



To: Global Educational Community Stakeholders

This letter has been drafted to express to the educational marketplace, providers and consumers, the mutual intent of the IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS Global) and SIF Association to further the organizational alignment that began almost one year ago with the formation of the Assessment Interoperability Framework (AIF) project. The goals of this proposed collaboration are to:

- ✓ Facilitate the development and support of a single technical standards community model that promotes an ongoing dialogue around the interoperability needs of preK-20 education across the globe.
- ✓ Collectively create and foster the development, adoption and implementation of open technical specifications for learning and educational technology interoperability.
- ✓ Enable technology-based personalized learning opportunities and create opportunities for the sharing of effective practices to further the educational marketplace.

For countries around the world to evolve to better results from their educational systems, the need for a complete “picture” of the learner is critical to link the appropriate resources, programs and content to allow for a successful personalized learning progression. It is then critical that this information and its linkages be available for use throughout the learner’s life, including preK-12, vocational, higher education and/or the workplace.

Personalized learning opportunities do not or will not occur only within the physical space of the classroom, workplace or even the home. Learning is going digital and buyers of content require diverse sources to be combined to personalize learning. There now is a need for unprecedented levels of cooperation to make this happen and it needs to happen in a way that creates opportunity for learners, purchasers and marketplace suppliers in a trusted approach to keep the barriers to innovation low.

The continued alignment of IMS and SIF is important to the education community. IMS and SIF jointly represent a critical mass of education institutions that recognize that interoperability between suppliers helps lower costs, fosters innovation, and leads to improved learning experiences and outcomes. IMS and SIF also represent an unparalleled set of education suppliers that see the importance of an open, professional, and participatory process for defining interoperability requirements and developing ongoing specifications for interoperability standards. It is clear a common, integrated process for setting standards across preK-20 will benefit educational institutions and suppliers alike – and IMS and SIF have the necessary support and capability to successfully implement this process.

The combination of IMS Global and the SIF Association resources will enable:

- ✓ Coherent coverage of content and data interoperability
- ✓ Interoperability across preK-12 and higher education
- ✓ Support and adoption of open standards by institutions, suppliers & government organizations
- ✓ Support for regional activities around the world
- ✓ Focus of education industry investment on accelerating innovation
- ✓ Rapid realization of an open and flexible foundation for the next generation of teaching, learning and educational achievement

IMS Global and the SIF Association are currently exploring cooperative projects and aligned operational efficiencies similar in structure to the highly successful Assessment Interoperability Framework (AIF) project, which is currently reshaping the landscape of U.S. assessment in cooperation with the U.S. Race to the Top Assessment program.

We, the leadership of the two standards communities, commit to keep the marketplace informed on the progression of these alignment activities.

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