

What's New in Version 6

CEDS Version 6 includes updates to the CEDS standard and significant enhancements to the website, including the introduction of a new share feature. Instead of publishing maps and Connections, users will now be able to share them, either with select individuals of their choosing, or with everyone.

In version 6, there are 43 Updated Elements (over 400 with updated context information) and 21 New Elements. The contexts in which elements are presented on the site's folder hierarchy, the Domain Entity Schema (DES), has been updated for more coherence across Early Learning, K12, and Postsecondary domains. In total, CEDS Version 6 includes over 1,400 unduplicated data element definitions. Version 6 spans P-20W (early learning through workforce), including updates related to:

- K12 financial accounting,
- Degree Qualifications Profile categories,
- course sections,
- ED Facts,
- ESSA,
- IDEA,
- National School Lunch Program direct certification, and
- over 4000 definitions added to clarify the meaning of codes within existing option sets.

Version 6 was guided by an open development process with input from state, local, and federal agencies, early learning programs, postsecondary institutions, researchers, program and policy specialists, developers of education data systems, and other interested parties. The CEDS Development Community Website (ceds.grads360.org) and a series of live virtual meetings provided a place to gather input and feedback from CEDS Stakeholders about the Version 6 development of the standard.

Many new elements were a direct result of stakeholders using the CEDS website tools. Elements used in the field that were in ALIGN maps or CEDS Connections and marked "Elements could not be located in CEDS" became candidates for version 6.

Website Enhancements

Website enhancements were designed to improve the experience for new users, promote the ways in which CEDS can help support specific user roles, and provide consistency between pages. To begin, the CEDS home page has been redesigned to allow users to quickly access areas of interest.

New Pages

The most significant change for this release is the development of pages designed to help new users acclimate more quickly to the site, and to demonstrate how the tools within CEDS can support various roles that people might have in an organization. New pages include: The CEDS Initiative, IT Developers, Data Stewards, Researchers, CEDS Coordinators, and Policymakers and Practitioners. Pages were also created to support Data Governance and CEDS Mapping activities.

The CEDS Initiative (Topic 1)

The CEDS Initiative page is a gateway to the rest of the application. The image on the page represents paths that begin with user roles and end with the CEDS tools. Each path passes through the heart of CEDS and the user community to the various tools that would likely benefit that particular role. Each circle within the image is a link to another page or additional information. This is especially helpful to

new users who may need a better understanding of CEDS and how the various features relate to one another.

Roles (Topic 2)

The following describes the pages built to support user roles.

IT Developer (Topic 2.1)

The IT Developer page provides information about how CEDS can help with data integration, such as determining data elements, definitions, and option sets. It also explores how the CEDS normalized data schema, data model guide, and education vocabulary can be effective tools for designing and building new systems.

Data Stewards (Topic 2.2)

The Data Steward page was designed around the CEDS tools that would provide the most benefit for Data Stewards who might be involved in implementing data governance or with data integration activities. Resources include Align, Connect, myConnect, a new Mapping Toolkit, as well as related papers and briefs.

Researchers (Topic 2.3)

The Researcher's page allows researchers to explore how the various tools in CEDS, such as Connect and myConnect, can be leveraged to assist them with developing and operationalizing research questions, detailing plans for analysis, and identifying data sources to support their research efforts.

CEDS Coordinators (Topic 2.4)

The CEDS Coordinator's page focuses on the planning and carrying out of activities related to the use of the CEDS standard and tools as they apply toward data governance, data integration, or other efforts.

Policymakers & Practitioners (Topic 2.5)

The Policymakers & Practitioners page provides information and resources to help education leaders, policymakers and practitioners understand how data can be used to inform decisions and improve student outcomes.

Data Management Support Pages (Topic 3)

The following describes the pages built to support data management activities users might undertake.

Mapping Toolkit (Topic 3.1)

The Mapping Toolkit provides information on how to map elements to CEDS. The page includes templates for project planning and quality assurance activities, as well as guided instructions for using them. The Mapping Toolkit contains a great deal of information designed specifically around mapping activities.

Building a Data Dictionary (Topic 3.2)

Information and a video about building a data dictionary are now available on the CEDS website. You can access this information from the Resources menu.

Data Governance (Topic 3.2)

The Data Governance page provides information and resources to help users manage data governance for their data systems. Resources are also available about how to establish data governance.

Updates to Existing Pages

Updates were made to existing pages, as well, to streamline functionality across pages, and improve the experience for the user.

Publications & Presentations (Topic 4)

A Featured Resource section was added to the Publications and Presentations page that will be updated as resources are added or identified that might be of interest. Brief descriptions about the type of resources that exist under a particular section have been included to make it easier for user to choose the appropriate category.

Align (Topic 5)

The Align landing page was updated to mimic the look and functionality of Connect. Each menu item is now categorized under a specific heading of *Build, Use, or Learn*. The options for creating and managing maps are located under Build, Align's "Explore Map-Based Reports" and "Explore Element-Based Reports" are now separate entities under the section for Use, and Align tutorials, resources, and the new Mapping Toolkit can be found under the section labeled "Learn."

Sharing Maps and Connections (Topic 6)

The share feature works the same whether you're working in Align or Connect. From the Manage Map or Manage Connection page, users can share maps and Connections with some users or everyone. Sharing with some users allows you to control who can use myConnect and run reports using your map or Connection. Sharing with all allows anyone, regardless of being logged into CEDS, to access your map or Connection.

This completes "What's New in V6". For information on any of these new features or the other dynamic capabilities of the CEDS suite of tools, please view the other tutorials available on the CEDS website.