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## HS Transcript Approved by PESC as National Education Community Standard

The Board of Directors and Steering Committee of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce the release of the XML High School Transcript Standard as a PESC Member-Approved National Education Community Standard. Version 1.0 and all supporting documentation are available at [www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org). This effort marks a significant milestone and achievement for the education community, the Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) Committee of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), and for PESC.

“The adoption of the High School Transcript by PESC Members is a significant milestone, and comes at a great time for California’s K-12 and postsecondary communities,” states L. Russ Brawn, Chief Operations

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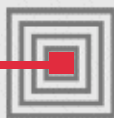
## Data Quality Campaign

The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce that PESC has joined the Data Quality Campaign (DQC).

The DQC is a national, collaborative effort to encourage and support state policymakers to improve the collection, availability, and use of high-quality education data, and; implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. Its goals include: having longitudinal education data systems in 50 states by 2009; increasing understanding by policymakers and educators of how to use longitudinal and financial data in their efforts to improve student achievement, and; promotion of data standards and efficient data transfer and

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The Standard is the electronic newsletter published monthly by The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). The Standard covers news and events that impact information technology and data exchange; and promotes PESC's goals of improving service, controlling costs, and attaining interoperability within higher education. For information about subscriptions, advertising, and article submissions, please visit [www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org). © 2006 PESC

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Officer for the California School Information Services (CSIS). “Having reliable XML-based standard transactions to facilitate matriculation into higher education builds on commitments we made some years back to leverage inherent XML advantages in doing work over the Internet,” Mr. Brawn who also serves as Director of the California Educational Technology Professionals Association (CETPA), continues. “PESC brought focus to this concept and CSIS is proud of our involvement in that effort. Standards do work.”

The High School Transcript is a specification designed for use by secondary and postsecondary educational institutions, state agencies, and software vendors to communicate current and historical student academic records. The High School Transcript contains personal history and identifying information about the student, the current academic status, dates of attendance, courses completed with grades earned, diplomas and certificates awarded, and selected test scores.

The High School Transcript is programmed in eXtensible Mark-Up Language (XML), the widely adopted programming language that has enabled safe and reliable, real-time messaging and data exchange, and is accompanied by a comprehensive Implementation Guide that facilitates faster, more efficient programming.

PESC Members that approved the High School Transcript as a National Education Community Standard include:

- AcademyOne
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
- AES
- National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP)
- National Student Clearinghouse

- Nelnet
- Oracle Corporation
- California Community College System
- Purdue University
- Citibank
- Sallie Mae
- The College Board
- Student Loan Servicing Alliance (SLSA)
- Community College of the Air Force
- SunGard Higher Education
- Consumer Bankers Association (CBA)
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Datatel
- University of Illinois Student Financial Services
- ELM Resources
- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- Florida State University
- University of Minnesota
- Georgia Board of Regents
- University of Mississippi
- Iowa State University
- University of Northern Iowa
- Law School Admission Council (LSAC)
- University of Oklahoma
- Miami University – DARS
- University of Texas at Austin
- National Association of Student Loan Administrators (NASLA)
- University of Virginia
- USA Funds
- National Career Assessment Services Inc. (NCASI)
- U.S. Department of Education
- Wachovia Education Finance
- XAP Corporation

For any organization looking to communicate their specific use and adoption of the High School Transcript, please contact Michael Sessa or Jennifer Kim directly at Sessa@PESC.org 202-293-7383 or Jennifer.Kim@PESC.org 202-263-0296 respectively. For more information on PESC or the High School Transcript, please visit [www.PESC.org](http://www.PESC.org).

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exchange. The campaign aims to provide tools and resources that will assist states in their development of quality longitudinal data systems, while also providing a national forum for reducing duplication of effort and promoting greater coordination and consensus among the organizations focusing on improving data quality, access, and use.

On June 13, 2006, the DQC hosted a Quarterly Meeting in Washington, D.C. in which representatives from PESC participated. As part of the Data Quality Campaign's goal to provide a national forum for conversations about the power of longitudinal data, this Quarterly Meeting provided an opportunity to learn about an essential element of state data systems: aligning P-12 and postsecondary data.

Speakers included: Hans P. L'Orange, Director of Data and Information Management and Director of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)/ National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Network at SHEEO; Deborah Newby, Director for Data Quality, Council of Chief State School Officers; Peter Ewell, Vice President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS); David Spence, President, Southern Regional Education Board and former Vice Chancellor of the California State University system; Tod Massa, Policy Research and Data Warehousing Director, Virginia State Council of Higher Education. Attendees were welcomed at the opening by DQC Director Aimee Guidera.

As an endorsing partner, PESC will participate in the campaign by continuing to promote greater coordination and consensus among various organizations and sectors and by promoting the improvement of data quality, access, and use.

## New Members

We welcome the following organizations to the PESC Membership:

### **IBM**

PESC contact is Michael King,  
Director of Marketing  
[www.IBM.com](http://www.IBM.com)

### **Ohio Board of Regents**

PESC contact is Jim Ginzer,  
Program Manager of Articulation and Transfer  
Clearinghouse  
[www.regents.state.oh.us](http://www.regents.state.oh.us)

### **Georgetown University/Sun Center for Excellence in Scholarly Information Architecture**

PESC contact is Charles Leonhardt,  
Principal Technologist  
[www.Georgetown.edu](http://www.Georgetown.edu)

### **University of Denver**

PESC contact is Dennis Maurice Becker,  
Registrar.  
[www.DU.edu](http://www.DU.edu)

The campaign is managed by the National Center for Educational Accountability and funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Quarterly meetings are made possible through the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Education Data Partnership, generously funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Broad Foundation.

For more information, please visit [www.DataQualityCampaign.org](http://www.DataQualityCampaign.org).

# Technology Tidbits

## and Standards Snippets

■ **Transmissions from the Internet Server at the University of Texas at Austin must use one of the supported forms of encryption.** When the Server detects that the target institution has not adopted one of the supported forms of encryption the files are blocked and the target institution is notified. The server administrators will also attempt to contact the target institution and ask about the status of their use of PGP or SFTP. If resolved quickly, we may be able to resend the files. An automated email response to sending institutions has been added if their deliveries are being blocked due to the receiving institution not adopting one of the methods for securing the transmissions. If you receive such a message, you may wish to follow up directly with the receiving institution. See <http://www.utexas.edu/student/giac/spee/de/ediserv.html> for more details regarding encryption options.

■ **With Adriana Farella of XAP and Tom Stewart of SPEEDE now co-chairing and driving the efforts of the Admission Workgroup it has regrouped and is holding regularly scheduled meetings once again.** Meetings will be held Thursdays at noon (EST) and will use the PESC line (800-508-7631, \*9976409\*).

### UT Austin Internet Server 'SPEEDEs' Along

April 2006 volume included:

- 44,516 TS130 transcripts
- 32,383 TS131 acknowledgements
- 12,455 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 31,338 TS189 Admission Applications
- 12,794 TS138 test score reports
- 153,737 total transactions

May 2006 volume included:

- 84,665 TS130 transcripts
- 54,572 TS131 acknowledgements
- 12,891 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 26,913 TS189 Admission Applications
- 2,574 TS138 test score reports
- 215,822 total transactions

For more information, please visit <http://www.pesc.org/workgroups/admissionapp/>. To join the workgroup, please complete the Volunteer Form posted at that link and email it to Tom Stewart at

stewartj@aol.com.

■ **The U.S. Education Department issued “The Condition of Education 2006,” early last month. According to the report, the proportion of full-time instructors who teach distance-education courses is greatest at public two-year institutions,** suggesting that distance curricula have become much more pervasive at community colleges than any other sector of higher education.

■ **To keep students focused on class, some professors now ban laptops from their classrooms, arguing that the devices are just too much of a temptation.** A few colleges have set up systems that let professors switch off classroom Internet access during some sessions. Such measures come after colleges nationwide have spent millions of dollars equipping classrooms with Internet access - and most recently with wireless-Internet nodes.

■ **The Los Angeles Times recently reported some statistics depicting how widespread the problem of hacking into college computer systems is:** Campus hacking incidents account for about 30 percent of reported computer-security breaches, according to ChoicePoint, a data-collection agency. Since January, over 845,000 people have had sensitive information exposed in security breakdowns on college computer systems. The article also indicates that college networks are prime targets because they typically store the same type of information that banks do — Social Security numbers, financial records, personal contact information — but with a fraction of the security.

■ **Major search engines are working toward adding new features that would make searching the Web a social activity.** Microsoft is reportedly in talks to buy a small search company called Eurekster, which combines traditional Web-search results with information culled from social-networking sites like Friendster.

■ **A federal appeals court recently upheld the Federal Communications Commission’s right to**

**require Internet service providers, including colleges, to redesign their networks so law-enforcement agencies can easily eavesdrop on online communications.**

■ **The House passed a telecommunications bill, HR 5252, but defeated a network-neutrality amendment supported by higher-education groups.** The amendment, which would prevent cable and telephone companies from creating a tiered Internet with fast-lane service for preferred Internet sites, failed on a vote of 269-152. To read more about this issue, see an article from The Chronicle (subscription required) <http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/index.php?id=1324>.

■ **Service-Oriented Architecture(SOA) increases the level of cooperation and coordination required between business and information technology (IT), as well as among IT departments and teams.** This cooperation and coordination is provided by SOA governance, which covers the tasks and processes for specifying and managing how services and SOA applications are supported. In this article (<http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/webservices/library/ar-sevrgov/index.html>), discover what governance and management are and why they’re important.

■ **The Internet2 high-speed-networking consortium announced June 15 that its new nationwide fiber-optic network will be built by Level 3 Communications Inc. and will be operational in about a year.** The new network, which has the working name of NewNet, has the ability to quickly fashion special-purpose connections as needed would set it apart from National LambdaRail.

■ **Members of the OASIS SOA Reference Model TC recently released a second public review draft for “Reference Model for Service Oriented Architecture1.0.”** While service-orientation may be a popular concept found in a broad variety of applications, this reference model focuses on the field of software architecture. To access the draft, visit <http://xml.coverpages.org/soa.html#OASIS-SOARMv10-PR2>.