

The Tucson Framework – Call To Action

Call to Action:

Let it be proposed that interested organizations should join JES & Co., Align to Achieve, Inc., and the Gateway to Education Materialssm, a U.S. Department of Education Digital Library Initiative in developing the **Tucson Framework**, a consortium effort to build and maintain a publicly accessible controlled vocabulary of state standards and benchmarks. This vocabulary shall be funded and maintained through a combination of corporate endowment, public grants, private donations and subscriptions. The framework shall comply with the Dublin Core element set, the Schools Interoperability Framework and the GEM metadata element set extensions to Dublin Core. The bulk of the funds covering the initial effort are projected to be covered by Cornerstone Sponsors. This proposal sets expectations for Cornerstone Sponsors to commit to this project by March 20th with initial funding starting April 5th.

The **Tucson Framework** concept is an outgrowth of JES & Co.'s **Managed Learning System**[®] Research and Development program and Align to Achieve's State Standards Database and related alignment systems research and development program. JES & Co. and Align to Achieve, Inc. are both incorporated as 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit organizations. The Gateway to Educational Materialssm is a 400 member consortium dedicated to making quality educational materials available to the nation's educators through the development and application of digital tools and services.

Funding Proposal:

Although the existing Align to Achieve Database of State Standards will serve to prime the effort, a number of additional tasks will be required to build the Tucson Framework. These include re-architecting elements of the Align to Achieve State Standards Database product to:

- 1) Include additional state-supplied metadata
- 2) Provide SIF, GEM and Dublin Core compliant output
- 3) Complete the core subjects (Math, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies) for the states currently in transition
- 4) Add the remaining non-core subjects including subjects such as fine arts and technology.

Finally, sufficient on-going revenue must be established in order to maintain the database as states and national organizations revise and extend their standards. The following table represents a summarized view of the estimated requirements to build and maintain the Tucson Framework.

	<i>Milestone 1</i>	<i>Milestone 2</i>	<i>Milestone 3</i>
	25 Key States	50 States + Key State Maintenance	50 States Ongoing Maintenance
Expenses			
Operations			
Data warehousing and hosting	TBD	TBD	TBD
Management and operations	TBD	TBD	TBD
R&D			
Development, data capture and validation	TBD	TBD	TBD
Data Maintenance	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total Expenses	TBD	TBD	TBD

The bulk of the funds covering the initial effort are projected to be covered by Cornerstone Sponsors. Cornerstone Sponsor investment builds the Tucson Framework and provides data hosting and access through completion of Milestones 1 and 2.

Cornerstone Sponsors will not be expected to supply proprietary alignments, correlation data, or trade secret processes; the intent is to pool all participants' collections of publicly available state academic standards and structures in order to speed up project completion and validate the completed work.

Milestone 1 includes validated results for the top 25 key states based on population, curriculum adoption status and market percentage.

Milestone 1 requires a shorter time to completion since it utilizes original work done starting in 1999 by Align to Achieve and its parent, Achieve, Inc., plus Cornerstone Sponsors' contributions in building a state standards database. As each Cornerstone Sponsor contributes their collection of state standards the overall startup costs and/or the time to completion may be further reduced.

Milestone 2 completes the process for all remaining states and assures standardized delivery for an additional six months. Milestone 2 can be completed within 120 days of funding. Additional Cornerstone Sponsors will be solicited in order to fund the Milestone 2 effort. The amount each sponsor will be required to contribute to the effort will depend on the total number of sponsors.

Where available, grants, endowments and other contributions will be used to match or meet Cornerstone Sponsor commitment; however these revenue sources usually require a longer funding timeline than is presumed to be critical for completion of Milestone 1 and Milestone 2.

The bulk of development expenses occur within the first and second milestones during initial project build-out and completion. For milestone 3 and beyond, there is a decrease in core development and data maintenance and an increase in data warehousing and hosting in order to accommodate increased subscription activity.

Subscription revenue will support ongoing maintenance and operations and will be structured on a cost recovery basis. Data maintenance expenditures are lowest for Milestone 1 as the bulk of funding will be spent on developing the remaining state tables. Maintenance expenditures are highest for Milestone 2, as existing information will be up for review. Maintenance levels for Milestone 3, ongoing operations, will level load as states continue to cycle through routine updates and revisions. In order to remain attractive and fulfill the missions of JES & Co. and Align to Achieve to provide educators and education agencies with value, a tiered approach to subscriptions and access will be implemented.

Upon completion of Milestone 2, Tucson Framework members can consider adding standards from other countries both to support markets and to increase the research value of the repository, not only for content providers but for R&D-oriented participants such as colleges of education and R&D centers (for example, GEM and OCLC.)

Please contact any of the following individuals for more information on contributing as a Cornerstone Sponsor or making other contributions to this project.

Diny Golder-Dardis,
Executive Director
JES & Co.
240 N Stone Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701
520-881-3317
DinyG@jesandco.org



R. David Lankes
Gateway to Educational
Materials
Syracuse University
621 Skytop Road, Suite 160
Syracuse, NY 13244
rdlankes@syr.edu



Fred Balfour, President
Align to Achieve, Inc.
8 Story Street, Suite 1
Cambridge MA 02138
617-496-6328
fbalfour@aligntoachieve.org

