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# Take Action: Pledge to improve the lives of students with disabilities by improving interoperability and portability of IEP products.



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*During Veterans and Military Families Month, the U.S. Department of Education is proud to launch the Interoperability, Efficiency, and Portability Pledge, urging the field to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) data can be transferred between schools safely and efficiently.*



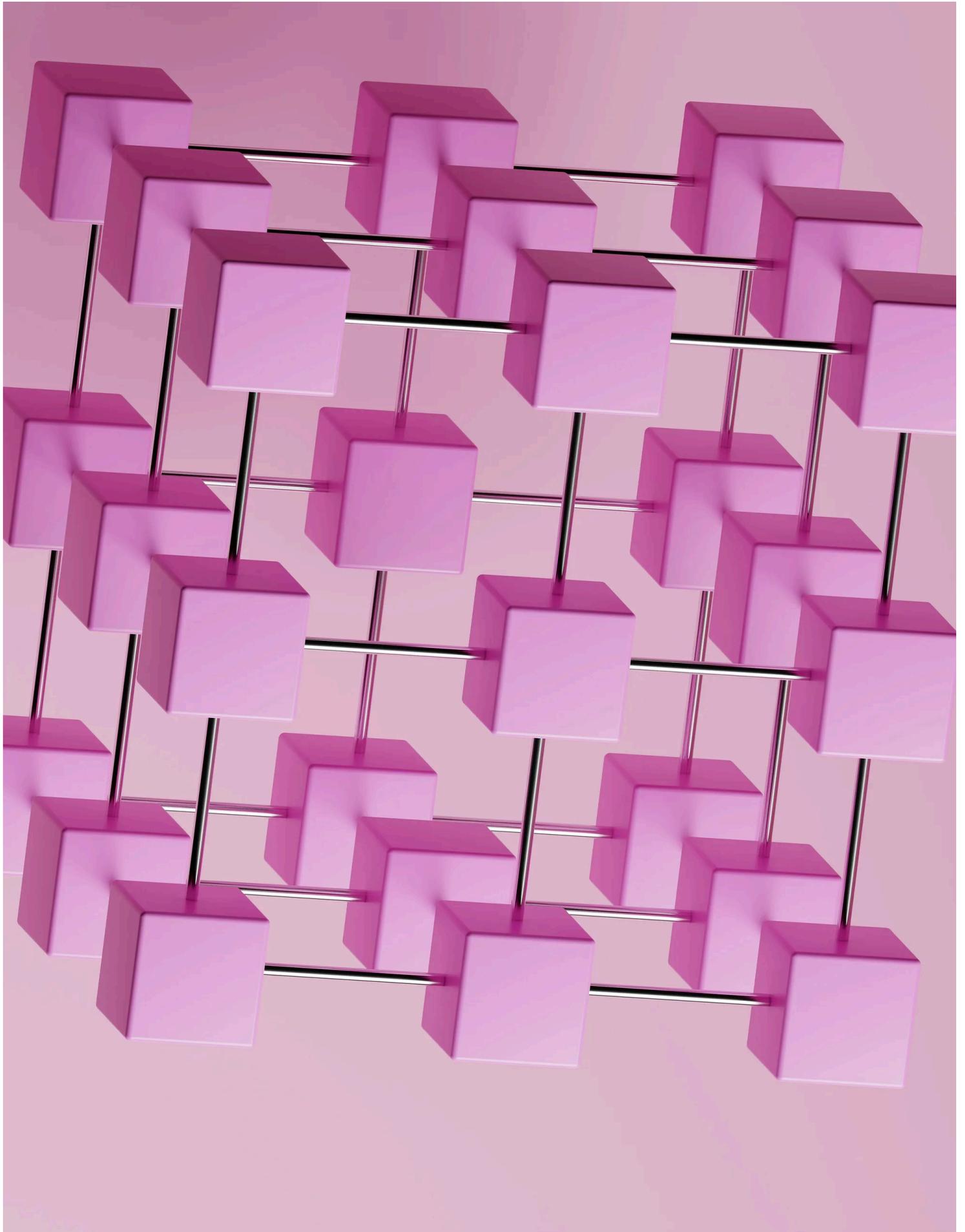


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On Friday, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services released the Interoperability, Efficiency, and Portability Commitment (IEP Commitment), challenging the field to take action so that every family can ensure the information in their student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Section 504 Plan can be safely and efficiently moved between schools whenever they move.

Moving is rarely easy. For families with a student with a disability, the challenges of moving are further complicated by the work required to ensure their children have full access to the instructional and educational activities they need to thrive at their new school. This National Veterans and Military Families Month, the Department recognizes the challenges faced by military children with disabilities as well as other highly mobile students with disabilities.

Due, in part, to delays in IEP transfers, some military families of children with disabilities will wait, on average, over 120 days for their children to receive the services and supports they need to thrive and learn at their new school. This learning loss is compounded with every move – which, for military children, will be an average of six to nine times over the course of their PK-12 education.

The struggle to establish services after a move is a common experience shared by many highly mobile students with disabilities. By signing the IEP Pledge and improving the products that store IEP information, signatories can lead the movement to better serve highly mobile students with

disabilities, including those who are military children. Read the IEP Pledge below and sign on at [the IEP Pledge Website](#).

The Interoperability, Efficiency, and Portability Pledge:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of ORGANIZATION, affirm the commitment of our organization to improve the education and lives of students with disabilities and their families by improving data sharing, portability, interoperability, and security associated with individualized education programs (IEPs) and Section 504 plans (as applicable) through the Interoperability, Efficiency, and Portability Commitment. This commitment calls for:

1. **Improving data interoperability** by aligning relevant products, systems, and tools employed to collect and make use of IEP or Section 504 plan data with existing data standards or an agreed upon data schema — data identifiers and a data exchange protocol (the enterprise architecture) — within core student information systems (SIS) and intermediary middleware for these systems.
2. **Developing a relevant data infrastructure or architecture** by January 2025 and deploying it into systems by summer 2025.
3. **Piloting the infrastructure** with at least two states or local educational agencies with the technical assistance and support of relevant industry partners.
4. **Improving data access** by keeping relevant data available for a standards-aligned export via an Application Programming Interface (API) to customers free of charge.

## 5. Strengthening student data privacy and security by requiring Multi-Factor Authentication and other relevant security protocols by default for any user accounts that create, modify, or share IEP or 504 plan data.

In addition to the IEP Pledge, the Department is proud to share related work supporting military-connected and highly mobile children with disabilities:

- [Voluntary Self-Assessment for States to Support Military-Connected Children with Disabilities and Their Families Under the IDEA](#) — an educational tool that prompts state education agencies to reflect on how they are serving military children with disabilities to determine areas for improvement.
- [U.S. Department of Education Awards to Develop Evidence-Based Models of Family Engagement and Improve Services to Children with Disabilities](#) — a \$4.5M investment in developing strategies to involve parents as partners in creating equitable and inclusive schools, with a focus on engaging with military-connected families.
- [Dear Colleague Letter on Ensuring a High-Quality Education for Highly Mobile Children](#) — a guidance document that clarifies several important principles of IDEA that states, school districts, school staff, parents, families, and others may find helpful in ensuring that highly mobile children with disabilities receive required special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs in a timely manner.
- [Return to School Roadmap: Development and Implementation of IEPs in the Least Restrictive Environment under IDEA](#) — a resource to support students, schools, educators, and communities. Intended to address the return to classrooms following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Roadmap includes clarifying guidance on the implementation of IEPs following a move within and between States.

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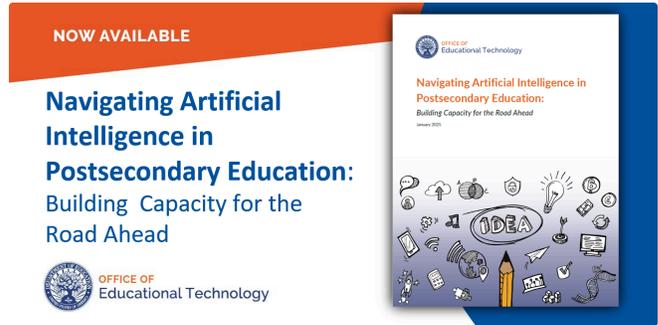


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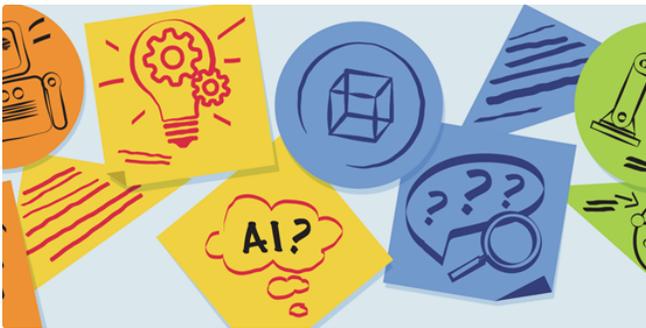


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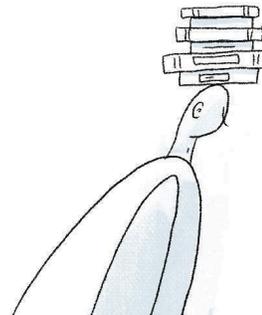


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