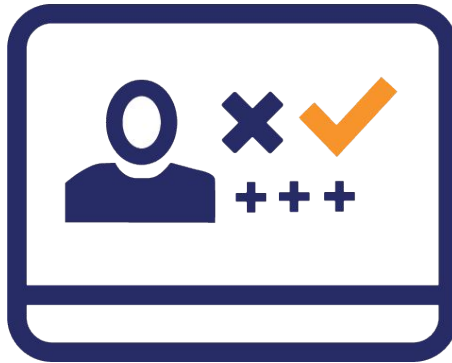


The Why and How of Using the Accessible Assessment Standard



Agenda

- Meet Today's Presenters
- QTI® 3 Intro
- WHY
- How they implemented
- Key Benefits
- Questions



Presenters



Alex Dean
SmarterBalanced



Kim Varnell
WIDA

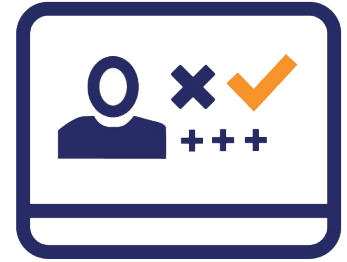


Mark Hakkinen
ETS



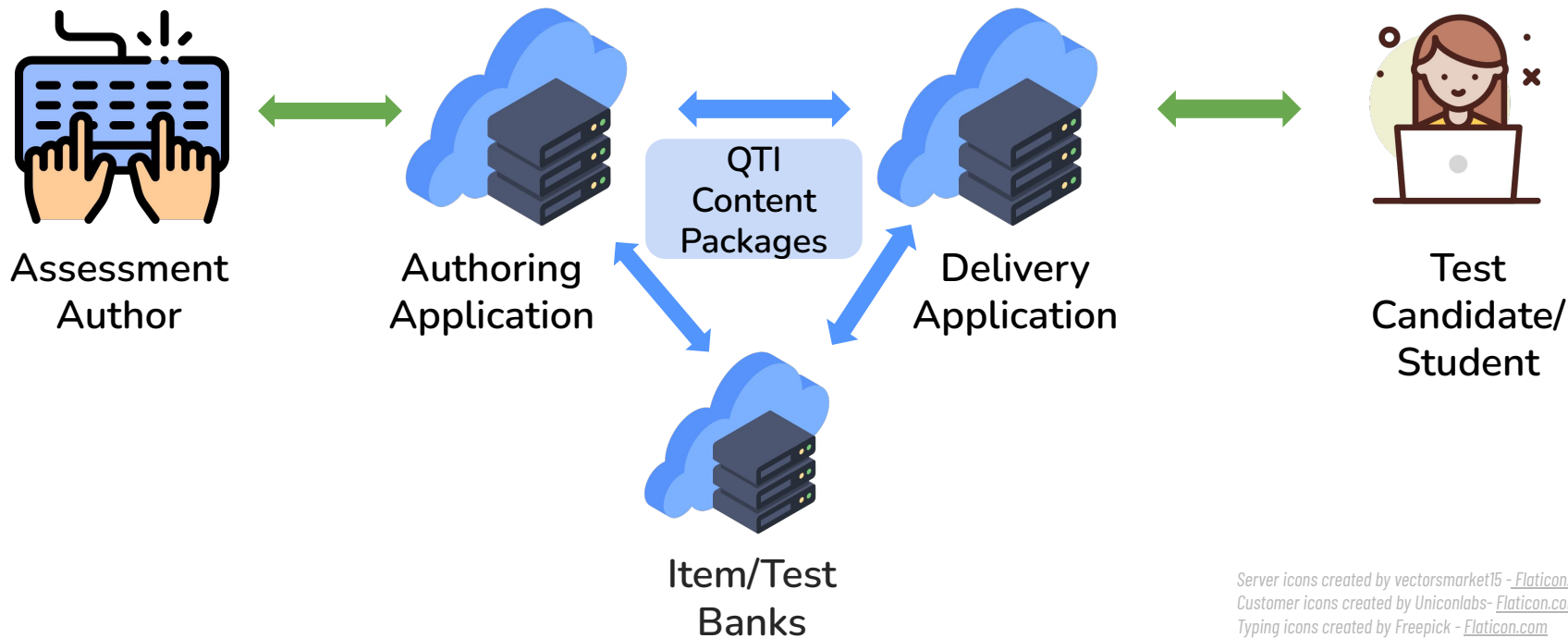
Susan Haught
1EdTech

Quick QTI 3



Accessible assessments and content

QTI 3: Exchange and Presentation Standard - 1 of 4



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Customer icons created by [Uniconlabs - Flaticon.com](#)

Typing icons created by [Freepick - Flaticon.com](#)

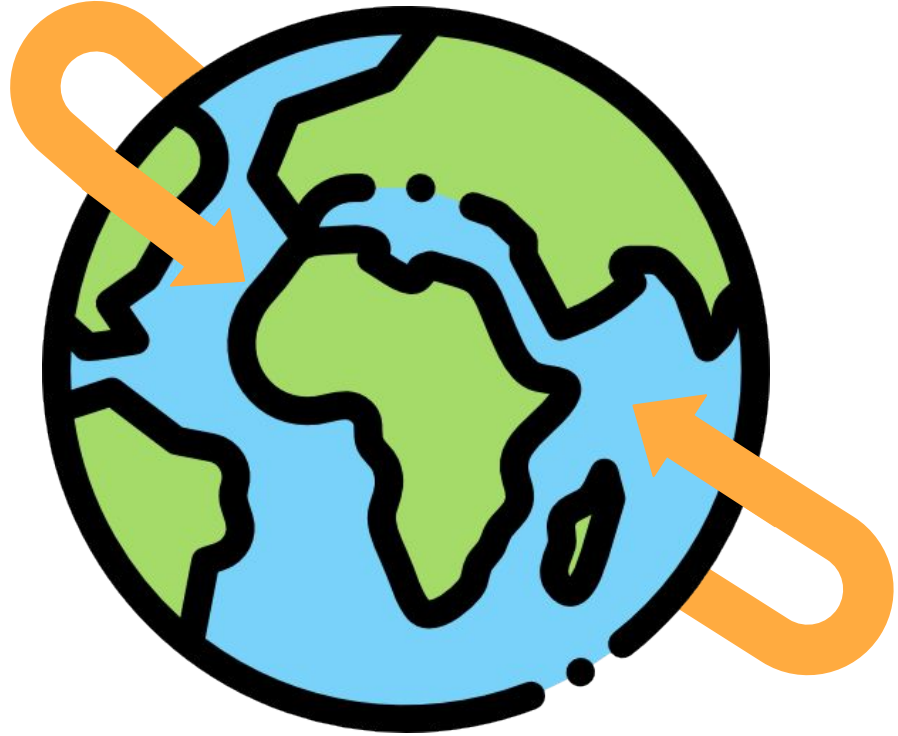
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QTI is Used Around the World - 2 of 4

Including North America, Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and beyond



Accessibility in QTI 3 - 3 of 4

Make content accessible to ALL users, including those with particular needs.



QTI 3 Supports Accessible Authentic Assessments - 4 of 4

- Major objective for making QTI 3
- Data-SSML (inline HTML text-to-speech markup)
- Vertical Right-to-Left Text
- Right-to-Left UI
- WAI-ARIA and HTML 5 for Semantic markup (for WCAG compliance)
- Supplemental or Alternative content for assessment accommodations
- Personal Needs and Preferences (PNP) for candidates



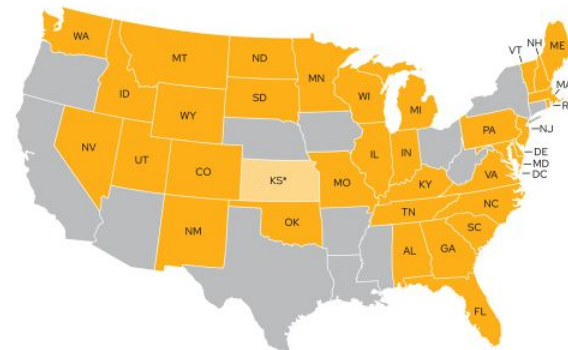


Why Use QTI 3?

1EdTech's
Question & Test Interoperability (QTI)[®]
Standard

What is WIDA?

WIDA provides a trusted, comprehensive approach to supporting, teaching, and assessing multilingual learners.



*WIDA Alternate ACCESS user

The WIDA Consortium is made up of 42 states, territories, and education agencies. Additionally, WIDA Español supports Spanish language instruction in grades K-12.





WIDA's Assessments

ACCESS: an online, summative assessment that meets U.S. federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for monitoring and reporting ELs' progress toward English language proficiency. It tests students' language in the four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing. It is given annually to students in grades 1-12.

MODEL: an online, interim assessment that can be administered up to two times a year to monitor students' progress toward English language proficiency. MODEL is given to students in grades 1-12.





Why QTI?

QTI allows WIDA to attain its strategic goals by leveraging the interoperable features that the QTI standard brings. This includes delivering two online assessments via two different assessment vendors, all while storing content in a centralized item bank.



Evolving with QTI



2015: Goal is to launch ACCESS Online. Convert the paper test to an online test. QTI is used to deliver content between the item creation vendor and the delivery system vendor.

2021: Goal is to centralize content in an item bank. Identify an item bank vendor, and import existing ACCESS QTI packages into the item bank.

2024: Goal is to transition MODEL to a new delivery system. Create MODEL QTI packages and import them into the item bank. Then, style content for use in the test delivery system.

2025 and beyond: Leverage the accessibility features of QTI to better align with WCAG 2.2 AA. For both ACCESS and MODEL.



Smarter Balanced (SBAC)



Smarter Balanced (SBAC) is a member-led organization supporting our 12 member States and territories.

- California
- Delaware
- Idaho
- Michigan
- Oregon
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Connecticut
- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Nevada
- South Dakota
- Washington



Smarter Balanced (SBAC)

Included in the Smarter Balanced system

- Summative Assessments
- Interim Assessments
- Tools for Teachers
- Smarter Reporting



Smarter Balanced (SBAC)

Before QTI 3

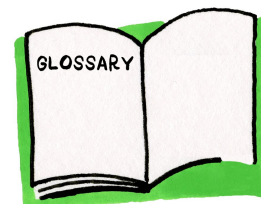
A service provider needed to understand the proprietary Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Format (SAAIF) and how to deliver embedded accessibility resources



After QTI 3

Standardized delivery of content, layout, and expected use of embedded accessibility resources

Leveraging the catalog resources model, accessibility supports such as ASL, Braille, and translated glossaries, are made available in a reliable delivery method



Education Testing Service - ETS



- ETS is the world's largest private educational testing and assessment organization
- Assessments are delivered globally by ETS and its subsidiaries
- QTI 3.0 is becoming the lingua franca for our global organization
- The [longevity of the QTI specification](#) is based on the early research undertaken by ETS and published as the Four Process Architecture.



Accessibility is a Global Requirement



- With over 1 billion people globally who have a disability, EdTech that isn't accessible will block educational and employment opportunity for many
- Accessibility, combined with Inclusive and Universal Design principles and standards, is essential to ensure access for all students
- Accessibility is now also a legal requirement in many countries
- Accessibility Standards are a key foundation of the laws



Accessibility Standards as the Foundation



- Most well known is the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), currently at version 2.2
- WCAG 2.0 has been embedded in the US Section 508 Technical Accessibility Standards
- WCAG 2.1 has been embedded in the EU EN 301 549 Accessibility Standards
- **1EdTech standards are built with accessibility in mind** and enables of creation of content that complies with WCAG



Accessible from the Start via Standards



- QTI 3.0's built-in accessibility supports ETS's goal of born accessible content
- Compliance with global accessibility regulations (e.g., WCAG 2.2 AA) is enabled through:
 - QTI and HTML accessibility features (rich semantics) and native accessibility
 - Flexibility to support industry or organizational best practices
 - WAI-ARIA where and when needed to enhance interaction and content accessibility



The “How”

How to begin with QTI...

WIDA's Assessments

WIDA began by identifying the core item types needed for an online assessment and converted existing paper items to QTI. QTI is the package/standard that allows content to move from system to system. The addition of the item bank provides metadata that keeps track of what content is retired and is available for reuse.

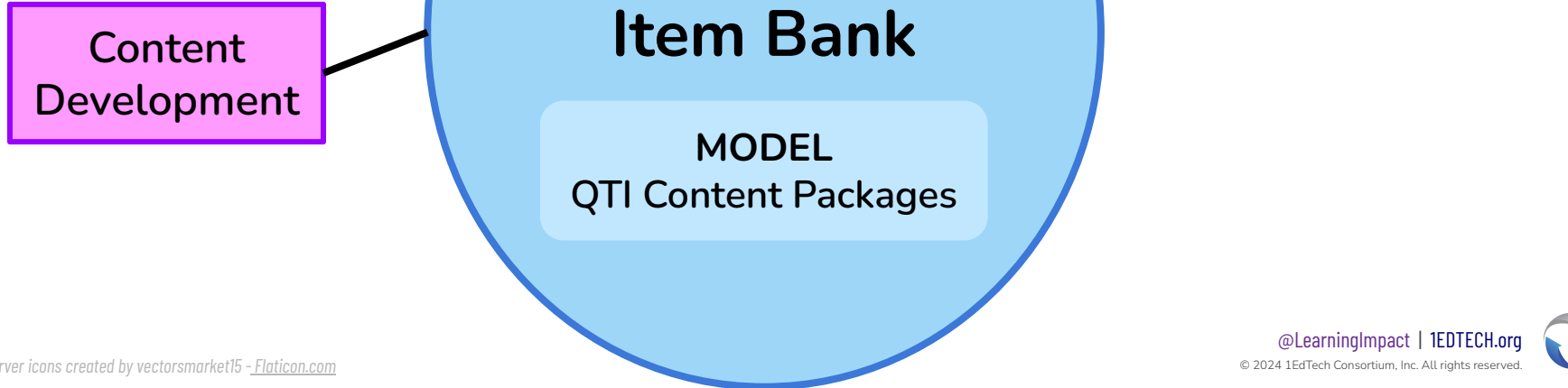
Key Benefits

- Interoperability
- Content Reuse



Key Benefits

Separate content from delivery system as much as possible to allow new and retired content to be used in either ACCESS or MODEL.



Smarter Balanced Item Bank



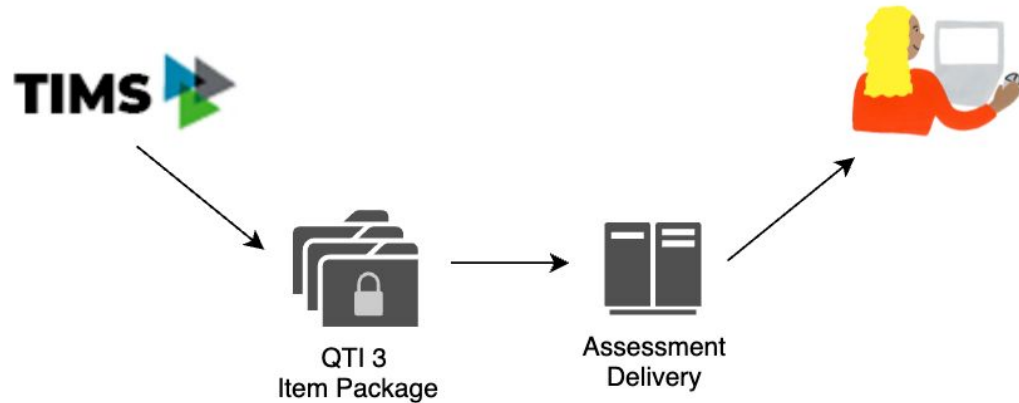
Smarter Balanced created a QTI 3 compliant item bank, following these milestones

- Securely manage our own item bank
- Develop software for item bank maintenance
- Build QTI 3 translation
- Validate and Certify item bank



Key Benefits

Items on the Smarter Balanced assessments are delivered with the same high quality and fidelity that went into developing them. All accessibility resources are available to ensure equitable access for students with diverse needs and preferences.



How we use QTI 3.0



- In IBIS we currently have 37,593 items banked in QTI 3.0 format across internal and external client use cases, all using the advanced certified authoring, import, and export capabilities.
- QTI 3.0 export from the source bank and QTI 3.0 import to the target bank makes it possible to work across our platforms
- We also have AI item generation that outputs QTI 3.0 structure, and we built an AI Agent to ensure conformance to 1EdTech QTI 3.0 specifications (but we expect APIs to be used much more often; our Create Item API, Get Item API, and Update Item API are all QTI 3.0 capable.





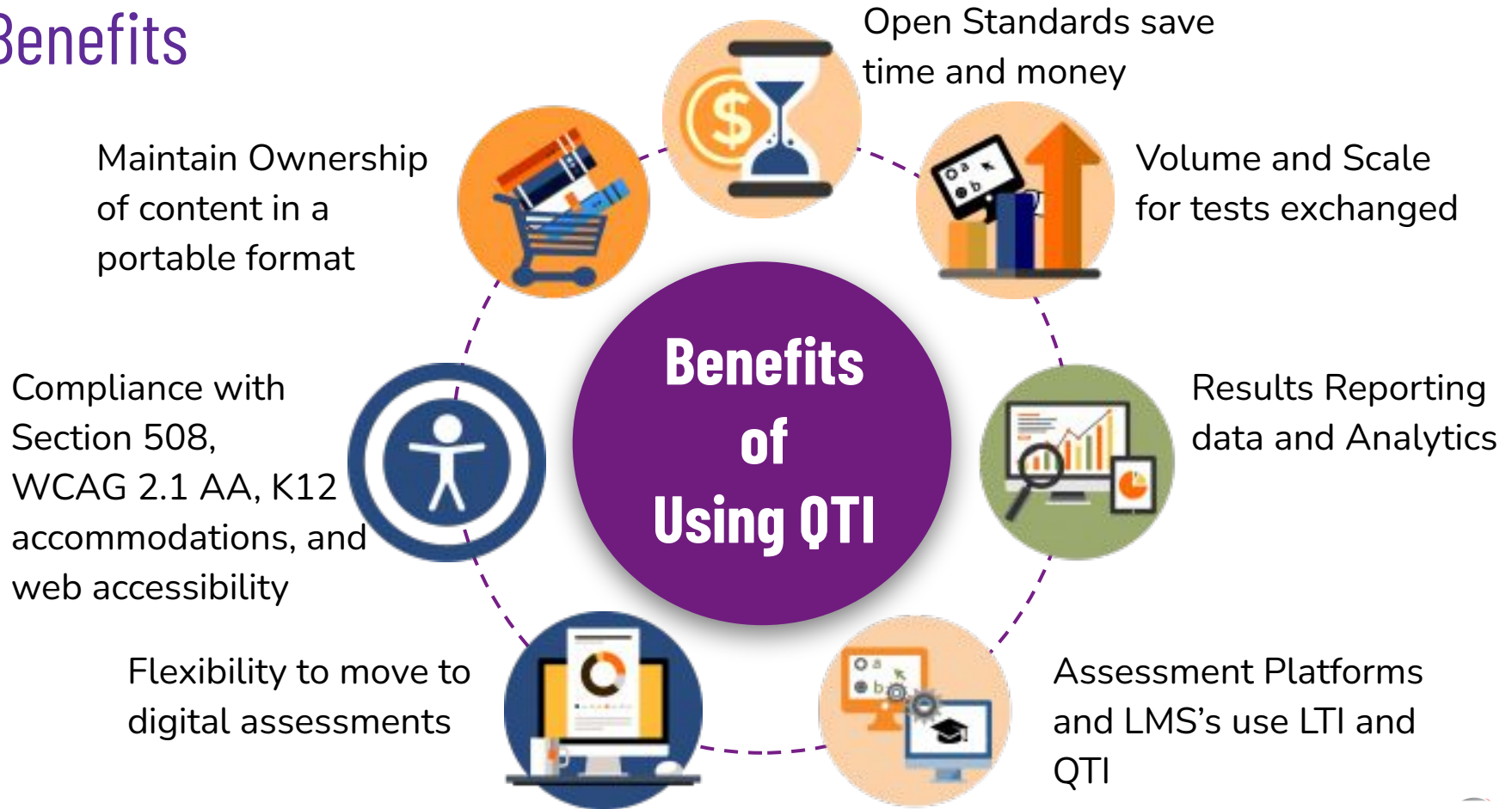
Key Benefits



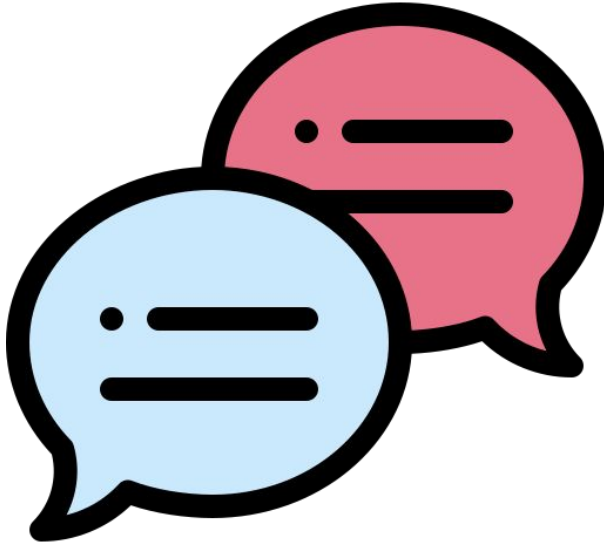
- Interoperability across our platforms
- Ability to transform existing content to QTI 3.0
- Accessibility not an afterthought!



Benefits



Questions?



Groups

Strategy

- Assessment Product Steering Committee (PSC)

Leadership

- Digital Curriculum Innovation Institutional Leadership Network (ILN)

Technical

- QTI Project Group

Showcase and Learn

- Webinars and Roundtables
- Events

Contact Us:

Susan Haught

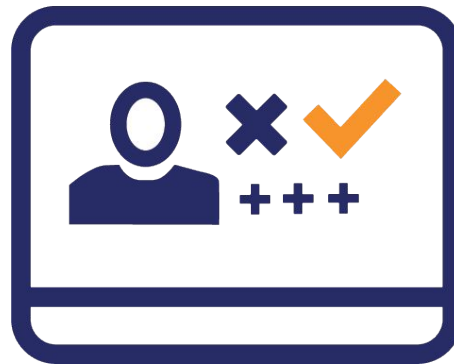
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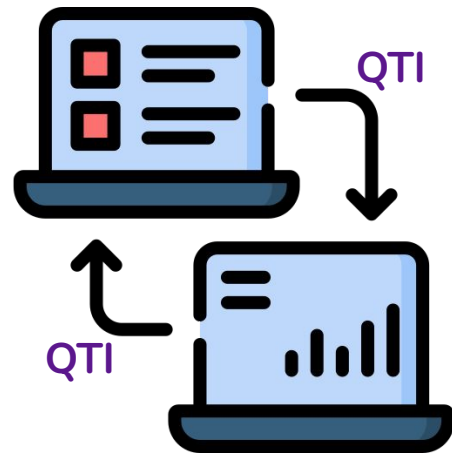


Resources

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The Interoperability of QTI 3

- Adopted by dozen's large-scale companies and countries as THE assessment exchange format
- Accepted by an ever larger number of suppliers as the “universal donor” format
- Supported by open-source assessment platforms
- Many systems take advantage of launching assessment sessions using 1EdTech's LTI and OneRoster standards
- Well-documented and freely available
- Supported by 1EdTech staff and members in the active Working Group and Assessment Product Steering Committee



The Value of a 1EdTech QTI Certification

- Multiple-vendor/supplier contracts go more smoothly
 - import and export of content based on validated, interoperable format
 - Less time doing transformations from proprietary formats
 - Reduces risk for deliverables
- Less rework and cost with customers
- Demonstrates your organization is aligned with assessment industry, and passes outside scrutiny
- Ready for RFPs

QTI Resources

Scan the QR
code to access
the resources



<https://1ed.tech/1RVFt>





Learning Impact

— EUROPE 2025 —



Join us from September 23-24th
in Delft, Netherlands
for more great QTI content!

<https://1ed.tech/SPDnu>




Institutions: Suggested RFP Language



IMPERATIVES ▾ WORKSTREAMS ▾ STANDARDS ▾ CERTIFICATION ▾ EVENTS ▾ ABOUT US ▾ 

3 Steps to Procure 1EdTech Certified Products


We pulled together some useful resources to help technology leaders and procurement officers know what to ask for from their edtech suppliers and what to include in their RFPs. It's just another way our [1EdTech community](#) is working together to ensure an open, trusted, and innovative digital learning ecosystem for all of us.



Verify 1EdTech Certifications

Review the TrustEd Apps Directory.


[Details](#)



Communicate with Edtech Suppliers

Share your Statement of Intent.

[Details](#)



Include Certification Requirements

Use specific 1EdTech standards language.

[Details](#)

RFP: Lessons Learned



Good: the RFP for the item bank explicitly stated QTI 3.0 compatibility. The item bank we choose met that criteria.


When evaluating proposer, **go deeper:**

1. Include **sample content from all assessments** for the proposer to review
2. **Include a demo into the RFP timeline** to surface how QTI from your different tests may be different from each other
3. **Pay attention to styling for your QTI packages.** Learn how styling is handled as part of the RFP process. This is especially important for content with images, audio, or video. This detail will help you properly scope your ingestion effort.



Suppliers: Begin Your Certifications Here

 IMPERATIVES ▾ WORKSTREAMS ▾ STANDARDS ▾ CERTIFICATION ▾ EVENTS ▾ ABOUT US ▾ 



Get Your Product 1EdTech Certified

As a 1EdTech member, 1EdTech Certification gives you the highest level of certification to cover all others.

4 Steps to 1EdTech Certification

[Watch the Video](#)

