



SCHOOLS
INTEROPERABILITY
FRAMEWORK®



Schools

2007 NACOL VSS Louisville, KY

Interoperability and Technical Standards for Online Courses – Why So Important?



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INTEROPERABILITY
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What is interoperability?



SIFA

- Over 10 years developing open interoperability specifications for schools
- Non-profit membership organization of over 600 members
- Specification utilized to serve over 9.5 million students, teachers and tech coordinators in 48 states and countries
- Legislatively mandated in some states and internationally
- Demanded/suggested by USED, states, schools and international governments in RFP's
- Lead support agency for US National pK12 Data Model Development
- Lead support agency for Longitudinal Data Systems State Grants
- Learning and Performance Standards Repository

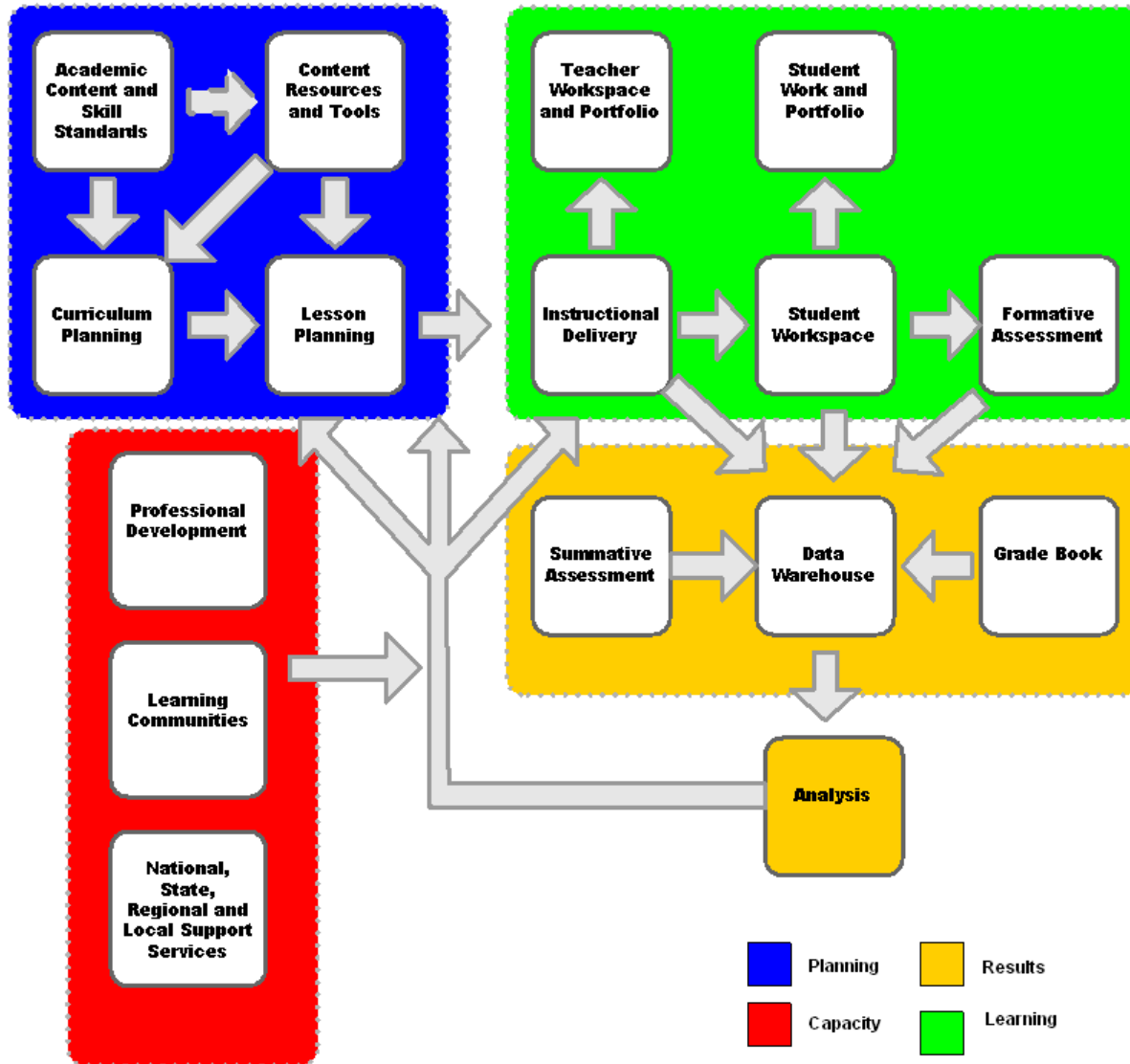


SIF Specification: A Quick Definition

- ✓ Not a product, but a technical blueprint for pK-12 software that will enable diverse applications to interact and share data seamlessly
- ✓ Designed for pK-12 tech providers and educators
- ✓ Manages data within the pK-12 environment
- ✓ Enables diverse applications to interact/share data
- ✓ Works cross-platform over Web-based interfaces
- ✓ Allows automated reporting
- ✓ Jointly built open XML Specifications for software to share data quickly, dynamically and securely.
- ✓ “Platform Independent / Vendor Neutral”
- ✓ Implementation Specification 2.2 – Data Model and Infrastructure
- ✓ Web Services 1.0 Specification



SIFA Teaching and Learning Framework





Guiding Questions

- Why are you looking at interoperability from this model?
- What do you see as some of the key challenges teachers, schools, districts and states are facing regarding interoperability?

Components Working Together

Local Level Impact



– Zone Integration Server (ZIS)



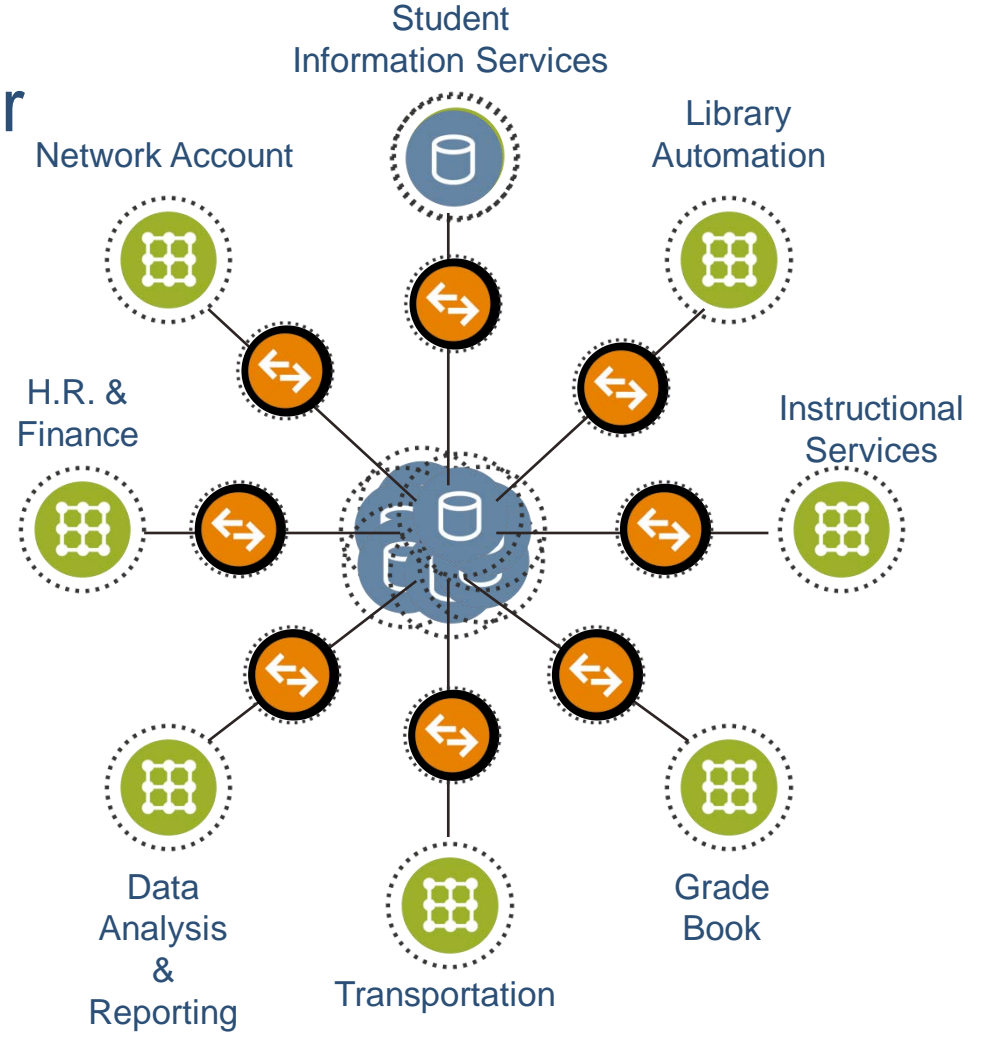
– SIF Agents



– Applications



– SIF Data Objects



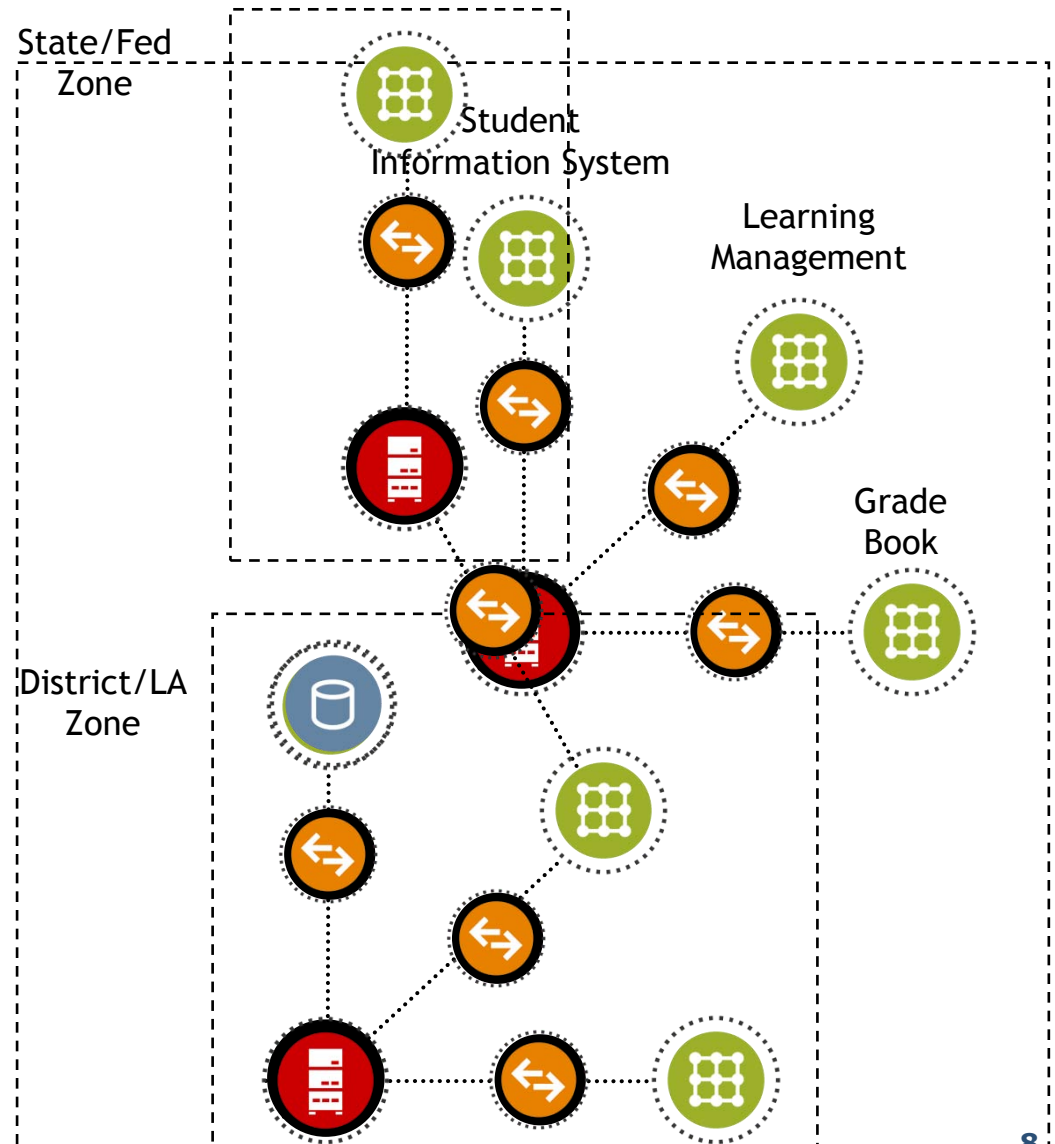


Components Working Together

State Level Impact

“Vertical” Interoperability

- Student Locator
- Mandated Reporting
- Student Records Exchange





What work are you doing for virtual courses and schools and how is interoperability going to impact this?



Guiding Questions

- What data do you collect regarding grades for students and how do you send this back to the school of record?
- How do you track attendance and how do you send this back to the school of record?
- What interoperability challenges are you facing?



SIFA Members at NACOL

American Education Corporation



Angel Learning



Blackboard



Pearson



PLATO Learning





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