


# Organizations

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An **organization** is an entity in a customer's organizational hierarchy, such as a state, a district, or a school. An organization must exist in the system before that organization can participate in testing or test-related activities.

## Hierarchy

The organizational hierarchy structures the data stored in the system. For example, all students, administrators, and teachers in the system must belong to an organization. Only after the organizational hierarchy is built can authorized users upload student data and create other user accounts. For this reason, building the organizational hierarchy is one of the first tasks. 

Each program can have only one, unique hierarchy that all organizations must use. Your program's defined requirements determine the categorical hierarchy for your organizations.

Your organization hierarchy determines available features and system functionality at different levels. After the organizational hierarchy is defined, you can upload program-specific data. Typically, you can view data only for your organization and organizations below it (child organizations).