OneRoster™ Checklist and RFP Language

Background

As schools and districts shift to online learning resources, two significant barriers are preventing the effective use of digital curriculum.

The Barriers:

1. Login Credentials

Currently teachers and students must interact with many different district-provided web based resources. More often than not, a unique username and password is required to gain access to the content. Keeping track of multiple user accounts is very time consuming and can be very frustrating for both teachers and student.
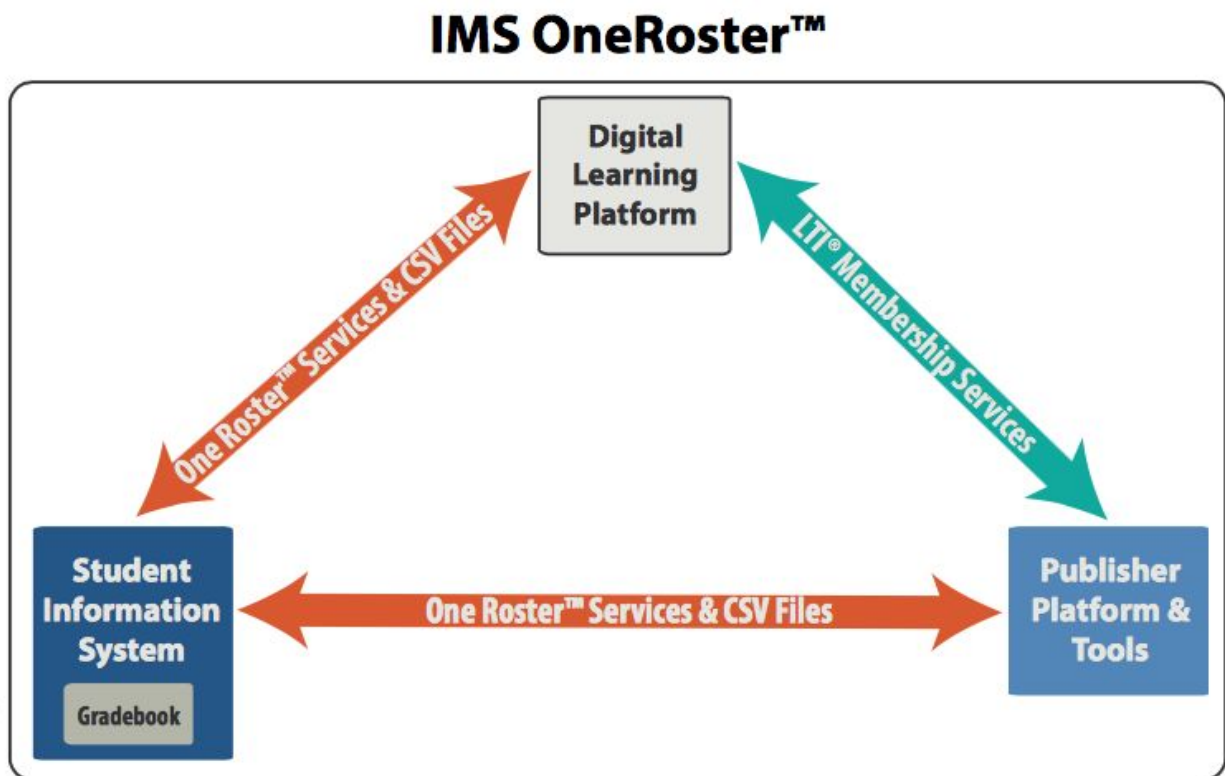
2. Rosters

It is standard practice for a district to extract custom CSV files from the district's Student Information System (SIS) or other system and upload them individually into a myriad of online tools, content and platforms in order to pre-provision access to digital resources. Districts can no longer continue to generate proprietary file formats in order for students to access digital curriculum as this requires too much time and effort.

The Solutions:

IMS Global Learning Consortium developed LTI™ (Learning Tools Interoperability) to handle the login credential barrier. The principal concept of LTI is to establish a standard way of integrating rich learning applications (often remotely hosted and provided through third-party services) with platforms like learning management systems, portals, or other educational environments, allowing single sign-on to tools. Thus, Students and teachers are only required to remember one password

significantly reducing the barrier of gaining access to digital resources. For more information about LTI, read the Learning Tools Interoperability RFP Guidance and Checklist

IMS Global has developed OneRoster™ to address the Roster barrier. K12 districts have identified the need to have a single unified format for exchanging roster information as a requirement that will lead to a significant improvement for teacher and student access while greatly reducing the impact on IT resources. Integrations with district systems and other third party systems put a strain on IT resources and traditionally require custom api development and integration. The manual effort for daily and weekly updates of student information as well as start of school loads are very time consuming and costly. OneRoster provides a way for school districts to publish class roster information in a secure way that can be consumed by partner organizations. An agreed upon set of services eliminates the need for custom api work allowing updates to be automated and provisioning of new systems into the districts ecosystem to be done in minutes.

Developed as a subset of the IMS Learner Information Services specification this simplified specification provides a powerful services model as well as a CSV format for legacy implementations.

IMS OneRoster™

IMS OneRoster Specification Details

The OneRoster v.1 specification can be found here: http://www.imsglobal.org/lis/

The OneRoster specification has two parts. Part 1 is a set of roster services that allow rosters to be exchanged between an SIS and a Digital Learning Platform or an SIS and a Publisher Platform or Tool. The roster services are defined as a RESTful API.

The initial set of services that have been defined address:

- Organizations
- Courses
- Classes
- Term and Grading period
- User information (Teacher, Student etc.)
- Grade information
- Demographics

Part 2 is a set of CSV definitions that can be used to standardize the exchange of roster information for those implementations that do not currently implement a services model.
The initial set of CSV definitions are for:

- ORGS.CSV
- USERS.CSV
- COURSES.CSV
- CLASSES.CSV
- TERMS.CSV
- GRADINGPERIODS.CSV
- DEMOGRAPHICS.CSV (optional)

Suggested RFP Language
The district is requesting support for OneRoster version 1.0.
Evidence of a valid conformance certification, including a current registration number must be available from the IMS Global web site.
See http://www.imscert.org

OneRoster Checklist

Please specify functionality supported	CSV Format ☐ RESTful Services ☐ SOAP Services ☐
What is your IMS conformance Certification Number?	
Do you publish data or	

provide data?	
If you are publishing data will you be providing Demographics data?	