

Key Definitions and Websites to help get started

What is the Power Platform?¹ Microsoft Power Platform is a collection of low-code development tools designed to help users build custom business applications, automate workflows, and analyze data. It includes four main components: Power Apps, Power Automate, Power BI, and Power Virtual Agents, each serving specific purposes to enhance productivity and streamline business processes.

- Get Started with Power Platform: <https://docs.blackbaud.com/microsoft-connectors-docs/microsoft-power-platform/getting-started#support-and-training-resources>
 - Power Automate: <https://docs.blackbaud.com/microsoft-connectors-docs/microsoft-power-platform/power-automate>
 - Power BI: <https://docs.blackbaud.com/microsoft-connectors-docs/microsoft-power-platform/power-bi>
- Official Microsoft Power Platform Documentation: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/power-platform/>

What is SKY API?² SKY API is used to connect applications to Blackbaud solutions, enabling developers to access, manage, and integrate data across fundraising, school, and other organizational platforms.

Key Uses:

1. **Data Access and Management**
SKY API allows developers to retrieve and manipulate data such as donor information, gifts, school users, academics, admissions, athletics, and other organizational records.
2. **Integration and Automation**
Organizations can integrate Blackbaud solutions with other software, such as Google Workspace or custom applications, to automate workflows like sending emails, updating records, or syncing attendance and athletic data in schools.
3. **Custom Development**
Developers can build complementary features that integrate deeply within the Blackbaud user interface, enhancing functionality and creating tailored solutions for specific organizational needs.
4. **Interactive Testing and Debugging**
The SKY API provides an interactive console for testing API calls in real time, which helps developers debug and verify their integrations before deployment.
5. **Secure Authorization**
SKY API uses **OAuth 2.0** for secure authorization, ensuring that applications access data safely while maintaining compliance with security standards

- Blackbaud SKY API Developer Portal (must be logged in with your BBID): <https://developer.blackbaud.com/skyapi/>
- Power Automate Template Showcase: <https://docs.blackbaud.com/microsoft-connectors-docs/microsoft-power-platform/showcase>
- Blackbaud Developers You-tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@BlackbaudSKYDeveloper>

¹ Information obtained from Microsoft.com and a web search assisted by Copilot

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- Register to attend the user groups:
 - Power Automate User Group: <https://community.blackbaud.com/events/4545-microsoft-power-automate-user-group>
 - Power BI User Group: <https://community.blackbaud.com/events/4389-microsoft-power-bi-user-group>
- SKY Developer – Blackbaud Community (must be logged in with your BBID):
<https://community.blackbaud.com/categories/sky-developer-425>
- Blackbaud University Training for Power Platform:
<https://learn.blackbaud.com/pages/79/microsoft>
 - Power Automate: Overview and Templates/Microsoft:
<https://learn.blackbaud.com/learn/courses/16439/power-automate-overview-and-templates-microsoft>
 - Power Automate: Exploring Formats, Hyperlinks, and Variables / Microsoft:
<https://learn.blackbaud.com/learn/courses/16440/power-automate-exploring-formats-hyperlinks-and-variables-microsoft>
 - Power Automate: Architecting Automated Flows / Microsoft:
<https://learn.blackbaud.com/learn/courses/16826/power-automate-architecting-automated-flows-microsoft>
- Blackbaud Support for SKY API: <https://developer.blackbaud.com/skyapi/support/options>
- Blackbaud API Reference – SKY API: <https://developer.blackbaud.com/skyapi/products>