Helping K-12 Schools, Districts and States Enable an Open Infrastructure to Evolve Personalized Learning

Schools are looking to the power of technology to improve the educational experience. The problem is that today’s digital curriculum resources, applications, and platforms from different sources do not easily work together. Many of the resources exist in their own self-contained silos, making the lives of teachers, students, and administrators more complex. What is needed in K-12 education is a next generation open architecture that ensures a wide variety of digital content and technology can work together and provide the right fit for each student. IMS Global Learning Consortium, a non-profit member organization, is leading a collaboration of member institutions, organizations, and governing bodies to improve instructional innovation. Membership of your school, district or state in IMS Global supports this critical work financially, while also enabling your leadership position in inventing and benefitting from the open architecture needed to support the future of personalized learning.

How Does IMS Global Support K-12 Education?

- **Enabling better learning through better technology** through effective global collaboration. Now led by over 275 member organizations, IMS serves as a major force and highly effective voice in influencing the direction of the educational technology segment during an era of rapid change. In a few short years, IMS has achieved over 375 voluntary conformance certifications across a range of educational applications, tools, and platforms that enable K-12 organizations to be more agile and flexible in delivering on the promise of personalized learning. See [www.imsglobal.org/cc/statuschart.cfm](http://www.imsglobal.org/cc/statuschart.cfm)

- **Districts can accelerate the transition from paper to digital curriculum** through the adoption of IMS standards, such as Common Cartridge™, Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI®), and Learning Information Services (LIS), thus streamlining both access and integration of content in their district’s systems.

- **Leading change in order to advance progress towards enabling the end of paper assessments to reduce cost and processing time.** In response to national and state initiatives, such as Race to the Top, IMS members are identifying market priorities for both summative and formative electronic assessment, including the application of accessibility.

- **Member schools, districts and states receive customized support to help put in place the next generation digital learning infrastructure** to ensure digital content from a wide variety of sources and technology work together to provide flexibility, ease of use, and seamless combination of digital resources. Through support forums, workgroups, leadership summits, informational webinars, and publications, members have access to a broad range of resources to evolve next generation personalized learning.

- **IMS provides assistance with technology procurements**, by providing guidance on what to look for when engaged in a procurement or upgrade, as well as providing the appropriate wording for the RFP document.

- **IMS sponsors the Learning Impact Leadership Institute**, a global program focused on recognizing the impact of innovative technology on educational access, affordability, and quality while developing the people and ideas that are going to help shape the future of educational technology. The 2015 Institute will take place May 4-7 in Atlanta, Georgia. Details can be found online at: [http://lili15.imsglobal.org/index.html](http://lili15.imsglobal.org/index.html)
Key Instructional Innovation and Improvement Initiatives

The following is a sampling of current K-12 initiatives based on evolving response to member and market needs.

- **Instructional Innovation through Interoperability Leadership Council (I3LC):** This advisory group is led by an influential collaboration of leading school districts who identify market priorities and requirements needed to create and implement technology integration strategies that enable continuous improvement in K-12 instruction and personalized learning. For details on the I3LC visit [www.imsglobal.org/I3lc/](http://www.imsglobal.org/I3lc/).

- **A Standard Way to Report on Curriculum Metadata:** An IMS “Thin” Cartridge is a standard way for content metadata to be loaded into a district’s learning system, enabling access to publisher content resources in a secure way. The Thin Cartridge contains LTI enabled links, web links and curriculum standards metadata. After a one-time ingest and confirmation by the administrator, provider resources can be launched directly from the district’s learning system using LTI.

- **Next Generation Electronic Assessment:** States, districts and suppliers are actively collaborating to identify priorities with regard to the evolution of the Question and Test Interoperability (QTI)® and Accessible Portable Item Protocol (APIP)™ standards and conformance certification by suppliers to ensure interoperable electronic assessments. See [www.imsglobal.org/apip/JoinAPIP0612.pdf](http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/JoinAPIP0612.pdf).

- **Streamlining Data Entry:** The IMS Learning Information Services (LIS) standard supports seamless interactions and data exchange between learning platforms and applications with the Student Information Systems (SIS), including exchange of student profiles, gradebook information, and class rosters, and it also supports bulk update services for handling year end/start updates.

- **Digital Learning Resources, Applications, and eContent:** IMS has provided the world’s first catalog of open standards-based educational tools, applications and content that are based on the IMS LTI standard. The catalog can be found at [http://developers.imsglobal.org/catalog.html](http://developers.imsglobal.org/catalog.html).

- **Application Policy Briefs:** Timely briefings that provide real-world guidance on how to solve problems faced within the K-20 educational enterprise. From product procurement advice to briefs explaining major issues faced by school districts and institutions, the IMS Application and Policy Briefs address the important priorities and requirements needed to improve education for the benefit all learners. See [www.imsglobal.org/articles/apb.html](http://www.imsglobal.org/articles/apb.html).

- **Learning Impact Awards Program:** This annual program recognizes the most powerful and influential uses of technology worldwide to improve access, affordability, and quality of educational experiences. Visit [http://lili15.imsglobal.org/awards.html](http://lili15.imsglobal.org/awards.html) for program details.