access 4 Learning Community was known by a different name, to please check the email addresses you are using to communicate with us.

From September 2023, we are winding down our usage of sifassociation.org,

so please make sure that if you are emailing Penny, Lisa, Steve, or John that the address ends in A4L.org.

Please contact [Penny Murray](#), Community Director, if you have any questions.

An exciting year for the Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC)

by Ramah Hawley & Ben Silbergliitt, Co-Chairs of the Association Board of Directors

Q1 of 2024 is proving to be an exciting time for Student Data Privacy Consortium members!

Late last year we initiated our SDPC Resource Registry Stabilization Project, enhancing the performance, speed, and reliability of our existing platform. Most of this work is now complete with final adjustments scheduled to be implemented by March 31. Members have especially appreciated the improved speed of the Auto Exhibit E Creator, now lighting-fast, significantly boosting user productivity.

Simultaneously, we have begun work on envisioning the future of the SDPC Resource Registry. Super-users met together to forecast Alliance needs over the next several years and beyond, imagining features to streamline and automate the process of securing signed DPAs, tools to assist districts in directing data minimization and data deletion efforts, along with resources for managing vendor service agreements. Perhaps we will be able to unveil a completely rebuilt Resource Registry in 18 to 24 months.

The long, hard work on the National Data Privacy Agreement Version 2 (NDPA V2) is coming to an end, and we expect to announce a release date in the coming weeks. NDPA Version 1 was a landmark achievement, bringing together various states and vendors to craft the inaugural National DPA. The insights gathered from use of V1 over the past three-plus years have enabled us to refine V2 and elevate it to a

new level of protection and acceptance.

We're also delighted to welcome our new State Alliances to the SDPC community! New York and Mississippi have joined us in the last few months, elevating our count to 27 State Alliances. Veteran Alliances are rallying to help our new states launch or enhance their Student Data Privacy programs.

We would also like to welcome all our new members in the last quarter to the A4L Community, and would encourage you to reach out should you have any questions.

Lastly, the founder of the Student Data Privacy Consortium, Steve Smith, retired from his role of Chief Technology Officer at the Cambridge Public Schools in Massachusetts, and assumed the position of A4L Executive Director on February 1. We are thrilled to have the "Father of Student Data Privacy" leading our parent organization. With Steve at the helm, we expect SDPC to soar to new heights. We hope that one day we will be helping to safeguard the privacy of every student across every state of the country.

Would you like to be more involved in your SDPC Community?

Please consider attending our A4L Annual Meeting (PESC-A4L Summit) on April 30 to May 2 in Arlington, VA (which includes an important session on "Maximizing Impact, Minimizing Risks: Fostering Responsible Use of AI in Education"), join one of our many project working groups, or nominate yourself for an International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group or North America Leadership Group board position.

It's going to be a great year!

Ramah Hawley & Ben Silbergliitt
Association Board of Directors,
Co-Chairs



A4L Annual Meeting: Come Join Us!

EVENT: PESC-A4L Summit 2024—Laying the Foundation for the Future

DATE: April 30—May 2, 2024
LOCATION: Arlington, VA

Supporting Lifelong Learning through open data standards and protecting data privacy

The theme of **“Laying the Foundation for the Future”** reflects the core values and objectives of both the A4L Community and PESC.

Come join a growing community as we continue to build the foundation to securely move data across pK20W systems, address privacy obligations, meet regulatory compliance, improve transparency practices, identify/monitor security controls, and provide certification. Together, we are shaping the future of data standards in education and making lasting impacts on the lives of students, educators, and educational institutions worldwide.

The PESC-A4L Summit is an innovative event dedicated to advancing lifelong learning through the exploration of open data standards and privacy. ***This unique conference brings together experts, thought leaders, and enthusiasts to delve into the intersection of technology, data, and privacy in the education sector.***

Online registration closes April 1.

REGISTER TODAY!

Thank you to all our Community Members who submitted session proposals for this event, here are just a few of the confirmed presentations:

- ◇ Maximizing Impact, Minimizing Risks: Fostering Responsible Use of AI in Education
- ◇ EdFacts, CEDS, and the P20W+ Col Reference Architecture
- ◇ National Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA) v2 & COPPA
- ◇ Safeguarding Student Data: Navigating Legal, Ethical, and Privacy Implications?
- ◇ Exploring the SIF Infrastructure for Postsecondary and Workforce
- ◇ A Comprehensive Approach to Student Data Privacy: Lessons from Utah
- ◇ Data Sharing with Community Partners
- ◇ Transforming Transcript Delivery with JSON and JSON-LD
- ◇ Enhancing Ethical Reviews for Research Projects
- ◇ Virginia: First with SIF 4.x for Providers
- ◇ Spooked by Apps: Making Teachers the Guardians of Student Data Privacy
- ◇ AI: Statutory Analysis and Contract Drafting
- ◇ Using a Reference Architecture to Connect Standards & Build a Comprehensive Data Modernization Plan

[View the draft agenda >>](#)



Who Should Attend?

- Education Technology Professionals
- Data Scientists and Analysts
- Academic Administrators
- Privacy and Compliance Officers
- Policy Makers in Education
- Industry Stakeholders
- Researchers and Scholars

Why Attend?

- Gain insights into the latest open data standards shaping the education landscape.
- Understand the importance of privacy in educational data management.
- Explore strategies for supporting lifelong learning in an interconnected world.
- Network with like-minded professionals and contribute to the future of education.

We hope you can join us!

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A4L Annual Meeting: Keynote Speakers

EVENT: PESC-A4L Summit 2024—Laying the Foundation for the Future

DATE: **Tuesday, April 30**

SPEAKER: **Mark Schneider**

Director of the Institute of Education Sciences,
US Department of Education

SESSION: **Laying the Foundation: What have we learned over the past 25 years?**

Mark Schneider will share his wealth of experience in supporting student data interoperability projects including his work with State Longitudinal Data Systems. He will reflect upon best practices considerations for large scale projects involving student data including identifying the value in data, and why it is important to consider the return on investment while balancing privacy with data sharing.



DATE: **Tuesday, April 30**

SPEAKER: **John Kraman**

Chief Information Officer,
Mississippi Department of Education

SESSION: **Modernization Through Standards and Simplification**

John Kraman will share Mississippi's innovative approach to modernizing an old legacy state data collection. In an attempt to build the ideal data system for both districts and the State Department of Education, MS has elected to start from ground zero and build anew rather than incrementally build upon a legacy system. By leveraging today's technology and the Common Education Data Standards (CEDs), Mississippi hopes to bring all stakeholders together to simplify data collection and analytics.



DATE: **Wednesday, May 1**

SPEAKER: **Steve Wheat & Ted Rounsaville**

Senior Partners,
McKinsey & Company

SESSION: **Standards Enable Learning Journeys at Scale**

In recent years McKinsey & Company has been involved in many education and workforce development projects that focus on enabling learning journeys by integrating applications to make connections and deliver services at the state level. We have also led research on the future of work and the workforce challenges that our education sector must help to confront. In this presentation we will explore this research, three of our recent projects, and how standards from the EdTech community either enabled these initiatives or where a lack of standards created significant challenges for these states.



[View the draft agenda >>](#)

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The SIF Infrastructure Difference: Efficiency

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by a flood of tasks, struggling to keep up with demands? If so, you're not alone.

Just as humans can become inundated with responsibilities, computer systems face similar challenges when overloaded with too many jobs at once. By adopting the SIF Infrastructure, great value is gained from the A4L Community's quarter-century of institutional knowledge that gives guidance in optimizing computer systems for efficiency.

One way the SIF Infrastructure can help is through the asynchronous pattern, a method that allows systems to manage their workload more efficiently. By leveraging multiple queues and connections, tasks are strategically distributed to maximize the use of available resources.

Think of it as organizing your to-do list into different categories, each representing a queue of tasks with varying priorities. This approach enables computers to prioritize high-priority jobs while ensuring that lower-priority tasks remain in line, ready to be ad-

dressed when resources become available.

Moreover, establishing multiple connections enables computers to handle tasks concurrently, further optimizing efficiency. Just as networking with colleagues allows us to delegate tasks and share the workload, so too do interconnected systems enable computers to collaborate effectively.

By adopting the SIF Infrastructure, your integration can avoid the pitfalls of attempting to do everything at once. Instead, they can allocate resources strategically, ensuring that each task receives the attention it deserves without overwhelming the system.

The SIF Infrastructure offers a distinct advantage in enhancing efficiency in interoperable solutions. By leveraging multiple queues and connections, it enables systems to manage workloads effectively, maximizing productivity and performance. Through adoption and implementation of these strategies, the SIF Infrastructure sets a new measure for optimizing interoperable

computing tasks.

If you are planning your next integration project and would like help navigating the right interoperability choices to realize these efficiencies and align with market adoption contact Technology Director [John W. Lovell](#).

To find out more about the SIF Infrastructure Specification, please [click here](#).



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WEBINAR: Navigating EdTech Security

EVENT: Navigating EdTech Security



DATE: **March 19, 2024**
TIME: **4:00pm, EST**
LOCATION: **Online**

In recent months and years, there has been a commendable focus on addressing cybersecurity concerns within education institutions. However, this attention has inadvertently left a gap in the expectations placed on EdTech providers regarding security benchmarks. The lack of coherence in this space has led to confusion, varying frameworks, and challenges in holding the EdTech marketplace accountable for security obligations.

Introducing the Global Education Security Standard (GESS)

Global Education Security Standard (GESS) is a ground-breaking project that synthesizes security and privacy requirements from across the USA, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia.

Its mission? To establish a comprehensive set of relevant controls, drawing upon existing international standards. These controls empower educational institutions and EdTech providers to enhance security across the

thousands of applications used globally in schools.

Key Aspects of GESS:

Unified Controls: GESS provides a unified set of security controls applicable to both EdTech use cases and educational environments. It bridges the gap by offering clear guidelines.

Assessment Framework: GESS introduces an assessment framework to gauge products' abilities to meet these controls. This framework ensures that EdTech solutions align with security best practices.

Global Adoption: By leveraging the groundwork laid by the Safer Technologies 4 Schools project in Australia, GESS aims for global adoption. It equips participants with practical tools and resources.

Publicly Available Portal: Participants will be introduced to the Global Education Security Standard Portal, a valuable resource for implementing GESS effectively.

Join us for this enlightening webinar as we navigate the intersection of education, technology, and security.

Webinar Highlights:

Understanding the Impact: Discover the critical implications of a lack of uniform security expectations for EdTech providers. Learn why addressing this issue is essential for safeguarding educational institutions and students.

Meet GESS: Dive into the world of GESS! We'll present the current version of this ground-breaking standard. Understand how it sets the bar for security excellence in the EdTech landscape.

Empowering Your Organization: Whether you're an education institution or an EdTech provider, this webinar equips you with knowledge, tools, and resources to kickstart GESS implementation. Learn practical steps to enhance security across your organization.

Why Attend?

Stay Ahead: Stay informed about the latest security trends and standards in the education sector.

Network: Connect with like-minded professionals and experts.

Actionable Insights: Gain actionable insights to apply GESS effectively within your organization.

Don't miss this opportunity to fortify your EdTech security practices!

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Weekly Live Office Hour

by Penny Murray, Community Director

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a weekly 'Office Hour' for our Community Members, on **Tuesdays at 12noon (US Eastern)**.

Office Hour: 12noon ET, Tuesdays

This is an opportunity for Community members to drop-in and ask questions, share ideas and discuss any issues they may be facing.

John Lovell, Technology Director and Penny Murray, Community Director will be available to answer your questions and provide guidance.

PLEASE NOTE: Should you have any issues or enhancement suggestions relating to the SDPC Resource Registry, we advise you to submit them as a [support ticket](#) as we will not be able to resolve these during the Office Hour.



Weekly, Tuesdays at 12noon (US Eastern)

Live Office Hour

<https://www.A4L.org/group/office-hours>

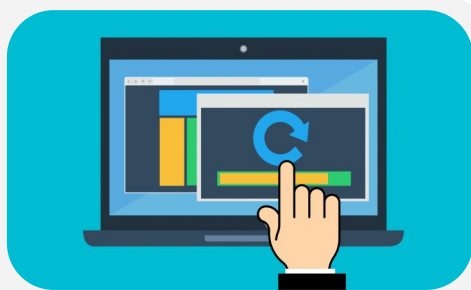
John Lovell
Technology Director

Penny Murray
Community Director

Scheduled Maintenance reminder

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, March 29 until COB on Sunday, March 31, 2024.

You may experience outages of these services during this time.

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

YOUR Community Needs YOU!

As a membership organization, there are two key components to our continued 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 this new phase, 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!



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.

INTERNATIONAL

International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group (ITP-LG): The ITP-LG is looking forward to helping oversee many of our more technical initiatives, including the next SIF Infrastructure release.

Infrastructure: The Infrastructure Project Team has been busy moving the SIF Infrastructure away from Matrix Parameters to HTTP Headers, we are planning to support both for two future releases. Speaking of support, we have been fielding questions about the details of Asynchronous Providers. The group is happy to do what it can to encourage adoption.

Data Model, Mapping & Migration (D3M): The D3Ms work with AI is so encouraging that we are considering renaming the group. If you are interested in helping connect and test standards using AI you should reach out.

A4L Data Privacy: Our Data Privacy Team is looking to balance our efforts around security, privacy, and auditing. While it is difficult to see the future, it helps to envision a brighter one.

Open Source Developers Network (OSDN): The OSDN Project Team has been carefully considering how recent and upcoming changes to the SIF Infrastructure impact our shared tools.

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

SDPC Vendor: Project Team Leads are discussing the meeting schedule for the coming year.

AUSTRALIA

AU Leadership Group (AU-LG): The AU Management Board are discussing updates on AU activities.

AU Technical Project Team (AU-Tech): The AU Technical Project Team continues to maintain and develop the SIF Data Model Implementation Specification (AU).

NORTH AMERICA

North American (NA) Leadership Group (NA-LG): The focus for the NA Leadership Group is ensuring positive strategic direction for continued development of the SDPC Resource Registry and SIF Specifications.

North American (NA) Technical Advisory Committee (NA-TAC): NA-TAC is happy to announce it has drafted goals for 2024 and will be sharing them more broadly once they have been accepted by the North American Leadership Group.

Unity Adoption: The Unity Adoption Team is currently focused on how we can best directly support integration projects. To get a sense of the technology helping to drive uptake see [The SIF Infrastructure Difference: Efficiency](#) article on page 7.

CEDS Alignment / State Requests:

We are in the process of organizing our work around the changes needed to continue supporting ED Facts reporting. To learn more see [Stay Ahead of the Curve: ED Facts Reporting Undergoes Major Changes](#) on the next page.

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

Resource Registry Roadmap (R3):

This group continues to review SDPC Resource Registry performance enhancement suggestions and plan the development pipeline for the Registry.

SDPC Legal Project Team (NDPA v2 Sub-Committee):

The Legal Project Team (NDPA v2 Sub-Committee) has just completed analysis of the feedback received during the first Community Review for NDPA v2. For more information, please see [page 12](#).

NDPA Policy, Procedures & Usage (PPU):

The NDPA PPU group is currently on hold while changes/revisions are proposed for the NDPA v2.

Legislative Activity & Research Data Sharing Agreement:

These groups are currently placed on 'pause'.



News from the North American Community

Stay Ahead of the Curve: EDFacts Reporting Undergoes Major Changes

by John W. Lovell, Technology Director

Get ready for some exciting updates in the realm of EDFacts reporting! As many of you are aware, EDFacts reporting has been a cornerstone of our technical resources, facilitating crucial data management and federal reporting processes. Today, we want to ask the A4L Community to come together to stay ahead of this critical piece of EdTech compliance.

One of our most sought-after technical resources has been our [Mapping of EDFacts to SIF Unity](#). This mapping has been instrumental in empowering federal reporting directly from SIF Unity solutions, providing a seamless bridge between education data and federal requirements. With this mapping, we've been able to leverage the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) effectively, benefiting from its robust support for EDFacts reporting.

However, change is on the horizon. Last fall, a wave of approximately 100 changes to EDFacts reporting hit the federal register. At least a third of these changes are poised to significantly impact our workflows and processes. Because of the magnitude of these changes, the recently released CEDS 12 was unable to fully incorporate all of them, necessitating that we adjust our process to work more closely with theirs in 2024.

In response to these developments, we're gearing up for action. We've combined forces, merging the CEDS Mapping and State Requests Teams for a unified effort to tackle these changes head-on. Our goal is clear: to ensure that our mapping work aligns seamlessly with the evolving landscape of EDFacts reporting.

Our approach will be systematic and thorough. Initially, we'll focus on incorporating the changes incorporated in CEDS 12, leveraging its updated framework to guide our adjustments. Subsequently, we'll turn our attention to the approvals issued by the CEDS Open-Source Community (OSC), ensuring that our processes remain compliant with regulatory standards.

For those of you involved with EDFacts reporting, the time to act is now. Ensure that your A4L membership is up to date and reach out to our Technology Director, John W. Lovell, without delay. Your active participation is not just valuable—it's essential. Together, let's seize this opportunity to shape the future of EDFacts reporting and uphold the integrity of educational data management. The success of our collective efforts hinges on your engagement. Let's make a difference, starting today.

Sign the Project Unicorn Pledge!

As a member of the Project Unicorn Technical Advisory Committee, the A4L Community is excited to share the Project Unicorn Pledge that leads the way in data interoperability and secure student data access.

By pledging, you declare your commitment to supporting interoperability, educating practitioners and families about student privacy, and enhancing the overall educational impact of your product. [Why sign the Pledge? >>](#)

As a signatory, you are the first to learn about upcoming events, bootcamps, valuable scholarship opportunities, and insightful data, privacy, and interoperability publications.

Don't miss out on shaping the future of education! Take 2 minutes to sign the pledge and be at the forefront of improving education through interoperability!

[Sign the Pledge >>](#)



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News from the Student Data Privacy Consortium

UPDATE: Global Education Security Standards (GESS)

There is renewed excitement and interest in the Global Education Security Standard (GESS). Version 1.2 was released in February 2024, which included changes to align more closely to the CISA advice to schools when engaging with online providers.

The GESS Project Team is actively building a self assessment tool for providers to assist them in determining

their readiness to meet the GESS controls. The project team is also meeting with third party providers who are interested in certifying the GUESS assessments.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this work please contact any A4L staff member. We are always looking for more project team members.



UPDATE: National Data Privacy Agreement (version 2)

The SDPC Legal Project Team (NDPA v2 Sub-Committee) is nearing completion of their analysis of all the feedback that was received during our two Community Reviews.

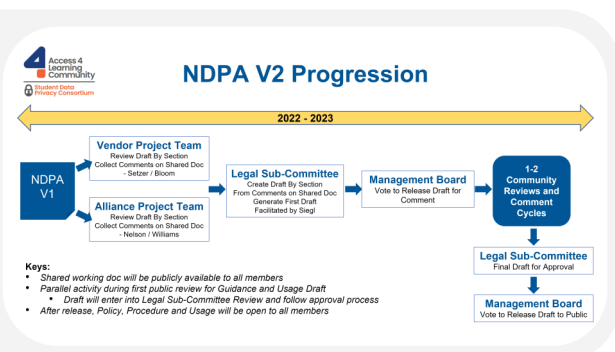
The next step for this group is to develop a Usage Guide, which will accompany the release of the National

Data Privacy Agreement (NDPA), version 2. The Usage Guide will provide clarification and explanation of specific areas of the NDPA, and help all users complete/execute good quality NDPAs for the education community.

Although we cannot provide an exact release date, we are hopeful that we

can publish the NDPA and Usage Guide before the PESC-A4L Summit in April 2024.

Should you have any queries, please contact [Penny Murray](#), Community Director.



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	2 nd 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	John Lovell
Wednesday	Every 2 weeks	Infrastructure	John Lovell
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	Open Source Developers Network	John Lovell
Thursday	Every 4 weeks	International Technical & Privacy Leadership Group	John Lovell
Thursday	4 th Thurs, monthly	Global Education Security Standards (GESS)	Steve Smith
Thursday	1 st Thurs, Qrtly (2 nd month)	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
SDPC Resource Registry Roadmap (R3) Project Team			
Tuesday	1 st Tues, monthly	Enhancements	Penny Murray
Wednesday	Every 2 weeks	Developments	Penny Murray
Wednesday	3 rd Weds, monthly	NA Leadership Group	Steve Smith
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	Alliance Leadership	Penny Murray
Thursday	(as needed)	SDPC Legal Project Team (NDPA v2 Sub-Committee)	Penny Murray
Thursday	1 st & 3 rd Thurs, monthly	CEDS Alignment	John Lovell
Thursday	Every 2 weeks	NA Technical Advisory Committee (NA-TAC)	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



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



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