

For Immediate Release

The A4L Community Releases Whitepaper for Complete Confidence in Grade Pass Back

Washington, DC, 24 October 2023 --- The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community, a leading authority in education technology, is proud to announce the release of a groundbreaking whitepaper designed to enhance the seamless sharing of grades between Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Student Information Systems (SIS). This initiative not only introduces a revolutionary data model but also a reimagined infrastructure to cater to the evolving needs of grade pass back within the educational ecosystem.

In a progressive stride toward facilitating comprehensive grade sharing, the A4L Community introduces a fully asynchronous choreography, the backbone of this innovative whitepaper. This choreography offers several distinct advantages, ensuring the utmost confidence in the process:

Certainty of Proper Grade Recording:

The A4L Community's approach guarantees that grades are accurately and completely recorded, eliminating any uncertainty in the transfer process.

Empowered SIS & LMS Management:

With this new system, both the Student Information System and Learning Management System gain the ability to independently manage workloads, streamlining operations for educational institutions.

Streamlined Endpoint Security Management:

The A4L Community's whitepaper simplifies endpoint security management, making the entire grade pass back process more secure and efficient.

Complementing this revolutionary choreography is the A4L Community's robust data model, which further reinforces the integrity of the grade pass back system. This model offers the following advantages:

Support for Additional Outcome Types:

In addition to standard grading, this model supports the inclusion of late and excused outcomes, providing a more comprehensive view of student performance.

Sharing of Competency and Objective-Based Assignment Results:

The Community developed data model enables the sharing of competency and objective-based assignment results, promoting a more holistic understanding of student progress.

Empowering the Use of Alternative Grading Scales:

The model allows for the utilization of alternative grading scales, catering to diverse teaching methodologies and educational philosophies.

The market impacts of the A4L Community's whitepaper for grade pass back are significant, including:

Elevating Teaching Practices:

The A4L Community's innovation raises the sophistication of current teaching practices, enabling educators to provide a more tailored and insightful learning experience.

Timely Information:

This whitepaper ensures that administrators, students, and guardians receive timely and accurate information, enhancing their understanding of student progress.

Enhanced Data Quality:

Final grades are marked by greater data quality, reducing errors and discrepancies in reporting.

Eric Levy, Sr. Database Administrator, Cambridge Public Schools, commented, "This is a gigantic leap forward for data quality and accuracy in the high-stakes realm of student grades. My hope is that everyone will join me in insisting that those responsible adopt modern grade pass back."

The A4L Community whitepaper for complete confidence in grade pass back represents a pivotal moment in the evolution of education technology, setting new standards for efficiency, accuracy, and flexibility in the realm of grade sharing. This initiative is a testament to the A4L Community's commitment to advancing the educational experience for all stakeholders.

For more information, please visit: <http://data.a4l.org/resources/#Use-Cases>

###

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>.