

THE ALVARADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

One of the most daunting challenges facing pK-12 school districts is the need to increase capabilities—of staff, students, systems and data—while keeping budgets in line. Kyle Berger, director of technology for the 3,400-student Alvarado ISD in Alvarado, Texas, faced this classic “do more with less” scenario.

Challenge

Managing the technology needs of his district, Berger has limited funding and staff to deliver an essential need; to increase staff productivity by streamlining existing processes with a full integration between software systems. The district had been using a manual process to enter, update and manage student information across various district systems, but Berger knew there had to be a better way.

Solution

To solve their interoperability challenges, Berger and the district looked to solutions that incorporated the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF®) standard. With a SIF-supporting Novell® environment already in place, Berger and his team set about establishing a SIF zone using the SIFWorks® Zone Integration Server (ZIS) from Edustructures. The SIFWorks ZIS, as the central messaging component of SIF, automates data communication between the various SIF-enabled systems to minimize—if not eliminate—redundant data entry.

Once the SIF zone was implemented, and the district’s SIF-enabled Student Information System (SIS) established as the district-wide “sole source of authority” for student information via SIF, management of home directories was automated; student accounts and rights are established automatically as a student is enrolled in the SIS. Further, as changes are made in the SIS—such as students moving in and out of the district or transfers between schools—user accounts are moved or inactivated in the directory, all without staff intervention.

Results

With SIF, Berger can now do more with fewer people. In fact, Berger estimates that his staff has gained more than five instruction days per student per year!

Berger has realized hard ROI as well. Calculating the IT staff’s daily rate against time recouped using the SIFworks solution, Berger estimates a savings of over \$16,000 in the first year. “We’re a small district—imagine the overall savings a larger district can achieve,” concluded Berger.



“The overall solution has streamlined what had been a six-day process, into a six-second process. Instead of having staff tied up in manual data entry and account management, we can spend more time on classroom computer instruction. SIF has allowed us to do more with less and focus on our true goal; educating children.”

KYLE BERGER,
director of technology, Alvarado ISD

Assuring Your Success

Edustructures ensures your SIF implementation success story by offering a comprehensive program of training, technical support and consulting services.

Implementation

Our implementation engineers have successfully installed more state and district projects than any other SIF vendor, experience that results in a superior implementation. The implementation process involves analysis and planning, installing the server software, creating zones, defining the agents that will be registered in each zone, and configuring access control permissions.

Project Management

As the first company dedicated to delivering SIF-based solutions, Edustructures offers a dedicated staff to deliver extensive, real world, best-practice project management for your implementation.

Training/Professional Development

Edustructures offers a variety of training options tailored to each district or state need. Basic SIFWorks training includes installation, configuration, and continued maintenance of the SIF infrastructure.

Ongoing Support

Edustructures maintains an experienced team of support professionals focused on your success via toll-free phone and email. Additionally, our Customer Support Center portal offers downloads of the latest versions of our products, the ability to open or view support cases, browsing of technical support bulletins and product documentation, and access to our technical knowledge base.

Edustructures: SIF is all we do!

- **MORE state and district SIF implementations than any other SIF solution provider**
- **MORE available certified agents than any other SIF solution provider**
- **MORE SIF agents have been built using our technology than all other technology platforms combined**
- **FIRST to market with a commercial Zone Integration Server (ZIS)**
- **FIRST to implement district-wide SIF solutions**
- **FIRST to scale SIF to State-level implementations**
- **FIRST commercial SIF development toolkit**

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, Directory solutions and more 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.

**To get your school, district or state connected, contact Edustructures:
877.790.1261**

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