



Feb 14th - Web Enhancements Parent Connect & Teacher Connect for Student Version 14.0

Special note for installing each new release of School Connect:

Because you are loading during activity there is a potential that the spellserver dll gets locked up and does not delete. Microsoft will then randomly start to create temporary copies of the .dll. If this occurs, when you go into either narrative or topics - the application will crash. Update your install notes to ALWAYS do a search for spellserver.net.dll and confirm that there are NO occurrences of it in the Microsoft.Net framework temporary directories.

- Search for any occurrence of spellserver.net.dll
- Delete any copy that is any temp files directory. Leave any copies that are in your original application directories.

Regarding Browsers:

We have found that IE works better than FireFox as a browser for our Connect Products. Firefox hesitates on enter/refresh. The browser allows the user to override fonts & application settings which degrades appearance and can cause major problems if you are doing grade narrative. In my testing, I have found Firefox presentation is not as nice and it is slower. However, as long as the user has not altered browser default settings or selected the advanced option to 'not allow applications to override personal browser settings' - then the product will work.

Change to nightly Parent Connect ID maintenance program

- Previous to this release, the nightly job for creating parent connect Ids did all locations. Schools can now choose to participate or not. The nightly job will create Ids only for schools that have completed a PC entry (STU.324). In addition, schools can choose to block certain grade levels if they only want a portion of their kids online. Each night, the maintenance program will also remove Ids if students transfer into non-PC schools.



New Feature - Teacher Connect, Parent Connect

- **Student Grading Screen has many enhancements**
 - Newly written narrative. This new narrative is tolerant to anything. Go ahead and use special characters. Create your own line breaks if you want the text to look like that on the report card. What you see onscreen is exactly how it will print on the report card. If you do insert text all text slides. If you insert after you have already saved, sometimes this causes some odd spacing. If your insert has caused extra spaces/breaks elsewhere, remove extra spaces so the text does not appear disjoint.
 - The <enter> keys has been re-mapped on the grading screen to advance you from column to column. This can be more convenient for those using the numeric keypad (works in Internet Explorer Only)

- A 'Restrict Entry to Column' selection has been added. This may make for easier input if a user wants to handle just a single column at a time.
 - An auto-fill column tab is now available. If you have selected to work with a particular column - then the auto-fill option can automatically fill an appropriate value into that column for all students. Any previous mark/value in that column would be overwritten.
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- If a student is IEP /Special Needs, a new column on the list will show you the category code. On the main demographic view for that student, full category code & description are visible.
 - We have instructed users to <save> before paging up/down in grading, attendance, or textbook. However, we also have enabled auto-save so that it will do this automatically 'just in case'.
 - In attendance view, the students are now sorted straight alpha - not alpha by course. This means that if you do have multiple courses taught concurrently, kids (just on attendance screen) will appear alpha. The column order has also changed - student name appears first and the course appears at the far right (last column).
 - The column heading is repeated again at the bottom of the attendance and grading frame to assist the user in seeing/remembering what column is what.
 - There is a new checkbox for 'Include Completed Students'. The default is to include them. This way you can choose to see or not those students who have a final mark/completed the course.
 - Online course requests module 'Pick Courses' has been totally refreshed. Refer to the teacheradminconnect.pdf notes available from the website for details or the online help right within the pick courses option.
 - Pick Courses module has been added to Teacher Connect (under student schedule tab) so that teachers/advisors may edit, add, view next year course requests with the student.
 - There have been significant school calendar enhancements. Schools/Districts really need to consider how beneficial getting onboard with calendars can be internally and on the web to eliminate the duplication of marking and communicating events.
 - The school day cycle and rotation now appears on the calendar.
 - An end-user can select what type of activities (meetings, events, sports) they want to filter to rather than to wade through all items on a calendar.
 - There is a new school calendar print function that will print the calendar in a calendar looking format - too cool.
 - There is a new setup option for district office - STU.324 with no school. This will override the initial PC-0000 or TC-0000 messages from the schools and offer a global consistent sign-on message.
 - In Textbook (issue and mass return) the <enter> key has been mapped to respond as a tab (IE only). If you are using scanners that have been auto-programmed to <enter> after input this will work much better!
 - In Textbook, grades, course requests - the AS/400 system date is used to stamp the records rather than using the PC date generated at the workstation. This will prevent incorrect/inconsistent PC dates to affect system time-stamp records.
 - There is a new report available to Parent Connect - Detail Absences for a student. This will allow parents to print history on their child's absences (either AM/PM or course oriented) as well as a summary of absences by course.

- There is a new report available to parents on the grading screen and main reports screen - Print Grad Requirements Profile (GRD.573/2) for that student. It will show a summary of credits required, earned, pending, needed so the parent is aware of grad status.
- There is a new CIMS screen 'Emergency Contacts' to house out of province and alternate emergency response contact information. This screen is now also available to teacher/parent connect.
- HUGE: From Teacher Connect - Teachers can now email to parents and/or students. The messaging option allows them to select by student - and retrieves the email information from CIMS.
- HUGE: From Teacher Connect - Teachers can now message other teachers, the office, or all teachers that teach a particular student.
- HUGE: From Teacher Connect - Teachers can now message an entire course/section of kids (select to email the students or guardians in that course).
- The <enter> key has been disabled. Previous to this release <enter> was inconsistent - sometimes it meant save and continue, sometimes it did nothing. NOW, <enter> is consistent. It will advance the user to the next field for input. If there are no fields of input on the screen, it will do nothing.



Corrections

- Entering grading narrative has been re-written. Now, there are no rules. Go ahead and input whatever and however .. the text will save and print on report cards appropriately. Also the speed issue has been resolved.
- Attendance Completed flag on the main course index did not always display correctly - resolved.
- Attendance, grading, textbook now all show 40 kids per page.
- On the main page, the refresh on term select sometimes did not work. User needed to press it more than once for a response - resolved.
- There were Firefox issues with message text appearing - resolved
- Send Message had some text cut-off issues where the resulting sent message lost half the text - resolved.
- Teacher Connect had previously assumed that no teacher would be teaching more than 8 course/sections per block. If you did teach more than 8 courses in a single block, your student list only showed partial list. CIMS now allows for up 30 course/sections per teacher per block.
- Textbook module would crash if a user entered a textbook number greater than 10 in length - resolved.