



## Application and Policy Brief:

# Open-Standards Requirements for Assessment Content and Systems

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This brief provides explicit guidance for ensuring that requests for proposals for assessment content and delivery platforms that support accessibility accommodations address the use of open standards.

The IMS Global Learning Consortium provides interoperability standards to address the most often-encountered integration issues for digital content, including two long-standing needs in electronic assessments. The Accessible Portable Item Protocol™ (APIP™) standard, (a) allows for the transfer of assessment content (items or tests) between suppliers using a standardized XML format and (b) provides the necessary accessibility information in that content to support the needs of diverse students. Products that pass interoperability testing are designated with the IMS Certification logo shown to the right and a unique registration number available at <http://www.imscert.org/> IMS has worked with a wide range of suppliers, agencies, and end users to put these standards in place.



Note: This document covers accessibility enriched assessment content in the context of assessment systems (such as authoring systems, test and item repositories, delivery platforms, etc.). For interoperability of other digital content and applications within a learning platform (LMS, VLE, etc.), please see the companion documents from IMS.

The sections below **highlighted in gray** should be changed to specify the profile of APIP required for the procurement.

## I. Assessment Content Supplier Requirements

At a basic level, assessment content refers to the questions or types of interactions (such as true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank, essay, etc.) that comprise a given assessment. The APIP standard provides a data model and structure for the interchange of assessment content that contains information and resources required to make that content accessible to students with a variety of specific needs and preferences (such as magnification, color overlay, Braille, sign language, etc.).

- The assessment content supplier shall provide content (specific version number) that is certified as IMS compliant to the Candidate Profile 1 of IMS APIP v1.0. See <http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/> for a list of features required for conformance. Evidence of a valid conformance certification, including a current registration number must be available from the IMS Global website. See <http://www.imscert.org/>
- The assessment content supplier shall include APIP compliant markup that provides required accessibility accommodation features that support the Candidate Profile 1 of APIP v1.0 features listed here: <http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/>
- The assessment content supplier shall explicitly note accessibility accommodation features that they do not support.

## II. Assessment Delivery System Requirements

An assessment delivery system is the environment where a student is presented and interacts with assessment content. The delivery system has access to individual Personal Needs and Preferences instances and combines them with the assessment content to present items or tests that match the accessibility requirements and preferences of each student.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The assessment delivery platform (specific version of software proposed) shall be certified as IMS compliant to the Candidate Profile 1 of IMS APIP v1.0. See <a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/">http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/</a> for a list of required features. Evidence of a valid conformance certification, including a current registration number must be available from the IMS Global website. See <a href="http://www.imscert.org/">http://www.imscert.org/</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The assessment delivery platform (specific version of software proposed) shall be certified as IMS compliant to the Candidate Profile 1 of IMS APIP v1.0 Personal Needs and Preferences to deliver accessibility accommodations of individual students. See <a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/">http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/</a> for a list of required features. Evidence of a valid conformance certification, including a current registration number must be available from the IMS Global website. See <a href="http://www.imscert.org/">http://www.imscert.org/</a></li><li>• The assessment delivery platform (specific version of software proposed) shall allow specified accommodations to be activated</li></ul>
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	for students based on their Personal Needs and Preferences instances at the time of testing (e.g., color overlay, magnification, etc). See <a href="http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/">http://www.imsglobal.org/apip/</a> for a list of required features.
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### III. Evolution to Open Standards

Suppliers that are not currently IMS conformance certified to the prescribed open standards shall provide the following:

- A detailed technical description for how the content or systems will interoperate in the interim.
- A list of the open standards specified above that each proposed content or software is not compliant with.
- A time schedule for achieving IMS conformance certification.
- The estimated cost for converting the proposed products (content or software) to become conformant to the prescribed open standards. This cost will be added to the bid price of the products in the evaluation.

### IV. More Information

IMS Global provides additional detailed information on use of IMS specifications by end-user organizations as well as support in adopting standards-based educational technology. Please contact us via the web: <http://www.imsglobal.org/contactus.cfm>