Director of
Food Services

Superintendent

Head of Math
Department

Curriculum
Director

Business Manager

Media Service
Specialist

Director of
Transportation

Imagine [SOFTWARE that Works Together]
as Well as They Do

SIF IS READY—ARE YOU? SIF® (Schools Interoperability Framework®) is a set of industry developed and supported technical blueprints that enable pK-20 software to work seamlessly together as a single, efficient system. These open access, free use blueprints – SIF Specifications – make it possible for diverse applications to interact and share data, now and in the future. The SIF Association, the non-profit organization dedicated to interoperability between educational applications, has been working toward this goal since 1997.

SIF Specifications, developed by SIF Association members, identifies a set of common definitions for school information (Data Objects) and a set of rules for data sharing (Infrastructure). By creating these interoperable standards, SIF ensures that all vendors can use SIF Specifications and that all educational systems will be able to implement them regardless of the technology. Guaranteeing that SIF is an open, vendor-neutral and platform independent standard is the important guiding principle of the SIF Association.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

- SIF Specifications
- SIF Certification Registry
- SIFA University
- SIF Knowledgebase
- SIF Implementation
  Readiness Tool
- SIF Implementation Toolkit
- SIF RFP Language
- EdSTART, RFP, Software
  Vendor and Products Registry

IMPLEMENTATION BENEFITS
(Educational Organizations)

- Reduces redundancy of data entry
- Improves student services
- Increases student achievement
- Improves interoperability
  between applications
- Enhances data reliability and consistency
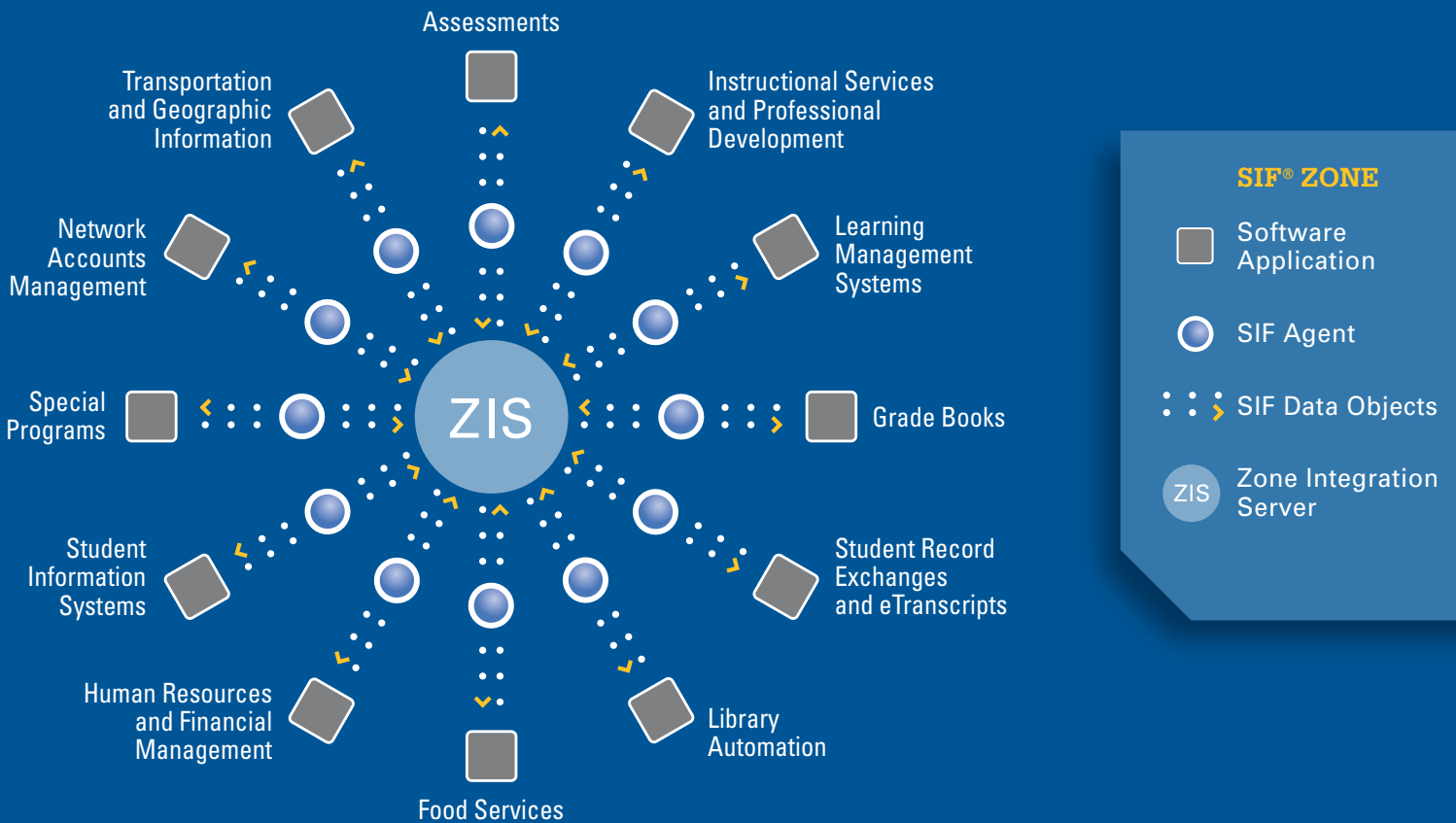- Simplifies reporting capability

DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS
(Vendors)

- Offers a significant competitive advantage
- Defines an open specification that
  includes a data model and infrastructure
- Reduces long term application
  integration costs
- Provides companies the opportunity to
  be a part of fully interoperable solutions

SIF ®

To learn more, visit
www.sifinfo.org

SIF® ZONE

- ☐ Software Application
- ◉ SIF Agent
- ⠇⠇ SIF Data Objects
- (ZIS) Zone Integration Server

Diagram labels: Assessments, Transportation and Geographic Information, Instructional Services and Professional Development, Network Accounts Management, Learning Management Systems, Special Programs, ZIS, Grade Books, Student Information Systems, Student Record Exchanges and eTranscripts, Human Resources and Financial Management, Library Automation, Food Services

How Does [SIF® Work] ?

SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS are selected by educational organizations to manage information, administer school systems, and convene teaching and learning.

SIF AGENTS are the liaison between an application and the ZIS. The SIF Agent recognizes the application's business logic and data structure, allowing data sharing between applications; receiving and translating SIF messages and submitting data changes to the ZIS.

SIF DATA OBJECTS are a set of common data definitions shared by applications detailed in the data model of the SIF Specification.

ZONE INTEGRATION SERVERS serve as the central communication point in a SIF Zone. The ZIS tracks all SIF Agents in the Zone, distributes all SIF messages, implements security rules, and enforces what a SIF Agent can and cannot do within the Zone.

SIF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The SIF Certification Program is a program undertaken by the SIF Association to confirm that a SIF agent application pair or ZIS adheres to the SIF Specification. The SIF Association has contracted with an independent international certification organization to serve as the SIF Certification Authority. The program includes a series of tests that validate whether the SIF agent application pair or ZIS conforms to the rules and definitions of a particular SIF Implementation Specification release. Successful completion of the program warrants the ability to display the "SIF Certified" logo of that release. SIF Certification guarantees that the product can successfully communicate and share information with other SIF Certified applications.

ABOUT THE SIF ASSOCIATION

The SIF Association is an international, non-profit organization of over 1900 community members including schools, government Departments and Ministries of Education, software vendors and other organizations active in the pK-20 education market. The goal of the community is to create and develop open access, free use interoperability specifications that improve the efficiency, flexibility and dependability of educational systems.

SIF® Association