



Operationalizing SIS Data at Scale

2019 Ed-Fi Technical Congress

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Gen 1 ~2012-14

Data: SIS

Use cases: SEA

XML binding

Data in

Extensions

Gen 2 ~2015-2017

Data: SIS, early Assessment

Use cases: SEA and LEA collab

XML and API / JSON bindings

Data in

Extensions

Gen 3 ~2018-present

Data: SIS, Assessment, many other early

Use cases: SEA, LEA collab, LEA

API / JSON; XML as legacy

Data in/out

Namespaced Extensions +
Core only



Gnarly Problem Space...

- SIS systems = highly customizable ERP (by design!)
- Local usage norms (vast!)
- Pushing business logic downstream
- "Manual" nature of K12 data movement (and love of it?)



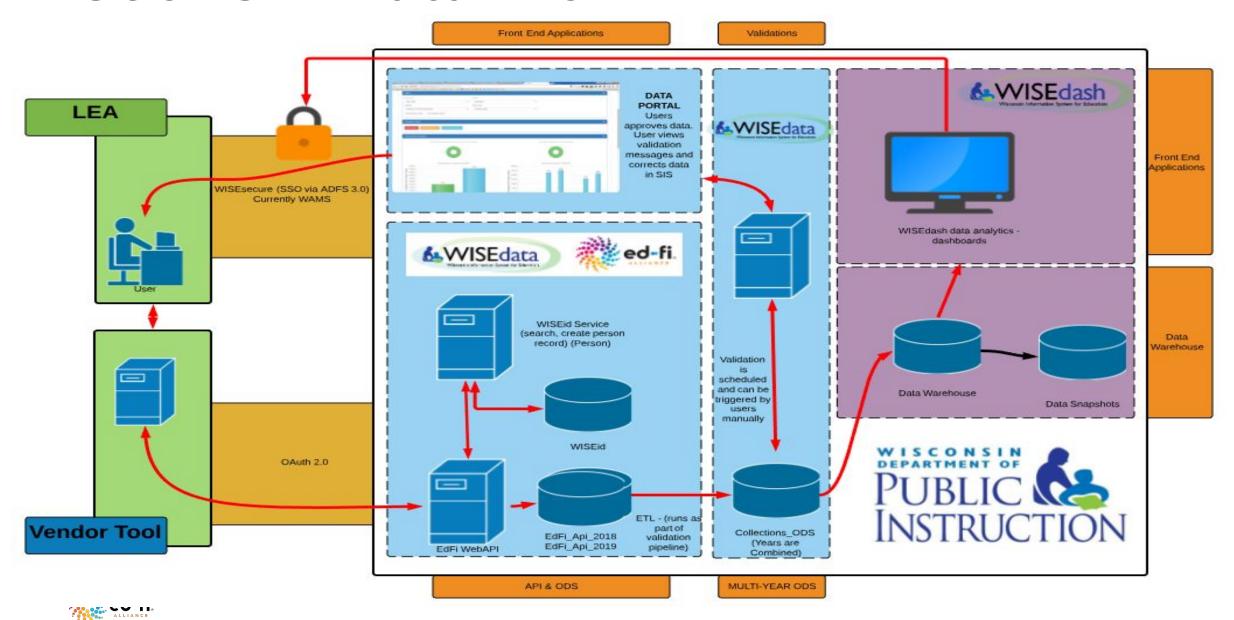


Wisconsin Example

- 24 vendors
- 421 Public + 213 Private (voucher) LEAs submitting data to WISEdata Ed-Fi API
- Data domains: student demographics, enrollment, academic record, SPED, programs, roster, career education, discipline, finance
- Ed-Fi API end to end integration (vendor to SEA) since 2015
- Development team:
 - 4 developers, 2 system business analysts, 1 QA, 1 vendor relations manager, 1 scrum master / product owner
 - Agile Scrum



Wisconsin Data Flow



ISSUE: Translation of SEA reporting requirements with Ed-Fi core data model is challenging and time consuming

Perceived cause

• Common use case repository that details when to use specific parts of the model is missing. SEAs must study other implementations, make educated guesses.

Effects

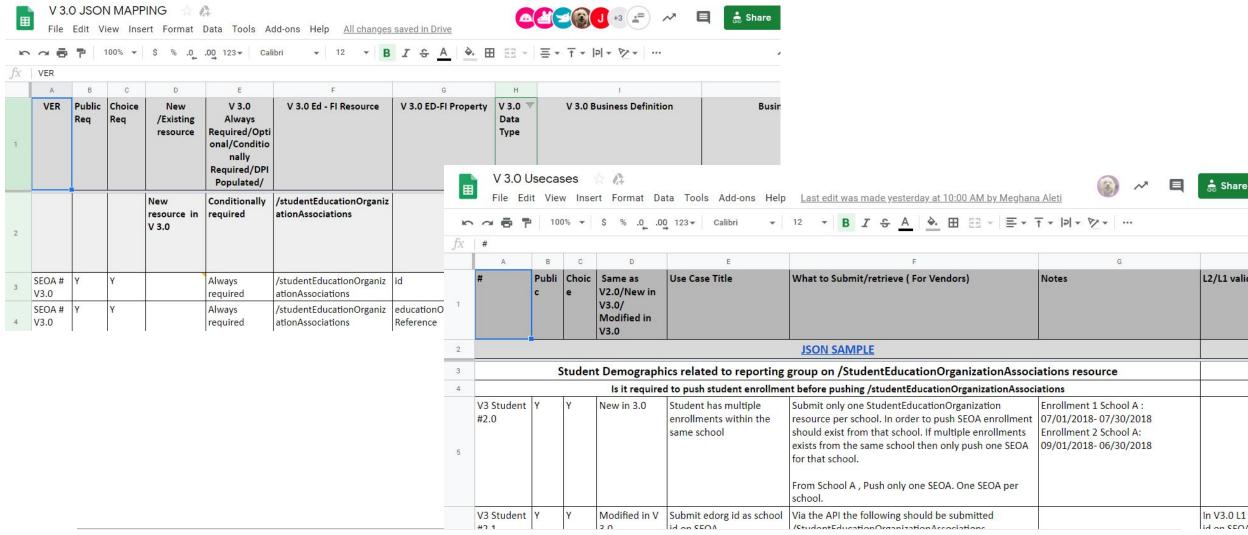
 Inconsistent SEA data model use resulting in challenges for SIS vendor tools integrating in multiple states

Proposed ideas:

- Core uses cases, not state specific, developed and published as a baseline for new and expanding SEA implementation usage
- SEA Peer / Ed-Fi Alliance review of new domain implementations prior to SEA laying down code



Wisconsin Example JSON Mapping & Use Cases





ISSUE: Misunderstanding of requirements, timelines between SEA, SIS vendors and LEAs

Perceived cause

Not enough reoccurring communication and training

Effects

• Frustrated LEAs, SIS vendors, SEAs, poor data quality, vendor software rework

Proposed ideas:

- Requirement reviews, documentation from SEAs provided to vendors in Q1 for changes in next school year
- Early awareness and overviews with LEA/SEA/Vendor advisory groups; get early feedback prior to development
- Ongoing monthly LEA/SEA/Vendor advisory group meetings
- Dedicated SEA staff for vendor management



ISSUE: Major Ed-Fi releases require significant human capital for SEA, Vendors for development/integration testing

Perceived cause

 High number of use cases rework/validate when applicable, some SEAs have 10+ vendors to manage and test with

Effects

 Necessary part of the process, but does take away from new innovation, value add features for LEAs and very expensive for SEA and vendors

Proposed ideas:

Discussion



ISSUE: Ed-Fi Core Missing Vendor Security Management Tooling That Meets SEA Use Cases

Perceived cause

• A number of the use cases weren't realized initially until SEAs began field implementations; other key priorities on roadmap; SEAs don't understand the issue until they are farther into implementation

Effects

 Lots of support tickets for development teams to manage, custom authorization strategies galore, paperwork for LEAs to complete, SEA custom application

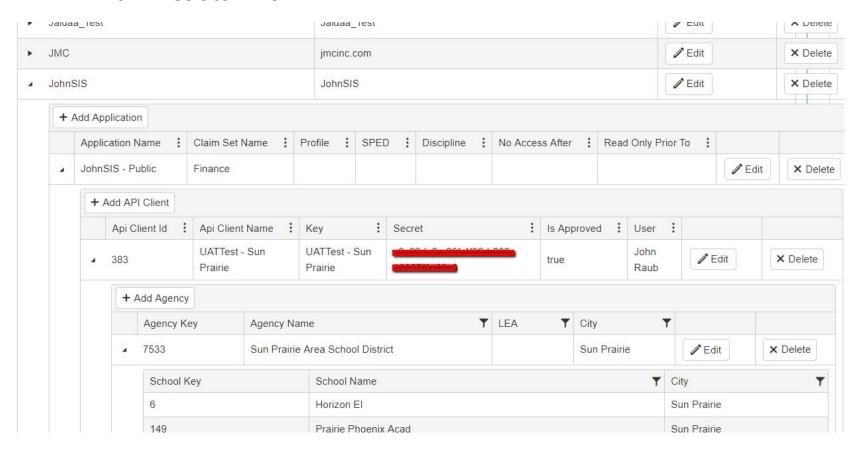
Proposed ideas:

 Ed-Fi core tool that accommodates field use cases and allows for LEA self registration and secure vendor portal to obtain Ed-Fi claimset details by LEA



Wisconsin Ed-Fi Credential Tool

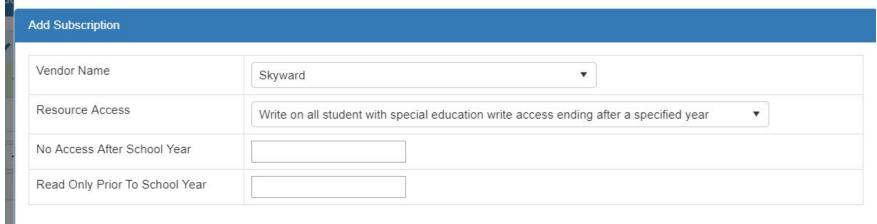
WI DPI Administrator View





Wisconsin Ed-Fi Credential Tool

LEA Self Registration



By subscribing, you are agreeing to the following:

- District data is required to be collected and then housed at the Department of Public Instruction through the Wisconsin Information System for Education. This agreement will authorize SIS and domain specific vendors to access and use limited educational records for Districts housed at the District, in the cloud, or housed by DPI's Wisconsin Information System for Education and is intended solely for the purpose of state and federal reporting and/or to provide value added services for Districts.
- 2. Pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C Section 1232g, 34 C.F.R. 99.33(b), an education agency or institution such as a District may disclose personally identifiable information from student education records with the understanding that the party receiving the information may make further disclosures of the information on behalf of the education agency or institution if the disclosures meet the requirements of 34 C.F.R. 99.31 and if the education agency or institution has complied with 34 C.F.R. 99.32(b), which requires a record of the disclosure, including the names of the additional parties to which the receiving party may disclose and the legitimate interests which each of the additional parties has in requesting or obtaining the information.
- 3. The District understands that it retains the rights to all data from its educational records and that this request does not in any way waive its rights to that data. By subscribing to the vendor, District acknowledges that it has the necessary authority to give this permission.



ISSUE: LEAs don't understand the end to end data flow and get frustrated when data quality issues don't get resolved

Perceived cause

 No complete picture presented to LEAs so they can see the state of data at different stages; many SIS vendor tools don't indicate which fields map to Ed-Fi API and don't present sync success / failure in friendly way to LEAs

Effects

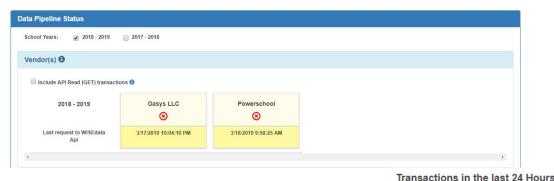
 Frustration from the LEA users, lower quality data at snapshot, bad look for Ed-Fi, SEA process

Proposed ideas:

 Create better vendor tooling that confirms data transmission and SEA provides pipeline view from vendor API submission to data quality validation



Wisconsin LEA 'Pipeline' Homepage

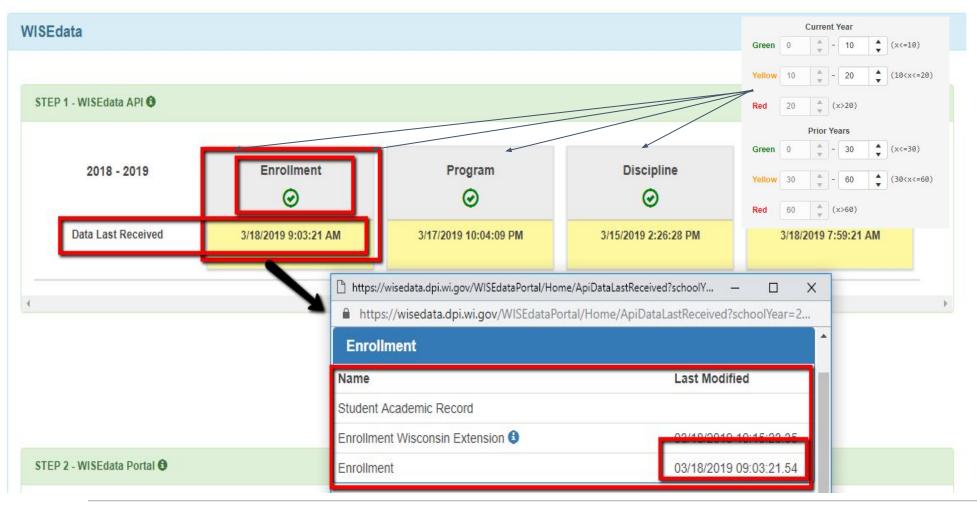






Wisconsin LEA 'Pipeline' Homepage

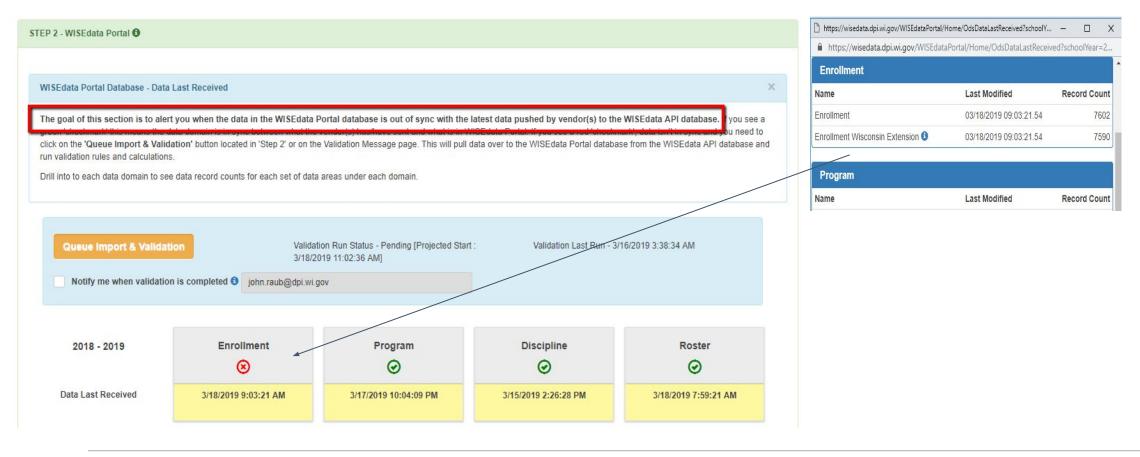
• STEP 1 - WISEdata API: Has my vendor tool sent data in the last 10 days?





Wisconsin LEA 'Pipeline' Homepage

• **STEP 2 - WISEdata Portal:** Does WISEdata Portal have the latest data my vendor successfully sent to WISEdata? If you see **RED**, click the button!





ISSUE: Validation and "round-tripping" of errors

Perceived cause

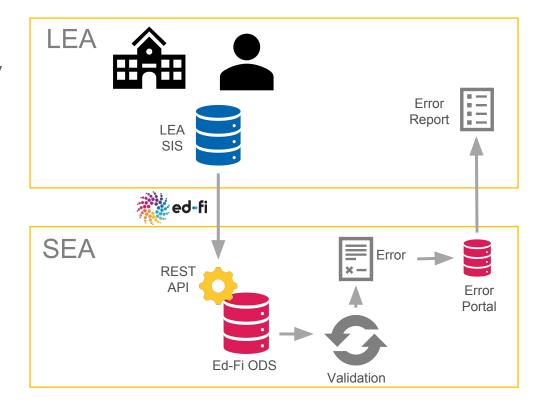
 Highly operational system + many downstream consumers = issues only found later

Effects

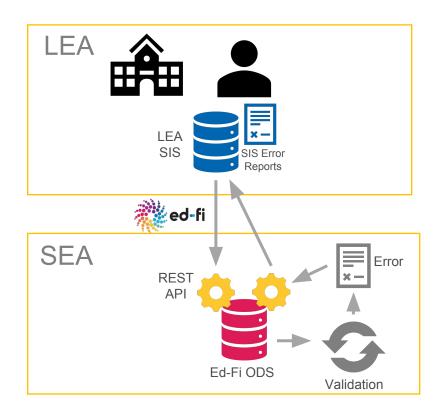
 Inefficiency: staff fixing errors in upstream systems

Proposed ideas

 Standard format for validation errors and (on-manual) transport between systems









ISSUE: Pushing business logic into the API surface

- Perceived cause
 - Education agencies push business logic upstream to providers
- Effects
 - Local business logic = non-reusable code in SIS systems
- Proposed ideas
 - Ed-Fi Alliance reviews of SEA data specifications (but can't scale)

"Hey SIS, can you tell me how many students were absent today, with 'absent' in this one case interpreted as out for more than 75 minutes of instruction?"



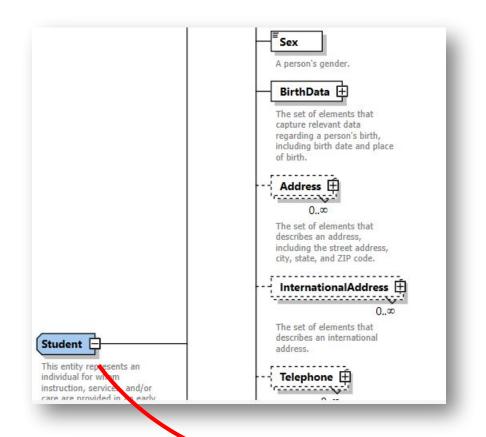
Issue: Data model collisions

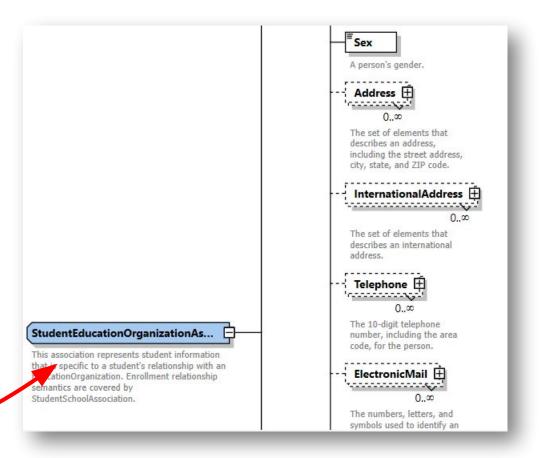
- Perceived cause
 - Different use cases = different domain models
- Effects
 - Sub-optimal (or even confusing) experiences for some data consumers or clients
- Proposed ideas
 - ?



Ed-Fi UDM 2.x

Ed-Fi UDM 3.x





Great for SEAs, but probably confusing for local assessment systems!



Discussion & Questions



Thank You!

