

# *Just The Facts:* **'On The Ground' SIF Utilization**

The Access 4 Learning Community (A4L), previously the SIF Association, has changed its brand name due to the fact that the majority of its 3,000 members represent schools, regional agencies, and government entities now wear more than just “data manager” job titles. These practitioners are being asked to oversee, IT, data access, policy development like privacy, educational technology, and even additional operational roles including communications. These members drove the change in brand to indicate the Community’s broadening mission – Access 4 Learning.

Even with this name change, the A4L Community continues to mature the SIF Specification and Certification Program. The SIF blueprints continue to contain:

- The most comprehensive educational data model anywhere
- A supporting infrastructure differing itself from other standards who do not provide “on the wire support”
- A mature, 15 year established on the wire testing Certification Program

The evolution of SIF Specification 3.x has ushered in new features and functionalities including:

- A separation of data model and infrastructure
- Updated REST-based infrastructure without the required middleware
- Targeted “bite size” functionality via the xPress API line
- Additional security controls allowing for increased data privacy control

Even with these facts, some in the educational marketplace attempt to dismiss SIF utilization in the attempts to promote their own work. To address this misinformation, the A4L Community recently developed and disseminated a brief usage survey which was sent to marketplace providers and LEA/SEA data leaders. Questions included:

- Organization / Product(s) Name
- Which States SIF Enabled Applications/Support are Being Used
- School Districts, Student and Teacher numbers in Identified States
- Primary SIF-Enabling Function of Applications/Support
- Primary Data Function SIF-Enable Application is Being Used in Each State
- Is the Application a Provider of Data, Consumer, or Both?

Even with a short timeframe (2 weeks) and low response rate (16 survey responses representing 23 large marketplace products) the impact numbers depict the continued usage and growth of SIF Specification usage. Without specific school district identification, care was taken to not “double count” applications in use in districts. This means that confirmed numbers are substantiated and expected to be well under actual values.

## Survey Summary results:

- ✓ SIF-Enabled applications are in place and operating in every US state: This represents over 55 million students/3.9 million teachers
- ✓ There are at least 12 statewide implementations utilizing SIF interoperability: This represents over 11 million students in 4,100 school districts with 810,000 teachers
- ✓ Non-statewide implementations utilizing SIF interoperability: This represents over 2.5 million students in 1,000 school districts.

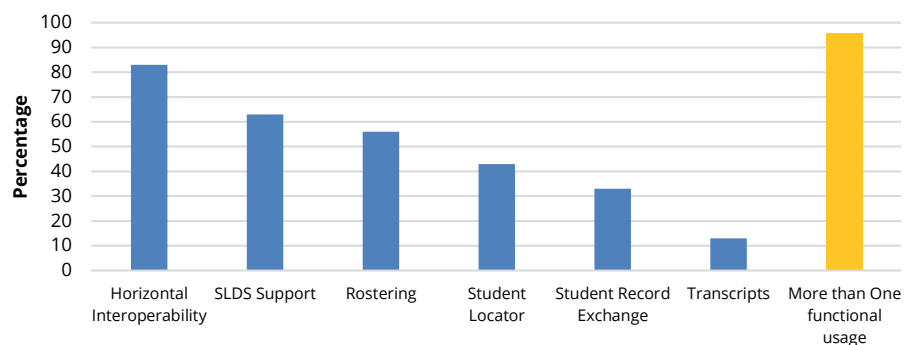
STATE	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	DC	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS
#DISTRICTS	15	55	20	15	40	25	190	20	1	25	25	1	12	45	35	369	20
#STUDENTS	50k	132k	50k	50k	200k	50k	525k	20k	50k	50k	225k	9k	50k	50k	70k	509k	50k
STATE	KY	LA	ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC
#DISTRICTS	21	25	65	15	404	25	50	25	21	25	25	15	27	15	25	81	25
#STUDENTS	50k	50k	60k	10k	950k	50k	200k	50k	15k	50k	50k	50k	50k	40k	60k	2.7m	65k
STATE	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY
#DISTRICTS	15	778	544	25	25	25	89	15	19	25	60	25	135	301	25	25	59
#STUDENTS	45k	1.7m	700k	50k	150k	50k	770k	45k	70k	150k	655k	17k	1.3m	1.1m	65k	50k	94k

\* Yellow indicates statewide implementations using SIF

\* Numbers represent "minimal" values without overlapping implementations

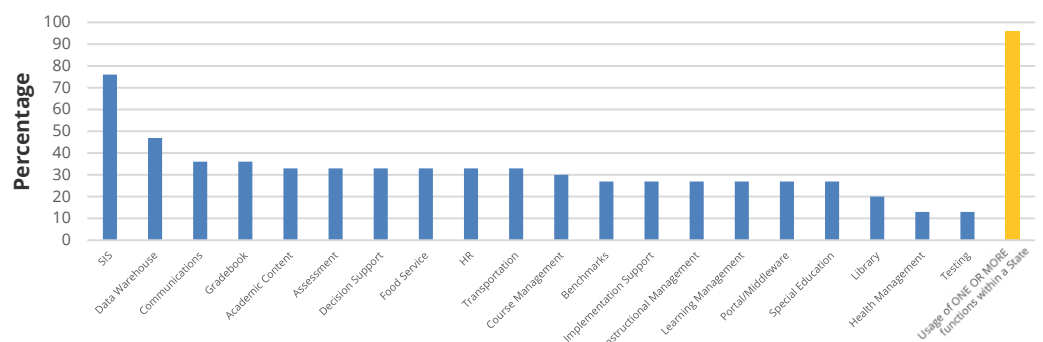
## Applications in Use

The survey responses indicate that the primary SIF functionality in use in these applications is enabling horizontal data interoperability between applications (83%). Not surprisingly, a large majority (90%) of SIF implementations utilize the technical blueprints to support more than one data function.



## Interoperating Applications

The types of application interoperating via the SIF Specifications vary by locale. As expected, the student information system (SIS) leads the way as a major application using SIF interoperability (76%). The survey indicates that the majority of implementations (96%) utilize more than one type of application for data management and movement.



## Utilization by State and Functionality

The survey responses depict SIF Specification usage by functionality in states. These may be statewide (indicated earlier) or in districts.

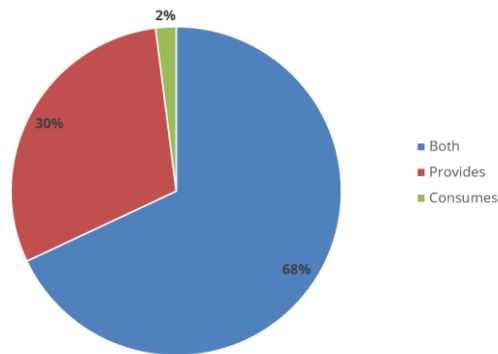
STATE	Academic Content/Curriculum	Assessment	Benchmarks	Communication/Collaboration	Course Management Systems	Data Warehouse	Decision Support	Digital Library	Food Service	Grade Book	Health Management	Human Resources / Finance	Implementation Support	Learning Management Systems	Library Management Systems	Portal and Middleware Services	Special Education	Student Information Systems	Student Work Portfolio	Testing	Transportation	
Alabama		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓										
Alaska	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓					✓
Arizona	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
California	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colorado				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Connecticut	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Delaware				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓					✓
District of Columbia				✓	✓				✓									✓				
Florida	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Georgia				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Hawaii				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓					✓
Idaho	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Illinois	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Indiana	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Iowa	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Kansas				✓	✓				✓						✓	✓	✓					✓
Kentucky				✓	✓				✓			✓			✓		✓					
Louisiana				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Maine	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Maryland				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Massachusetts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Michigan	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Minnesota				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Mississippi	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Missouri				✓	✓				✓			✓			✓	✓	✓					✓

## Utilization by State and Functionality (continued)

STATE	Academic Content/Curriculum	Assessment	Benchmarks	Communication/Collaboration	Course Management Systems	Data Warehouse	Decision Support	Digital Library	Food Service	Grade Book	Health Management Systems	Human Resources / Finance	Implementation Support	Instructional Management Systems	Library Management Systems	Portal and Middleware	Special Education	Student Information Services	Student Information Systems	Testing	Transportation	
Montana			✓	✓											✓			✓				
Nebraska			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓				✓
Nevada			✓	✓											✓	✓	✓					✓
New Hampshire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓							✓	✓					✓
New Jersey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
New Mexico			✓	✓											✓	✓	✓					✓
New York	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Carolina			✓	✓					✓			✓			✓		✓					
North Dakota															✓							
Ohio			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oregon			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓				✓
Pennsylvania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Rhode Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
South Carolina			✓	✓								✓			✓	✓	✓					✓
South Dakota			✓	✓					✓			✓			✓		✓					
Tennessee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Texas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Utah		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vermont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Virginia			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Washington		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
West Virginia			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓
Wisconsin			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Wyoming		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓

## Data Role

The goal of interoperability and the Community's focus on "enter once and use many times" is highlighted in the data role the applications plays that utilize the SIF Specifications.



Survey responses indicate that the majority of applications both provide and consume data (68%) between other applications using SIF. Survey results indicate those administrative oriented applications using SIF Specifications to provide data to other applications (30%) outpaced those applications identified as data consumers (2%).

## Summary

Even with the low response rate from marketplace providers for this survey, it clearly points out in real and verifiable numbers that the SIF Specification continues to be the most comprehensive and widely utilized technical blueprint for the educational marketplace. Ideally additional providers will provide their information in subsequent surveys to give even a more accurate depiction of SIF Specification, including the game-changing 3.x Specification, in the marketplace.