



IMS Global Learning Consortium Announces Workgroup to Evolve and Govern Conformance for Interoperable Accessible Educational Assessment Items

The Accessible Portable Item Profile (APIP) workgroup will be led by ETS, Measured Progress, and Pearson

Lake Mary, Florida, USA – 5 April 2011 – The IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS) today announced the formation of an ongoing technical and governance workgroup to manage the evolution of the Accessible Portable Item Protocol (APIP). APIP is a set of interoperability specifications that will enable U.S. states to cooperate on development, use, and exchange of electronic assessment items. APIP was developed under a U.S. Department of Education Enhanced Assessment Grant and based on input from eight state assessment agencies, led by Minnesota. IMS will continue to work in conjunction with the APIP states and the Race to the Top Assessment (RTTA) consortia during the evolution and governance of APIP to ensure that the state's requirements are met.

"Now that APIP has been released and is being required by several states of their contractors, it is essential that an education segment consortia of suppliers and end users cooperate to ensure that interoperability is achieved when the specifications are implemented and evolved," said Dirk Mattson, Director of Assessment for the State of Minnesota. "We are pleased that IMS, creator of the standards upon which APIP is based, and with a broad membership base, is willing to take on the certification of conformance to APIP and its evolution."

The APIP standard combines three IMS specifications that describe interoperable formats of digital assessment items, metadata describing the features of the item to support accommodations, and metadata describing the student's needs. "We are very appreciative of IMS Contributing Members ETS, Measured Progress, and Pearson investing time and resources into leading the APIP workgroup activity," commented Dr. Rob Abel, Chief Executive of IMS "The conformance and evolution of APIP will be closely coordinated with IMS QTI (Question and Test Interoperability) which is being adopted in other regions around the world."

"We at Measured Progress are absolutely committed to our role in the IMS consortium and to implementing the APIP standards," said Martin Borg, President of Measured Progress. "A smooth assessment experience for large-scale programs and for students leads to more useful results and ultimately benefits all students."

There are three ways for interested organizations to participate in the IMS APIP work. All organizations are invited to review the public drafts, implement to the public drafts, and provide feedback via the IMS web site forums. Organizations that wish to achieve official conformance support and participate in community testing and issue resolution can do so by supporting the QTI2/APIP Alliance on the IMS web site. Assessment organizations that wish to give back to the K-12 community and foster the development and evolution of APIP via the IMS APIP workgroup are invited to support IMS as a Contributing Member organization.

About IMS Global Learning Consortium www.imsglobal.org

IMS Global Learning is a nonprofit member organization that strives to enable the growth and impact of learning technology in higher education, K-12, and corporate education worldwide. IMS GLC members are leading corporations, educational institutions, school districts and government organizations worldwide that are enabling the future of education by collaborating on interoperability standards and major adoption projects for the digital support of education and learning. IMS GLC also sponsors Learning Impact: a global awards program and conference that recognizes the impact of innovative technology on educational access, affordability, and quality.