In Use Examples of SIF RFP and Legislative Language

In Use LEA SIF RFP Example

The goal of the XXXXX project is the creation of a new XXXXX that supports the latest certified version of the SIF Specification and which will allow for the integration of current data from multiple source systems into a single structure. The XXXXX project will perform all inter-system data transfers (with internal and external agencies) and application integration functions for (function);

The XXXXX must be certified to the SIF 3.x specification, or any updated versions of the specification, which enable school districts software management systems to communicate with each other. The XXXXX system shall include, but not be limited to, the specifications for (function 1), (function 2), and (function 3) formatting specifications.

In Use SEA SIF RFP Example

To assist in the implementation of the state reporting systems required pursuant to XXXXX, the Department shall contract for the creation of, and implement, a state-wide data-sharing system that is based on the SIF Specification. After the state-wide data-sharing system is implemented, each school district may, but is not required to, participate in the state-wide data-sharing system by using a data system that is certified with the SIF Association (dba Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community).

All technology systems used by the Department of Education and by local K-12 schools and districts shall be SIF Certified. Alternative systems may be used if the alternative system is compliant and all data sets required by the Department of Education are provided to the department in acceptable, real-time format. Schools and districts may use alternative compliant systems if an alternative system is needed because of cost, efficiency, or a need for additional software features.

In Use Policy SIF Legislative Language

Any state and/or federal funds utilized in the development and implementation of student record systems, local, regional and state educational entities shall construct systems to contain the following elements and comply with the following standards and compliance capabilities:
1. Utilize Extensible Mark-up Language (XML), which defines common data formats used during communication between disparate systems;

2. Certify to the SIF version 3.0 Specification, or any updated versions of the specification, which enable school district software management systems to communicate with each other; and

3. Utilize defined state data codes to ensure consistent reporting from school districts (i.e. course identifiers, teacher certification, etc.).

By the 20XX-20XX school year, any state or federally funded student information systems and any instructional management system used by school districts and the state shall comply with the Extensible Mark-up Language (XML), standards and the SIF 3.x specification, or any updated versions of the specifications.

In Use Examples of SIF RFP Questions

1. SIF Involvement

SIF Certification

1.1. Please list SIF Certified applications that will be provided by your company as part of this proposal that (as posted on SIF Certification Registry).

1.2. What version of the SIF Certification Program are your applications certified against?

1.2.1. If your applications are not SIF 3.x Certified, when do you intend to certify against SIF 3.x?

1.3. Please list applications that will be provided by your company as part of this proposal that are not SIF Certified but that have SIF agents available.

1.3.1. When do you intend to have these applications SIF Certified?

1.3.2. What SIF Certification Program are you planning on certifying against?

1.4. For each SIF Certified application, please supply a copy of the Conformance Statement Questionnaire that you completed as part of your Certification Application, and a copy of your SIF Certificate.

1.5. For each application that has a SIF agent but is not yet SIF Certified, please provide a description of each agent's functionality in complete detail.
SIF Experience

1.6. Please provide a brief history of your company’s involvement with SIF Implementations. In addition, please provide the following information:

1.6.1. Describe the implementation and support services available from your company during deployment of the SIF certified applications that will be provided as part of this proposal.

1.6.2. Describe the functions(s) supported by your application(s) (i.e. subscriber, provider, etc.).

1.6.3. Please list other agent vendors and/or SIF Certified Applications that are known to have been deployed by schools and/or districts that have implemented your SIF Certified Applications that will be provided as part of this proposal.

1.6.4. Please list the SIF Data Objects available in the SIF Certified Applications that will be provided as part of this proposal.

1.6.5. Please name the zone integration server(s) that have been tested for use or that existing customers have used during deployment of the SIF Certified Applications that will be provided as part of this proposal.

1.6.6. List at least three reference schools and/or districts that have purchased and/or deployed your SIF Certified Application.

1.6.7. Please provide customer contacts for each reference.

1.6.8. How many total customers do you have that have purchased and/or deployed your SIF Certified Applications that will be provided as part of this proposal?

Note that a comprehensive confidential list of clients may be requested if your organization is chosen for further consideration.

2. Agent Costs

2.1 Are costs for your agent(s) included in the costs for your software or are they separate costs?

2.2 How are upgrades to your agent(s) priced?

2.3 Describe installation support and its cost.

2.4 Describe on-going support and its cost.
2.5 Are upgrades included in software maintenance or annual service agreement?

3. **Zone Integration Server (ZIS) (if required)**
   
   3.1 Does your company provide or market a Zone Integration Server (ZIS)? (If not, proceed to the next section.)
   
   3.2 Identify the version(s) of the SIF Specification that the ZIS supports.
   
   3.3 Please provide a list of references from these implementations that we can contact.
   
   3.4 Does your proposal include the cost of the ZIS and implementation?
   
   3.5 What is the cost for upgrades?
   
   3.6 What are the costs for training and support for the ZIS?
   
   3.7 Describe the training and support provided (documentation, phone support, etc.).
   
   3.8 What additional software needs to be installed and operational in order for your ZIS to run properly?

4. **SIF Participation**

   4.1. Please provide your original date of SIF membership.
   
   4.2. List leadership positions held by staff in your organization as part of the A4L Community, including functional (working) groups.
   
   4.3. List SIF functional groups in which your company actively participates and staff hours of company involvement in each group.
   
   4.4. List any and all SIF activities in which you have participated, including Developers Camps, Connect-a-Thons, conference and trade show demonstrations, and quarterly and annual meetings.

5. **SIF Support**

   5.1. Will your company assist the district in using SIF to interface your application with other internal and external legacy information systems used by the district?
   
   5.2. What support does your company provide for agent specific questions?
5.2.1. Describe your escalation procedures.

5.3. What specific training, support and development assistance will be provided?