



Customizing the Portal & Educator Dashboards - Overview

**SLC Project Document
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Change Log

Date	Version	Name	Change Summary
12/16/11	V1	Jeff Kid	Initial draft submission to SLC

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1. Introduction

The SLI is designed to provide flexibility to State Education Agencies (“SEAs”) and Local Education Agencies (“LEAs”) so that it can be used for many purposes in a variety of contexts. This document describes ways that SEA and LEA IT Super Administrators can customize the user experience of the SLI. It also provides guidance on how third party applications can be included in the SLI portal. Purchasing authorities may use this to inform requirements when purchasing new SLI web applications.

2. Customizing the Portal

2.1 Adding Apps to the Portal Homepage

The SLI Portal is designed to provide an easy way to navigate between SLI web apps. Links to a user’s applications are displayed on his or her Homepage. This page allows users to switch between web applications approved for use by an SEA or LEA.

For Release 1.0 (R1.0), SEA or LEA Super Administrators can include any web application on this page by providing these details in an administrative interface:

- An application URL
- An image for the button to be displayed on the Homepage
- A short text description of the application
- The LEAs, organizations, or schools that should have access to the application
- One or more default SLI Roles for which the application can be accessed
- One of the application display methods, described below

2.2 Displaying Apps in SLI with Header and Footer

In addition to the Homepage, the Portal will provide a consistent and familiar header and footer for applications, which can be customized by SEA and LEA Super Administrators (see below). The header and footer present common UI elements, as depicted in this low-fi mockup here:

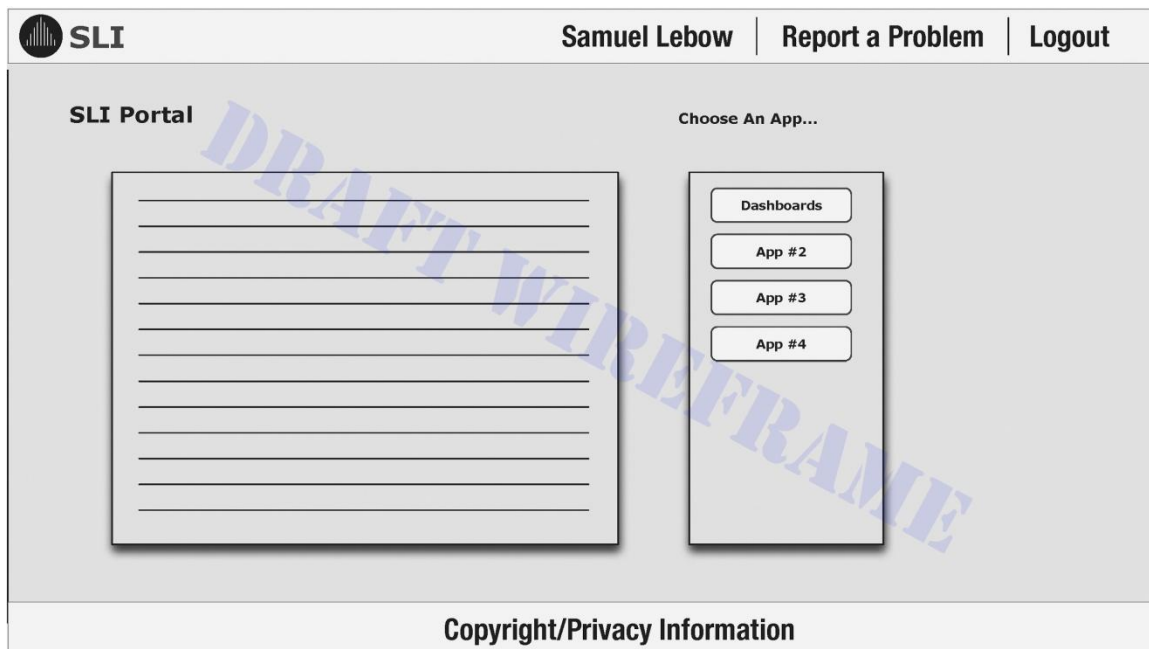


Figure 1: Wireframe of the SLI Portal Header and Footer (in white) wrapped around the home page (in gray). This wireframe does not represent a final design.

There are three methods by which an application will be able to appear with the SLI Portal header/footer:

- **Full-window apps:** Applications created specifically for SLI can access the SLI Portal header/footer HTML. The exact method for applications to access the header/footer is under design. The header and footer will display natively as part of the application, and any local customization will automatically appear there.
- **WSRP¹** : An application that is not created specifically for the SLI but that complies with Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP) standard v1.0 or 2.0 can be embedded as a portlet on a page that includes the header and footer. Existing web applications can be easily wrapped to implement the WSRP standard. We recommend using WSRP standard v2.0.
- **iframe²**: An application that does not implement the WSRP standard can be embedded on a page with the header/footer as an iframe.

¹ Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP) is an OASIS-approved network protocol standard designed for communications with remote portlets. More information at http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=wsrp.

² iframe is an HTML 4.0 element, approved by the W3C. More information at <http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/present/frames.html>.

Note: Applications in iframes do not reliably support the browser's back, forward, and page refresh buttons. We do not recommend using iframes for complex web applications that require page-to-page navigation. Some iframe functionality may be restricted due to security rules.

Of course, states or districts may elect not to include the common SLI header and footer for certain applications accessed from the SLI Homepage. In this case, Super Administrators can simply select the full-window application display method for an application that has not natively implemented the header and footer HTML.

In future versions of the SLI, we may include additional configurations to support multiple application portlets on the same page, using WSRP.

2.3 Portal Look and Feel

For R1.0, Super Administrators will be able to configure the look and feel of the portal in the following ways:

- A select number of design elements in the portal may be customized using cascading style sheets (CSS). CSS customization can include most colors, line weights as well as text fonts, styles, and sizes. This allows SEA/LEA Super Administrators to control parts of the look and feel of the SLI Portal to seamlessly integrate it with existing web applications.
- District and state logos can be customized.
- End User Licensing Agreement (EULA) and privacy statement text can be customized.

3. Customizing the SLI Dashboard Application

3.1 Dashboard Content

The SLI Dashboard Application will be available “out-of-box” with the SLI. It allows educators to see data about their students individually and summarized by class, school, and various other organizational levels. Users can see lists of students, schools, etc. to compare student populations, or hone in on just one student (or school, etc.) profile for more targeted information.

State and district leaders can curate lists and profiles views. Curating allows educational leaders to support decision making with relevant, targeted data, such as:

- Student details
- Special ed., ELL, and other program participation
- Assessment results
- Grades and transcripts
- Credits and graduation requirements
- Discipline and attendance

Leaders can build specialized lists and profile views to bring together disparate data, to bring insights into classrooms and schools. Most student data that is ingested into the SLI will be visible in dashboards. The SLI will also use source system metadata automatically. For example, a column header label can include the abbreviated name of an assessment, as specified during ingestion.

Curating allows leaders to specify which columns appear in a list, and they can choose from several data visualization options provided by the dashboard application. For example, a standardized summative state assessment result could appear as a single scaled numeric value, or as a graph showing performance level.

Here we see a mockup of a sample list view with several columns of data, each of which may be customized:

Programs	Name	State Summative Assessment				Course Work				Attendance	
		Math - (08/11)		ELA - (04/11)		Benchmark / Tests			Final Grade	Pct	Daily
		PL	SS	PL	SS	01	02	03			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abbey Bright	3		3		96	88	77	B	98	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deangelo Busbee	4		4		96	99	98	A	96	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Margarete Cheesman	2		2		65	77	71	C	81	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Deslauriers	1		3		87	90	77	B	92	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kirby Figgins	3		3		89	93	90	B	98	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genia Feinstein	3		3		90	91	84	B	97	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ginny Flemming	3		4		98	95	96	A	99	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bailey Gooch	4		2		87	88	91	B	95	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlena Hellard	2		1		77	62	60	D	77	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettye Ikard	3		4		88	81	99	A	93	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryanna Jun	3		2		94	85	85	B	96	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patience Kelly	3		3		92	88	83	B	99	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Derrick Livingston	4		3		96	91	89	A	97	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marita Madia	2		3		55	88	79	C	95	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chantal Marten	1		3		83	86	95	B	94	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minnie Martir	4		4		95	98	90	A	99	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Mastro	2		2		65	77	76	B	94	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosaline McCord	3		1		71	89	84	C	89	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don Mazingo	3		3		88	92	96	B	96	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelle Pruett	3		3		93	90	89	A	98	

Figure 2: Super Administrators can customize what appears in each column on dashboard lists like this one. This is not a final design, and some of the elements shown here may not necessarily be available for Alpha release.

Likewise, individual components of profile pages can be customized based on available district data. Additional configurable views of student data, including dashboards with multiple exportable components, may also be available in later releases.

For R1.0, list, profile, and other page customization can be configured by SEA and LEA Super Administrators by editing XML documents using a schema that will be provided by the SLC. The document enables the configuration of data to appear in list views (e.g. the most recent district-wide interim assessment) and how data is displayed (e.g. display the assessment data with a bar chart). The XML documents may be edited and updated by

Super Administrators as new data becomes available or based on changing user needs. Super Administrators will be able to upload the XML documents using an administrative interface. There may be ways to indicate default list and profile views in various situations, such as the default view of a 5th grade math class.

At R1.0, state and district Super Administrators are responsible for authoring the XML documents and validating that dashboards display as expected, though SLI will perform basic XML validation. Documents not following best practices may cause parts of the site to display incorrectly. In future releases, the SLC may release tools to generate these XML documents so that non-technical users can configure and share lists and profiles using a GUI.

3.2 Educator Dashboard Look and Feel

Like the Portal, much of the dashboard look and feel will also be customizable. Starting in R1.0, SEA and LEA Super Administrators can create dashboard themes to specify colors, fonts, and line styles for certain visual elements within the application using a CSS document. We will provide sample CSS documents, a list of CSS classes, and other documentation to help Super Administrators in creating this document. SLI will perform basic validation, but SEAs and LEAs are responsible for validating that look and feel appears correct; invalid documents or those not following best practices may cause parts of the site to display incorrectly.

Note: Some elements of the dashboard application, such as data visualizations and colors, may not be customizable by SEA or LEA Super Administrators.

In future releases, SLC may also provide a user interface to facilitate dashboard customization and reduce the risk of validation errors.

4. Inheritance of Customizations

To facilitate the rollout of the SLI Portal and Dashboard, customizations are inherited by successive levels of the organizational hierarchy. By default, everyone will see the SLI Default configurations of the SLI. States can then customize to meet particular state needs, and all LEAs in the state will then see that as the default configuration. LEAs and schools can further configure the user experience to local needs. The hierarchy for inheritance looks like this:

- SLI Default Configuration
- State Configuration
- LEA Configuration
- School Configuration

LEAs or Schools need not configure the entire user experience. Instead, they can modify just a few elements and inherit the rest. For example, an LEA may elect to only upload a district logo and add a dashboard view highlighting a district benchmark series, and nothing else. The rest of the UI specifications and dashboard views defined by the SEA would then be inherited. This allows LEAs flexibility to customize the SLI as necessary, but rely on the SLI or SEA defaults to minimize SEA effort.

5. Customization Roadmap

Here is a review of features described in this document, with targeted releases:

Feature	Alpha June 2012	R1.0 December 2012	Possible Future Enhancements*
Customizing Look and Feel	SLI Default Only	CSS Document	Administrative interface
Customizing Logo and EULA	SLI Default Only	Administrative interface	TBD
Adding Applications to the Portal	SLI Applications only	Administrative interface	Administrative interface, supporting multiple WRSP Portlets
Customizing Dashboards	Configured by SLI in coordination with pilot districts	XML Document	Administrative interface

* These features are not guaranteed to be in the SLI at any time.