

ED-FI SUMMIT

Sustainability Session Summary

Sustainability Challenges

- Onboarding new vendors who need to integrate using the Ed-Fi data standard
 - Requires a lot of coaching
 - SEA/LEA staff or their contractors have to set-up SDK for vendors and provide examples
 - Vendors agree in the contract, but are very slow to follow through or they try to monetize in a way that feels unfair for reuse of past work
 - Smaller vendors don't have the bandwidth or are simply not prioritizing this initiative
 - Ed-Fi doesn't have traction yet with vendors that are most relevant to a classroom such as formative assessment and courseware. These vendors still default to creating custom connectors vs. using a standard API.
- Absolutely have to stabilize and reduce upgrade and maintenance costs.
 - Transition to 2.0 is a lot of work for everyone
 - Data migration is a pain point and seems never ending
 - Vendors have to invest a lot of time in moving to 2.0 and this delays project timelines
 - Breaking changes seem to occur frequently
- Ongoing funding to support continued scale, new use cases, and feature/functionality expansion
 - Initial round of development benefited from RttT, but federal funding is slowing down
 - Having difficulty finding other funders who are interested in these areas
- Documentation and getting started tools still need improvement
 - Dashboard metrics documentation is largely missing
- Continuing to build support for the value that the Ed-Fi work brings
 - Upgrade applicability to increase ROI and ensure Ed-Fi stays current
 - Need to start demonstrating usage and impact through research
 - The need for outreach to districts, data coaches, teachers, and other stakeholders should increase to build ongoing support and adoption
- Bridging from Ed-Fi for state reporting to Ed-Fi in the classroom
 - For districts and schools adopting Ed-Fi, it requires a lot of internal selling and explanation to vendors to demystify Ed-Fi and show it is relevant in getting data to the classroom
 - Need more teacher adoption for district IT staff to want to continue supporting it
- Identifying and retaining talent to support Ed-Fi implementations after deployment
 - Particularly difficult to hire and retain internal people for L3 support
 - Training support staff is difficult as the Ed-Fi Alliance doesn't provide a lot of training



- Shortage of competent and competitive consultants. Demand for these people is higher than supply which is driving up cost to get assistance.
- Ed-Fi, particularly the dashboards, are difficult to extend and scale
 - Adding new assessments is cumbersome
 - Taxing for IT department to support and difficult for them to add functionality
- Regional collaborative want to move state wide, but need Ed-Fi Alliance support in the conversation
- Still some confusion about what Ed-Fi is versus is not. Many organizations still think of Ed-Fi as just the dashboards.

Potential Ed-Fi Alliance Supported Solutions

- Provide more tactical training and support for vendors and support staff
 - Improve SDK for new vendors with sample code and data and more how-to/user guide documentation
 - Create a vendor training and support program to assist vendors to align with Ed-Fi
 - Start a training program for internal support teams
 - Make training more readily available with frequent in-person and online sessions
 - More user guides that can be a starting point to be customized for each implementation
 - Give guidance to licensees on the appropriate support model, skills required, etc.
- Increase transparency and support for upgrading
 - Share details on what is required to upgrade and provide more tactical tools to assist
 - Provide more tools to assist with 2.0 migration (e.g. data migration scripts)
- Expand the Alliance's role of partner and network builder
 - Identify and make introductions to new funders
 - Create partnerships with universities to assist in doing research impact around Ed-Fi tools
 - Continue building the network of system integrator and independent contractors who can support Ed-Fi. Make this list more visible.
 - Assist primary LEA/SEA representatives to get higher level commitment from the organization's leadership to ensure longevity of the Ed-Fi initiative
 - Partner with regional collaborative in discussions with SEAs to help build statewide buy-in
 - Engage higher ed and other standards bodies to clarify how all the standards fit together
- Strengthen and expand marketing campaign around Ed-Fi to help district, schools, and vendors see the value and understand how Ed-Fi could be used
 - Make it clear what Ed-Fi can and can't do
 - Highlight places where Ed-Fi is working both from an adoption standpoint and where it is technically working well
 - Understand the audience that is adopting and put Ed-Fi in the context of their needs



- Continue to encourage SEAs and LEAs to require Ed-Fi in their RFP. Proactively provide sample language and RFP best practices.
- Review, audit, and publish data standard and dashboard extensions
- Review vendors to determine their level of Ed-Fi alignment and publish specialties of vendors
- Simplify the data model by providing common API integrations for different types of vendors
- Simplify document management and collaboration with Confluence
- Create a teacher advisory group to vet data standard use cases and new dashboard functionality
- Explore a pricing model that would enable user organizations to contribute to continued innovation