Helping K-12 Districts Go Digital: IMS Global Learning Consortium Interoperability Standards

IMS Global Learning Consortium is helping districts of all sizes transition to digital by connecting disparate systems, provider content, and digital curriculum resources through interoperability standards to create an open educational technology ecosystem that will enable teachers and learners to engage in ways never before imagined.

OneRoster: Unified and Secure Rostering
IMS developed OneRoster® to address the roster barrier. K-12 districts identified the need to have a single unified format for exchanging roster information as a requirement that will lead to a significant improvement for teacher and student access, while greatly reducing the impact on IT resources. Integrations with district systems and other third-party systems put a strain on IT resources and traditionally require custom API development and integration. The manual effort for daily and weekly updates of student information, as well as start of school loads, are very time consuming and costly. OneRoster provides a way for school districts to publish class roster information in a secure way that can be consumed by partner organizations.
LTI: Enabling Seamless Plug-and-Play Integration

Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI®) establishes a standard way of integrating rich learning applications (often remotely hosted and provided through third-party services) with platforms like learning management systems, portals, or other educational environments. LTI enables districts to securely connect their learning platforms and tools while reducing the time and significant costs associated with developing separate product integrations.

CASE: A Universal Translator for Connecting Learning Standards

Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange™ (CASE™) is at the center of all the ways that learning standards impact the teaching and learning process. CASE is a framework for digitally transmitting learning standards, competencies, rubrics, and the relationships among sets of learning standards. By implementing CASE, educators have a more reliable way to ensure digital content is properly aligned to learning standards, and systems that are traditionally course-based can now have access to related competencies that are taught in a course, module and topic.

Common Cartridge: A Standard Way to Package Content

Common Cartridge® (CC®) is a standard way to package content for ingestion by a district’s learning management system (LMS) or learning object repository (LOR). Common Cartridge provides robust support for the exchange of complex objects in instances where the district wants full control and possession of content, metadata, and mapping to curriculum standards to these objects. Thin Common Cartridge (Thin CC) enables an evolution to digital curriculum in which the digital curriculum is hosted on a secure web server while being searchable and accessible at a granular level by a learning platform, LOR, or any district system that supports the standard. This is accomplished by the learning platform ingesting the Thin CC, which is an index of learning objects or other direct entry points to the web hosted content.

QTI and APIP: More Effective Digital Assessment

Another feature of Common Cartridge is support for assessment items and tests to be included in the package in a very popular interoperable format called Question and Test Interoperability® (QTI®) from IMS. QTI and a close cousin that enables advanced accessibility features, Accessible Portable Item Protocol® (APIP®), are the interoperability formats for digital assessment being used by the Race to the Top (RTTA) assessment consortia (Smarter Balanced, PARCC, NCSC, WIDA, etc.) as well as independent states.

IMS Global Learning Consortium Membership Levels

For more information visit imsglobal.org/JOIN or contact info@imsglobal.org.

For interoperability confidence, insist on IMS Global Learning Consortium certified products.

The official IMS Global Learning Consortium Certified Product Directory is updated daily at imscert.org.