



For Immediate Release

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The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA®) Completes Successful Proof of Concept to Improve Assessment Results Reporting

Washington, DC May 14, 2007- The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA), the Virginia Department of Education, Pearson Educational Measurement and Edustructures have just completed a proof of concept of the SIF 2 Assessment Objects. The project's stated objective was to test the viability of the new SIF 2 Assessment objects in transporting student assessment data from a testing vendor (Pearson Educational Measurement) to another educational entity (Virginia DOE) via the SIF framework (provided by Edustructures).

School districts and state departments of education have been struggling to process the massive amounts of testing data that they are required to collect and report in a timely manner. This proof of concept demonstrated how applications using the SIF specification can move data efficiently and accurately. "We are very pleased with the results and the expansion of teaching and learning within SIF," stated Bethann Canada, Director of the Office of Educational Informational Management, Virginia Department of Education. The assessment proof of concept included the use of nine data objects describing various assessment data elements including registration, scoring and reporting.

This proof of concept demonstrates how SIF better enables data to inform instruction for teachers by allowing the movement of timely and accurate assessment data. "Using SIF to pass assessment objects allows for faster reporting of results and facilitates the movement of this data," remarked Andrew Malik, Project Manager, Pearson Educational Measurement.

The proof of concept included the development of two new SIF agents to support the publishing and requesting of the SIF 2 Assessment Objects. This allows the assessment data to be gathered and sent by the district to the assessment vendor and from there to the state department of education. "We believe that integrating assessment and instructional data is a crucial process for the next step in the evolution of SIF. We were pleased to provide our SIFWorks platform, development tools, and expertise to this project. This successful proof of concept met the project goals and has informed the future development and expansion of the teaching and learning aspects of SIF," stated Steve Curtis, CEO of Edustructures.

This valuable input from the proof of concept will expand future versions of the assessment objects by the end of the year. "Developing and implementing assessment data objects further enables teaching and learning. Those data, provided to teachers, can impact instruction and student learning," commented Jill Abbott, Learning Strategist of SIFA. "The proofs of concept provide valuable input into further facilitating this."

About the Schools Interoperability Framework Association

SIFA is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of over 480 schools, districts, states, US and International Departments of Education, software vendors and consultants who collectively define the rules and regulations for educational software data interoperability. The SIF Implementation Specification enables diverse applications to interact and share data efficiently, reliably, and securely regardless of the platform hosting those applications. SIFA has united these education technology end users and providers in an unprecedented effort to give teachers more time to do what they do best: teach. For additional information about SIFA's Teaching and Learning Framework and about the Association, please visit www.sifinfo.org

About Edustructures

Edustructures is the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions for the pK-12 education market, making it possible for market-leading Student Information, Library, Transportation, Cafeteria and Directory solutions to reliably and securely share data in real-time. Through its SIFWorks® integration platform, comprehensive professional services, and business relationships with technology providers and educators, Edustructures connects the systems that power education. For more information about Edustructures, please visit www.edustructures.com

About Pearson Educational Measurement

Pearson Educational Measurement is the largest comprehensive provider of educational assessment products, services and solutions. As a pioneer in educational measurement, PEM has been a trusted partner in district, state and national assessments for more than 50 years. PEM helps educators and parents use testing and assessment to promote learning and academic achievement. More information is available at www.pearsonedmeasurement.com.