ABOUT THE A4L COMMUNITY

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Access 4 Learning Community (A4L)

Description:

The Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community, previously the SIF Association, is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of schools, districts, local authorities, states, US and International Ministries of Education, software vendors and consultants who collectively address all aspects of learning information management and access to support learning.

Stakeholder(s):

A4L Board of Directors:

The Access 4 Learning Community is governed on both global and local levels. Although the Global Management Board of Directors is responsible for the overall direction and strategy, each locale is responsible for day-to-day management and running of locale activities focused on address locale-specific needs.

Dave Burns:

Queensland Department of Education & Training

Steve Curtis:

Kimono

George Gatsis:

Follett School Solutions

Simon Maizels:

NSW Department of Education

Stuart McGrigor:

Ministry of Education, NZ

Ben Silberglitt:

CedarLabs

Steve Smith:

Cambridge Public Schools

Tim Magner:

Director Emeritus

Patrick Plant:

Director Emeritus

Australian (AU) Community:

AU A4L Community members elect officials every year for terms on the AU Management Board, as well as the AU Technical Board. Elected AU Management Board members serve a two-year term. Elected AU Technical Board Members each serve a one year term.

AU Management Board

Dave Burns:

(Chair), Queensland Department of Education & Training

Michael Haigh:

National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC)

Paul Queeney:

Association of Independent Schools NSW

Nimit Rawal:

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Barry Wallett:

Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA)

Blake Garrett:

School Bytes

Grant Grosser:

Education Horizons Group

AU Technical Board

ACT Education Directorate:

Greg Shuhardt, Bill Williamson

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA):

Rajesh Kandpal, Navneet Kumar

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills & Employment (DESE):

Dennis Beissner, Tony Davison, John Koulouris

Catholic Education Office - Melbourne :

Chandika Gunawardana

Department of Education - WA:

Michael Cheung, Anthony Yip

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Stakeholders (continued)

Department of Education & Childrens Services, SA:

Sharon Rowett, Raj Srivastva

Department of Education & Training (VIC):

Robert Clissold, Mark van Raalte, Damian Vujicic

Department of Education & Training (Queensland):

Martin Banks, David Franzmann

Department of Education (Northern Territory Government):

Tim Egan

Department of Education, Tasmania:

Stephen Brain, Trevor Hill

Education Services Australia (ESA):

Ben Chadwick, Andrej Hribernik, Stuart Mitchell

Miles Carrick:

Vendor Member — Instructure

James Hamilton:

Vendor Member — Sentral Education

Joerg Huber:

Vendor Member — Systemic Pty Ltd

David Jones:

Vendor Member — Sempahore Consulting

Sangeetha Mohan:

Vendor Member — Civica

James Overell:

Vendor Member — Education Horizons Group

Liam Pearce:

Vendor Member — *Timetabling Solutions*

Mark Vanderkley:

Vendor Member — SIMON Schools

Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA):

Maurice Cummins, Ian Quartermaine

NSW Department of Education :

Gonzalo Chasling, Nilani Eugnan, Sandra Scenna

North American (NA) Community:

NA A4L Community members elect officials every year for terms on the NA Management Board of Directors. The NA Technical Board is comprised of the Lead of each Working Group and Task Force, as well as up to four At-Large members, elected by the membership. The NA Technical Board Members each serve a one year term.

NA Management Board

Andrea Bennett :

CITE

Peter Drescher:

Vermont Agency of Education

Michelle Elia:

CPSI, Ltd.

George Gatsis:

Follett School Solutions

Jessica Kallin:

Utah State Board of Education

Jim McGlynn:

Public Consulting Group

Allen Miedema:

Northshore School District

Mike Nutter:

Vinson Consulting

Jay Pennington:

Iowa Department of Education

Ben Silberglitt:

CedarLabs

NA Technical Board

Alex Jackl:

Bardic Systems

Danielle Norton :

Massachusetts Executive Office of Education

Roger Petersen:

Iowa Department of Education

TQ White II:

cmERDC

A4L United Kingdom (UK) Community:

A4L Community Members elect officials every year for a two-year term on the UK Management Board, and for a one-year term on the UK Technical Board. The UK Technical Board is comprised of up to six members elected by the membership (one year term), the Chair of each Functional Group and/or Task Force, and up to four Appointed Representatives (non-voting).

A4L Community

Schools

School Districts

Local Authorities

States

US Departments of Education

International Ministries of Education

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Stakeholders (continued)

Software Vendors

Consultants

Educators:

Background Information and International History — In response to demand from educators, a series of meetings began in July 1998 between Microsoft Corporation in partnership with 18 other companies, on the topic of interoperability between education applications. Their primary conclusion was that the best solution was for interested parties to collectively define standards that all software vendors could adopt. These standards would define common data formats, naming conventions, and rules of interaction between applications.

Microsoft

Bill Gates

These informal meetings became the SIF Association, which was officially launched in a speech by Bill Gates on 22 February 1999.

School Administrators:

Education is a complex activity that is part science and part art... With this in mind, education, parents, and school administrators must have access to state-of-the-art tools populated with up-to-date information in order to make effective use of a myriad of diverse resources. These resources, when combined effectively produce an effective learning environment for all

students. Seamless integration of a broad a spectrum of instructional, administrative and communication tools is an essential foundation for an environment that addresses the needs of all learners.

Learners

Students

Parents

Teachers:

Students, teachers, and institutions have different needs, requiring solutions to be customizable and scalable.

Public Institutions:

Adoption of new processes and technologies driven by these solutions must accommodate existing procedures and infrastructure. Long term, sustainable change is systemic in nature and involves consecutive successful steps designed and implemented through collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders.

Private Sector

John Lovell:

Technology Director, Access 4 Learning

Vision

Schools will be enabled to better utilize learning information

Mission

To enable implementation of technology in a manner that leverages the promise and capabilities of interoperability between disparate applications

Values

Learning

Technology

Interoperability

Learning Information

Collectively address all aspects of learning information management and access to support learning.

1. Specifications

Allow for management and access to learning information simply, securely and in a scalable, standard way regardless of the platform hosting those applications

The A4L Community is "Powered by SIF" Specifications as its major technical tool to allow for this management and access simply, securely and in a scalable, standard way regardless of the platform hosting those applications.

2. Community

Unite education technology end users and providers.

The Access 4 Learning Community has united these education technology end users and providers in an unprecedented effort to give teachers more time to do what they do best: teach.

Stakeholder(s):

Education Technology Users

Education Technology Providers

Administrative Information

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End Date:

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