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SIF Association Names Four Virginia Education Finalists *Leadership Efforts to Improve Data Sharing Receive Recognition*

The Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) Association last month recognized four Virginia education entities as finalists for the 2012 SIF Excellence Awards at the association's annual meeting:

- The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) was named a finalist in the Outstanding State Education Agency SIF Implementation category.
- VDOE's Bethann Canada, director of the Office of Educational Information Management, was a finalist in the Outstanding Individual Leadership category.
- Roanoke Public Schools, as well as the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, were named finalists in the category of Outstanding Local Education Agency SIF Implementation.

The SIF Association is an industry-supported, membership organization that developed a set of rules and definitions that enable instructional and administrative educational software applications from different companies to interact with and share data seamlessly. The platform-independent, vendor-neutral rules and definitions — known as the SIF implementation specification — make it possible for programs within a school or division to share data without additional programming and without requiring software vendors to learn and support intricacies of other vendors' applications. The goal is to provide school administrators, teachers and other school personnel access to the most current and accurate data available.

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