CompTIA.

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Data Sharing Project
CompTIA Update

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Certification Data Exchange

- **Phase I—CompTIA & IL Community College Board (ICCB) Pilot Project**

- **Phase II—Opened up to other states. CompTIA & CA Data Exchange in progress.**

- **Phase III—Incorporate learnings & offer CompTIA Data Exchange to additional states. Include some other Industry sectors and certifying bodies in the Project.**

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Perkins 2006 Re-Authorization & Its Implications

- **New focus on:**
  - Accountability.
  - Industry Certifications.
    - Preparation for employment in high demand occupations.
    - Validation of demand-driven skill sets.
    - Embedding Industry Certifications into Programs of Study.
- **Creates need for data sharing.**
  - State Departments of Education.
  - Industry Certification Providers.

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Industry Certification Data Sharing

- **Critical Issues:**
  - Privacy issues — between certifying bodies & exam-takers.
  - Legal issues — sharing students' performance data without their express permission.
  - Authorization issues — high school students who are minors require parents' authorization/permission.

- **Challenges:**
  - States' laws vary regarding age & "adult" status.
  - Level of states' reporting requirements—aggregate or individual student level.
  - Capturing student data for accurate & unique identification.

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Data Sharing Pilot: Tackling the Legal Issues

- **FERPA – Provides exception for organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of an educational agency or institution provided:**
  - Stipulate by agreement that no personally identifiable information is disclosed outside of the purposes of the study, or of the organization.
  - All information be destroyed after conclusion of the study.
  - Receive an indemnity from the State relating to these disclosures.
- **Both parties signed indemnification agreement as described.**

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CompTIA's Shared Data Sets

- **State of Illinois community college exam takers.**

- **Candidates who "opted in" to share information.**

- **Data elements:**
  - 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2010.
  - 3,412 records provided.
  - 1,825 Certified:
    - A+ (2 part) – 1,118.
    - Network+ - 376.
    - Security+ - 261.
    - Project+ - 55.
    - Misc – 14.
  - 1,587 Not Certified.

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Data Matching Protocol

- **Limited test taker identifying variables available in data set:**
- **First Name, Last Name.**
- **Geographic coding – Zip Code.**
- **Preferred approach – First Name, Last Name, SSN, Date of Birth, Geographic Code(s), and Gender.**
- **Illinois Community College Board:**
  - All credit students from fiscal years 2006-2010 (A1).
  - 48 colleges with approximately 750,000 records per year.
- **CompTIA:**
  - 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2010.
  - 3,412 records provided.

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Illinois Community College Board

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Data Sharing Project
Recent Activities of CompTIA

- **Worked to expand the Pilot in IL to other states and other industry sectors**

- **CA is now included in the Project & test data has been shared and continues to be analyzed**

- **Several other states applied, but all were unable to sign the Indemnification Agreement**

- **FERPA clarification received from the Department of Education—not applicable to the Data Sharing Project**

- **Continued need for Indemnification Agreement reconsidered by CompTIA legal**

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Recent Activities at CompTIA

- Indemnification Agreement no longer deemed necessary, but states would need to sign a "Data Sharing Agreement"

- Made Opt-in language for authorization for CompTIA's release of test taker's information to 3rd party organizations more explicit in the future by specifying research studies as a potential use.

- Surveyed past Opt-in test-takers attitudes toward this type of sharing—found no problem.

- Included new data elements for identification of test takers to improve quality of "matches" as requested from the Pilot, e.g. dob, gender.

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Recent Phase III Activities

- **Current Participating states:**
  - IL, CA, FL, IA, OK, CA, NC, KY
  - Signed Data Sharing Agreement
  - In various stages of data exchange and analysis
- **Engaging other Industry Sectors and credentialing bodies for interest in participating:**
  - e.g., NAM, AWS, ASE/NATEF, ACT, MSSC
  - Work session scheduled for tomorrow

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