

*FSA Integration Partner*

United States Department of Education

Federal Student Aid



**Data Strategy Enterprise-Wide  
XML Framework Team  
123.1.18b Final XML ISIR Schema**

*Task Order #123*

**Version 1.0**

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## Amendment History

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## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	OVERVIEW .....	4
	BACKGROUND.....	4
1.2	PURPOSE .....	5
1.3	SCOPE .....	5
1.4	ASSUMPTIONS .....	5



## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

The Central Processing System (CPS) XML Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) message specification represents the first data exchange that will be able to leverage the specifications of the XML Framework, which is being developed within the Data Strategies Enterprise-Wide initiative.

Currently, the ISIR is sent to schools as a fixed-length, flat file. As part of its modernization effort, FSA is converting the ISIR from this flat file format to XML. A draft of the XML ISIR schema was published to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website in March 2003. The final version of the XML ISIR schema, being published in this deliverable, has been revised to incorporate FSA revisions, comments from the community, and the initial modeling standards and XML Core Components that are being defined as part of the XML Framework. The XML Framework and modeling standards will be completed by September 2003, at which point additional changes to the ISIR schema may be necessary. FSA is planning to use the XML ISIR schema in production for the 2005-2006 Award Year.

### *Background*

To be considered for federal student aid, a student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students can fill out a paper FAFSA, apply electronically through their school (Electronic Data Exchange or EDE), or complete the FAFSA on the Web. Students who have applied in previous years can complete a paper Renewal FAFSA or Renewal FAFSA on the Web. Additionally, students and schools can submit corrections to the data reported on the original FAFSA either through EDE or the Web.

The Central Processing System uses the information on the FAFSA to calculate the student's expected family contribution (EFC) and to match the student's data against the Social Security Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Selective Service System, and Department of Veterans Affairs to confirm student eligibility. After processing is complete, CPS produces two output documents: the Student Aid Report (SAR), which is sent to the student, and the Institutional Student Information Record, which is sent to schools. The ISIR shows the data the student originally provided, the EFC, the results of the student eligibility check, and information about any inconsistencies identified through the CPS edits. CPS sends the ISIR to all schools that the student listed on the FAFSA (up to six). Other schools may request an ISIR for a student through EDE with CPS. CPS sends an ISIR to the school for each paper FAFSA, Renewal Paper FAFSA, FAFSA on the Web, Renewal FAFSA on the Web, or Corrections on the Web that it receives.



## 1.2 Purpose

The Final XML ISIR Schema deliverable defines the updated version of the baseline XML ISIR Schema. The final version includes updates based on feedback regarding the Draft XML ISIR Schema. Additionally, it attempts to integrate the standards and Core Components that are being developed as part of the XML Framework.

## 1.3 Scope

The Final XML ISIR Schema deliverable consists of the following pieces:

- Overview - This document, the XML ISIR Schema Overview, provides a high level description of the XML ISIR Schema development effort and its associated deliverables.
- XML Schema Files - The XML Schema files define the structure and content of an XML ISIR instance document. To provide better organization and reuse, the overall ISIR XML Schema is broken out into a set of files. Together, these files serve to list the rules for items such as: elements, attributes, element relationships, data types, and valid values. The XML Schema files are defined based on the specifications in the W3C Recommendation for XML Schema 1.0 (2 May 2001).

The names of the schema files are as follows:

- ISIR\_1.0b.xsd
- FSA\_DataTypes\_CC\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_ApplicationSubmission\_CC\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_ApplicationSubmission\_SL\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_EligibilityDetermination\_CC\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_EligibilityDetermination\_SL\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_FinancialAidHistory\_CC\_1.0.1.xsd
- FSA\_FinancialAidHistory\_SL\_1.0.1.xsd
- XML Sample File - The sample XML file, also known as an instance document, serves to illustrate what an XML ISIR file, that meets all of the constraints of the schema, should look like. It is useful for functionally illustrative purposes, to convey document structure concepts for review and confirmation, and to actually use with a validating parser to verify the construction of the XML Schema files.
- HTML Documentation - The ISIR XML Schema is a technical document, essentially on the same level as source code, and is intended only for review by XML programmers, and for use in XML processing components, such as validating parsers. In order to make the metadata definitions in the Schema easier to understand, HTML documentation has also been provided. This documentation allows those who are interested in the details of the Schema to navigate it via a graphical, point-and-click type of presentation.

## 1.4 Assumptions

The Final XML ISIR is based on the following assumptions:



## Data Strategy Enterprise-Wide XML Framework Final XML ISIR Schema

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- The XML Framework and modeling standards will be completed by September 2003, at which point additional changes to the ISIR schema may be necessary.
- FSA is planning to use the XML ISIR schema in production for the 2005-2006 Award Year.
- The SAIG Performance Test and Capacity Analysis tested and identified the impact of FSA's infrastructure to support the change of moving from flat file to XML ISIRs.