

Learning-Standards Decision Worksheet

Settle SCORM vs xAPI vs cmi5 vs LTI before you build. The companion article explains every line.

Step 1 - Package, or launch?

- Content must be a file that lives inside a client's LMS (even offline) -> package (Step 2)
- Content stays a live tool you host and update -> launch with LTI 1.3 (+ xAPI for analytics)
- Learning happens mostly outside any LMS (mobile, simulation, on-the-job) -> pure xAPI + an LRS

Step 2 - If packaging: how much do you need to track?

- Only completion, score, and time, and it must run in old or strict LMSs -> SCORM (prefer 2004)
- Rich data - video behaviour, mobile, offline activities -> cmi5 (xAPI tracking + launch rules)
- Need both modern and legacy reach -> cmi5 package plus a SCORM 1.2 fallback from one source

At a glance: what each standard does

- SCORM - package into LMS - fixed data (completion/score/time) - maximum compatibility
- xAPI - track anywhere to an LRS - any experience incl. video - learning outside the LMS
- cmi5 - package + xAPI tracking - rich data with launch/completion - SCORM's successor
- LTI - launch a hosted tool in any LMS - identity + grade passback (AGS) - true SSO

Before you collect roster, grades, or video data: privacy

Roster identities, grades, and per-learner video analytics are personal data under GDPR, under FERPA for US student records, and under 152-FZ for a Russian audience. Decide what you store, why, and for how long before you build. This is engineering guidance, not legal advice.