What's involved?

**Key steps**

Breaking down Ed-Fi goals into specific milestones will make the process more manageable. The stages below are for ESA or district leaders looking to set up an interoperable data ecosystem with Ed-Fi.

**Stage 1: Dream it!**

Your use case is the problem you’re trying to solve, and it’s crucial for a successful implementation. Engage with teachers and staff to understand their data requirements to inform your use case.

**Stage 2: Set it up!**

Work with a consultant partner to establish an interoperable ecosystem with an Operational Data Store (ODS) and any necessary Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). Make sure the ecosystem is tailored to district data needs.

**Stage 3: Map it!**

With an interoperable ecosystem ready, ESAs, districts and partners can work together to align district fields and data sources with Ed-Fi standard fields.

**Stage 4: Build it up!**

Build any additional pieces needed to support your use case, including data warehouses, data marts, visualizations, data systems, and/or connections to other systems.

**Stage 5: Pilot it!**

Test your model with a handful of solution-oriented groups. Low and no-stakes pilots are a great way to sleuth out problems before you deploy to a live production environment.

**Stage 6: Launch it!**

Transition the implementation into a production environment ensuring it’s running effectively and you meet the established objectives. Now you’re rolling!

**Stage 7: Scale it!**

Remove the full-scale implementation of the Ed-Fi standard by collaborating with key stakeholders. Welcome to interoperability!

**Stage 8: Sustain it!**

Establish ongoing maintenance processes to sustain the efficiency and innovation of the Ed-Fi implementation over time.

Who’s involved?

**Key stakeholders**

Like any complex project, pulling together a team of talented, dedicated partners is a critical jumping-off point. Here’s an overview of the types of organizations involved.

**Education Service Agencies (ESAs)**

ESAs, such as Instructional Technology Centers or Regional Education Service Agencies, typically manage the project since they are able to ensure coordination across public and private education service providers.

**Local Education Agencies (LEAs)**

These are the teams on the ground—school districts and charter schools. They work closely with vendors to identify captured data points, implement attendance, measure and track learning progress.

**Product Providers**

Product providers send data from their products to be scalable for education leadership teams and teachers. The Ed-Fi standard chart a path toward what is possible, but it will take a little work.

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**Who’s involved?**

- **Product Providers**
- **Local Education Agencies (LEAs)**
- **Education Service Agencies (ESAs)**

**What’s involved?**

Managing student data in a major challenge at districts across the nation. The Ed-Fi standard is a solution to help organize a universe of messy data through interoperability. Listed below are steps to get you started on your Ed-Fi journey.

The Ed-Fi community is welcoming and can help ESAs, LEAs and even state leaders define a use case, navigate through challenges and figure out where to go next! Go to www.ed-fi.org to learn more.