The Ed-Fi ODS / API enables applications to read and write education data stored in an Ed-Fi ODS through a secure REST interface. The REST interface to the Ed-Fi ODS / API exposes metadata describing the exposed resources as well as the inputs, HTTP verbs, and schema of the exposed entities. This metadata enables a user interface (based on the Swagger framework) to display API documentation.

An overview of the ODS / API is provided, which provides a description of the types of API’s, and links to specific API resources.

![API Documentation](image)

**Resources**

Resources are the primary entities that most API client applications work with on a regular basis. Students, staff, education organizations, and their related entities are maintained using this area of the API.

**Composites**

Composites are read-only combinations of resources that address specific business use cases. Using composites reduces the number of calls that an API client application must make to retrieve resources for these use cases.

For example, the Enrollment composite can return all the students in a given class section or all students associated with a particular staff member, and similar student association-related information in a single call. Similarly, the Assessment composite can return all assessments associated with a school, or all assessments associated with a student in a single call. Platform hosts may add their own composite resources.

![Screen capture of the API summary page](image)

The Swagger documentation pages also provide a means to interact with a sandbox version of the ODS using the API, which allows developers to experiment with API calls and to view responses in a test environment.

You can explore the API’s interactively, but selecting the “Authorize” button and selecting the API key and secret defaults.

![Screen capture of the API documentation interface](image)

The following link takes you to detailed documentation for the Ed-Fi ODS / API REST interface:

**Ed-Fi ODS / API REST API Reference Documentation**