

Digital education is powered by data. SIF is Australia's preferred standard for data exchange between local and remote systems

3 million students in Australia are utilising more learning applications than ever before and the rate is increasing daily. For technology to truly contribute in raising educational achievement we need a national approach to interoperability and data standards.

- SIF has been endorsed by Australia's State, Territory and Commonwealth Education Ministers as the preferred standard for data exchange
- Every Education Department has implemented SIF in some method (pilots through to production systems)
- 43 of Australia's leading education technology companies and school jurisdictions have committed to SIF as a standard
- New SIF 3.0 makes it easier to adopt than ever before with a 'light weight' option

→ WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Schools have a massively growing number of IT platforms and online services that they want to integrate with but it is impossible to do 'point to point' integrations with each one.

We need a standard way of connecting apps and services together so that schools, systems and vendors can support a single way to do these integrations.

The question is how to agree on a standard that everyone can use?

→ SIF IS THE SOLUTION

In Australia the question has been made easier by the agreement of all State and Territory Education Departments and the representative bodies of the non-government school sectors' to **support SIF as their preferred method for data exchange in the Australian schools sector.**

This means that schools, school authorities, education software vendors and system integrators can confidently adopt the SIF standard for their data interoperability needs.

→ WHAT IS SIF?

The Systems Interoperability Framework, widely known as SIF, is an international specification for the exchange of school data. The SIF Association is made up of education providers and software vendors who have a common interest in having software applications interact and share data. Globally there are 102 vendor organisation members and 1,082 end user members of the SIF Association.

For more detail on the SIF Association globally and in Australia go to www.sifassociation.org

→ HOW IS IT BEING USED?

SIF has been used in projects involving government and non-government schools in all States and Territories. These include local, national and cross-jurisdictional initiatives spanning access to online learning resources, online assessment, enterprise wide data synchronisation, student data transfer and national reporting.

For details on the breadth of adoption by Australian school authorities and the

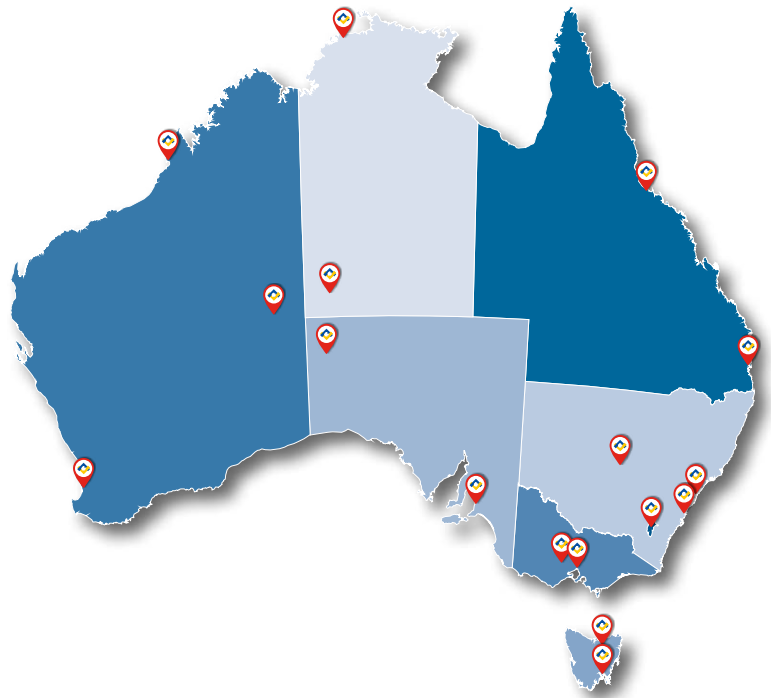
depth of activities being improved by SIF interoperability go to www.nsip.edu.au

A subset of the comprehensive data model, the SBP (SIS Baseline Profile) helps Student Information System (SIS) vendors provide core Identity data to external applications and services. The list of SIS Vendors that support the SBP is provided overleaf.

An illustration of how SIF is being used around Australia is shown overleaf.



“THESE INCLUDE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL INITIATIVES SPANNING ACCESS TO ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES, ONLINE ASSESSMENT, ENTERPRISE WIDE DATA SYNCHRONISATION, STUDENT DATA TRANSFER AND NATIONAL REPORTING.”



→ KEY FINDINGS

Standards need to change and evolve with market and technological developments. Three important areas of progress in SIF and its supported implementation models are:

1. Separation of the Data Model and the Transport Model means that SIF can be used in combination with other standards;
2. Creation of a specific Australian Data Model that meets our unique needs whilst leveraging global developments; and
3. SIF 3.0, which provides a REST transport mechanism to allow a SIF data model to be used over a REST infrastructure wire.

These developments mean that SIF can now closely support the integration of externally provided (cloud based) services with local student information and other information management systems. And it can provide a simple return path for data like assessment and attendance from an external application back to core school systems.

→ SIS VENDOR STATUS TABLE

10 out of the 13 leading vendors have an active interest in working with SIF and 5 have agents in operation.

SIS VENDORS NAME	LEVEL
Civica Education (Maze)	Operational
UXC Eclipse - EduPoint ES	Designed
Holross Systems Pty Ltd	Designed
Human Edge	Operational
PCschool	Operational
SchoolPro	Designed
Sentral - GP Technology Solutions	Under consideration
Synergetic Management	Operational
The Alpha School (TASS)	Operational
SEQTA	Operational
SIMON	Operational

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ACT Treasury Directorate | Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) | Australian Government Department of Education
 Catholic Education Office Adelaide | Catholic Education Office Brisbane | Catholic Education Office Melbourne | Catholic Education Office Parramatta
 Catholic Education Office Perth | Catholic Education Office Wollongong | Catholic Network Australia | Education Services Australia (ESA) | Independent
 Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) | National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) | National Schools Interoperability Program (NSIP) | Northern Territory
 Department of Education and Training | New South Wales Department of Education and Training | Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC)
 Department of Education, Training and Employment, Queensland | South Australian Department for Education and Child Development | Department of
 Education, Tasmania | Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria | Department of Education, Western Australia