Lowering Costs and Maximizing the Efficiency of Student-Centered Digital Learning Environments

Call to Action for K-12 Districts

Districts of all sizes can begin to put in place an open integrated digital curriculum solution using the resources that IMS Global districts have developed.

Visit the K-12 Playbook (imsglobal.org/k-12-playbook) for resources to help streamline the learning curve for those working towards integrating digital curriculum, tools, and data.

Expect IMS Global certified products as part of the procurement process and verify conformance via the IMS Global Certified Product Directory at imscert.org.

Join the collaboration and contribute to the future of edtech by becoming an IMS Global member (imsglobal.org/imsmembership.html).

Contact k-12@imsglobal.org

Learn More imsglobal.org/k12action

“Our 6,800 teachers are empowered to use the learning tools and workflows of their choice and the only sustainable and scalable way to do it is using open (IMS) standards.”
— Serena Sacks, Fulton County Schools CIO, GA

The Challenge
Integration of digital content and educational technology is the foundation for ongoing instructional improvement and innovation. As districts and states procure digital platforms, applications and content, they are finding that these innovative products do not always integrate efficiently. Instead, these technologies exist in their own self-contained silos and they are hard to combine while maintaining the ease of use.

The Opportunity
IMS Global Learning Consortium (imsglobal.org), a nonprofit, member-based organization, under the leadership of the K-12 Institutional Executive Board (imsglobal.org/leadership/k12institutional-executive-board) and member districts, is creating a plug-and-play ecosystem that truly enables student-centered learning. Collaboration among IMS Global members is the catalyst to accelerating progress. Participating school districts learn and share implementation best practices, and create the requirements and identify real world use cases to help the IMS Global member community evolve IMS Global standards and practices to enable better learning through better learning technology. Member districts meet regularly to address common challenges such as the integration of digital content from different providers, how to safely share roster information across systems, how to define next-generation analytics, or automate the alignment of assessment results to learning standards and content.

Over 40 school districts and states, including 10 of the largest 25 school districts and 21 of the largest 100 districts in the U.S., are leading the efforts of the IMS Global Learning Consortium.
The Solution

Disjointed and siloed technology is a barrier to delivering personalized learning. As options for digital support are growing rapidly, districts are challenged to select and combine the right resources and to collect and view data. By adopting IMS Global standards, all K-12 school districts, both large and small, are able to cut through the clutter of the ever-growing myriad of learning systems and applications—proprietary technology formats that are inhibitors to personalized learning—and turn it into a learner-centered and user-friendly ecosystem. This results in:

- Simplified workflows for educators and students
- Reduced costs and implementation times
- Minimized risk when designing systems architecture for digital learning
- Streamlined gathering of analytics to improve learning outcomes

IMS Global standards also save suppliers on integration costs associated with digital content, applications, state standards, assessments, and enrollment information.

This solution is in the hundreds of IMS Conformance Certified (imsglobal.org/cc/statuschart.cfm) products from all major providers that embody an open architecture of integrated digital learning apps and tools. Conformance certification provides Districts with the assurance that the standard has been implemented correctly and that IMS Global will intervene to work through any issues that may arise with certified product.

"Instead of viewing each vendor’s web site to find content, we go to our learning object repository. It’s our single pane of glass. It doesn’t matter if the content comes from different publishers, over 90,000 students and more than 5,000 teachers go to one place."
— Dwayne Alton, Director of Technology Support, The School District of Lee County, FL

Districts Leading the Revolution

The K-12 districts listed below are expecting their technology suppliers to adopt IMS Global standards and obtain IMS Global conformance certification to support student-centered learning.

- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
- Broward County Public Schools, FL
- Central Massachusetts Collaborative, MA
- Duncanville ISD, TX
- Escambia County School District, FL
- Edina Public Schools, MN
- Forsyth County Schools, GA
- Fulton County Schools, GA
- Georgia Virtual School, GA DoE
- Gwinnett County Public Schools, GA
- Harford County Public Schools, MD
- Houston ISD, TX
- Indian River School District, DE
- Katy ISD, TX
- Keller ISD, TX
- Lake County Schools, FL
- Laramie County School District #1, WY
- Loudoun County Public Schools, VA
- Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, IN
- New York City Department of Education, NY
- Pittsburgh Public Schools
- Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough, MA
- School District of Lee County, FL
- School District of Pickens County, SC
- School District of Polk County, FL
- Seattle Public Schools, WA
- The Virtual High School
- Volusia County Schools, FL
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

For additional information, visit imsglobal.org/imsmembership.html or contact k-12@imsglobal.org