

Ramapo Central School District (N.Y.)

James Yap, Director of Technology
jyap@ramapocentral.org
845-357-7783

CHALLENGES

James Yap, Director of Technology at Ramapo Central School District (NY) faced several data challenges just four short years ago. James and the staff at Ramapo identified a couple of obvious challenges, while others were far more subtle. The first challenge was data inaccuracy caused by duplicate data entry throughout the district. This not only caused reports to be inaccurate, but also meant countless hours reconciling the correct data. Additionally, duplicate data entry meant inefficiencies existed due to job overlap. "Not only was the school secretary entering information, but 10 other people were typing that same information into a variety of administrative software packages," James says.

While Ramapo identified SIF© as a solution for its data architecture, they also looked at and considered other means of moving data in the various systems. It was determined that managing data through Extract, Transform, Load processes (ETL) would be cumbersome and very costly to maintain and support.

One particular challenge came up after deploying the initial SIF solutions. Ramapo's previous student information system was no longer going to be supported, which meant the district's search for a new SIS for the nearly 5000 students and 400 teachers Ramapo Central serves. James evaluated the capabilities of the software itself along with giving consideration to how best a new SIS would fit in with the SIF infrastructure.

As the deployment of SIF took place, it became evident that some vendors did not yet support the SIF data model nor had they developed SIF agents. Some vendors were beginning to build SIF agents, which meant that Ramapo could potentially pilot a beta deployment of these agents coming into the market. "I wouldn't say that we were on the bleeding edge," Yap adds, "but rather the leading edge of the technology that was becoming available. We see advantages to working closely with our vendor partners to create winning SIF agents that can be used by other districts around the country."



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THE SOLUTION

Choosing the proper Zone Integration Server was at the top of Ramapo's SIF to-do list. Edustructures SIF Works© Zone Integration Server (ZIS) supports SIF agent translation between versions 1.5r1 and SIF 2.x. This support provides the flexibility for Ramapo's agents to talk seamlessly.

The choice of eSchoolData to replace the legacy Student Information System was also crucial. A team of district staff members evaluated options and SIF functionality and settled into the robust SIS supported by eSchool Data. The support of SIF objects was one key piece; eSD supports a large object set and one that matched very closely with the subscribing agents that are integrated.

In addition to product support from Edustructures, ESchool Data and the other vendors involved in the project, Ramapo chose to have additional SIF integration support from Integrity Schools. "Integrity has provided fantastic support for our integration, especially the integration of Performance Plus, a product of SunGard Public Sector and was able to bring together many pieces that would otherwise been missing. "

Key Partnerships with leading K-12 vendor applications IEP Direct, School Link Technology and Rubicon (others listed on the opposite side) help support all 9 applications that Ramapo has currently through the Edustructures ZIS.

Ramapo does not have endless imports and exports to maintain and therefore has confidence that querying accurate data, means that there is no blame game between vendor and end users about the accuracy of data. Far fewer support desk calls made to the I.T. Department because of accurate & reliable data means that staff members can attend to other important tasks in the district.

James added, "Follett's Library Manager SIF agent was a terrific first step because this data was not as critical and contained only a few SIF objects from a data mapping perspective." He continues, "Performance Plus was a logical next step for a completely different reason. The Performance Plus agent supports many SIF objects which meant robust data movement with the eSchool Data SIF agent."



AttendanceCodeInfo
 LEAInfo
 RoomInfo
 SchoolInfo
 SchoolCourseInfo
 SectionInfo
 StaffAssignment
 StaffPersonal
 StudentDailyAttendance
 StudentSchoolEnrollment
 StudentSectionEnrollment
 StudentContact
 StudentPersonal
 TermInfo



SchoolInfo
 StudentPersonal
 StudentSchoolEnrollment



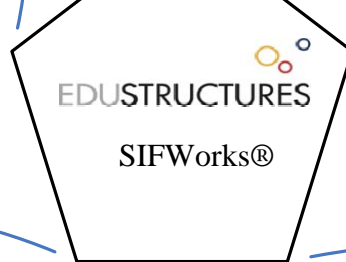
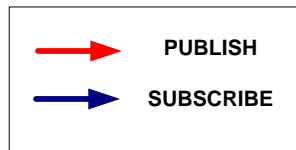
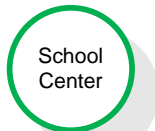
SchoolInfo
 StudentContact
 StudentPersonal



Authentication
 StaffPersonal
 StaffAssignment
 StudentPersonal
 StudentSchoolEnrollment



FUTURE SYSTEMS



LEAInfo
 RoomInfo
 SchoolInfo
 StaffAssignment
 StaffMeal
 StudentContact
 StudentPersonal
 StudentPicture
 StudentSchoolEnrollment
 +9 other SIF Objects



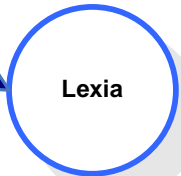
RoomInfo
 SchoolInfo
 StaffPersonal
 Student Contact
 StudentCourseInfo
 StudentPersonal
 StudentSchoolEnrollment
 Student SectionEnrollment
 TermInfo



SchoolCourseInfo
 SchoolInfo
 SectionInfo
 StaffPersonal
 StudentContact
 TermInfo



StudentContact
 StudentPersonal



SchoolInfo
 StudentPersonal
 StudentSchoolEnrollment