



August 2009 - Web Enhancements Parent Connect & Teacher Connect for Student Version 15.5

(March 26 – September 11th 2009)
(September 11 – September 19th)
(September 18th – 25th)
(September 26 – October 5th)
(October 6th – October 19th)
(October 20th – 30th)
(November 1 – 6th)
(November 7 – 16th)
(November 17th – 20th)
(November 21 – December 28th)



Parent Connect

SPECIAL NOTE: Districts need to consider availability of Parent Connect over the summer. Once we have rolled the year forward the then the year is available to parents with their existing Ids. If schools have not handed out schedules they may not want Parent Connect available. Discuss as a district and evaluate whether you should disable the website for a certain period or not.

SPECIAL NOTE: Schools need to pay close attention to STU.324, GRD.21E, [GRD.201](#), and GRD.511 (efile Y) to ensure that they are not showing grading items too early to parents. Refer to the ParentConnectAdmin document available on the website (under the web apps tab) for details.

Student Grades

- Current grades screen was reformatted slightly to show wider comment box and re-title column headings
- Locked down transcript view for BC. BC Trax final marks will not display until the day is past, ie: if Trax record indicates 2009 06 – then it will now show the final marks until July 1st. You can control access to current marks on the report card screen.
- Parents can now view current year actual report cards (.pdf). Once the office has processed the report cards there is a new eFile option that will post that report card overlay and all to Parent Connect. Some schools might consider paperless report carding!

School Calendar

- Enhanced the display by making the calendar boxes bigger and wider to show more

- Now colour each calendar activity according to type to make it more visually appealing

Student Textbooks

- New textbook tab is available to parents to view textbooks issue, returns, and outstanding for their student(s).

Student Demographics

- Now shows student cell# on main demographic
- Now shows additional 3rd phone number for guardians and allows them to edit/add that additional number and type (cell, pager, phone). This means that we now have home phone, student cell, and now up to 3 telephone numbers per guardian Guardians can edit all those phone numbers PLUS email address and employer information. It is all recorded in the audit. AND, in addition there is the Other Contacts <tab> that will allow them to add additional emergency contacts. Schools should determine how important this information is to them and work out how to introduce this to parents and encourage getting and keeping good
- Parent Connect will now allow parents to edit contact names and relationships in addition to telephone numbers. It will also allow parents to fully edit doctor/dentist names as well as phone numbers.
- Parent Send Message used to default OFFICE and then the pulldown would appear misplaced. It will now assume <no message> and allow full control to the user.
- In Fees tab – new <print> button added so parents can print a fee statement

Student Folder

- New Student Folder access available to parents. Other than IEP, PSR, Discipline documents, and report cards that store directly in those areas – schools can begin eFiling other documents that can be visible to parents or not based on STU.007 category restrictions you add for user PARENTWEB.

Student Assignments

- Re-wrote the assignment view screen for parents to easily view assignments, identify missing assignments, and print.
- Enhanced the Profile Print for parents to show more information and clearer about the course (title) and to consider non-graded courses and identifying them.
- Enhanced the view to parents to let them know more clearly what they are looking at – added colours, indicate non graded entries, more clearly identify all assignments versus incomplete
- Changed the sort order of courses to be by due date. Was previously task# and assignment date.
- New Summary of marks added to assignment tab. If the teacher has indicated to show overall mark to parent/student then the accumulating marks will be visible to the parent/student for those course(s).

Corrections

- Locked down URL <tabs> so users cannot maneuver to screens they may not have access to use
- Parent Connect access issues for Guardian2 and Guardian3 – resolved.

- School Calendar size did not fit traditional square screen (developed for wide screen) – resolved.
- (In BC) Added Exam% column in History of grades lookup so parent is aware of government exam marks on examinable courses.
- Enhanced Parent/Student Connect assignment view – colours for failures/overachieve, two digit rounded assignment values, added short course title, highlighted that by default outstanding courses are appearing.
- Guardian2 and Guardian3 signons still allowed guardians to see contact details and Print them .. this has been removed. Additional guardians will only see themselves for contacts and will not be able to print the verification sheets.



Teacher Connect

Student Grades

- Enhanced to show grade titles to help teacher appreciate which bucket is which
- HUGE new feature to be able to see current year report cards (in .pdf format) as attachments right from the student grades screen.
- For report cards, teachers have had the ability to include TOPICS (narrative about what was done in the course or to broadcast a message to all students in that class on that report card. Topics print on the report card right after the course title and in a different font so the reader can separate teacher topics versus particular comments for each student. Topics have been enhanced to allow the teacher to select which report card to include the Topic statement on. By allowing them to select from any – they can view/copy previous topics to a current report card.

Student List/View and Demographics

- Now showing Legal Name if different right on the list (indented)
- Student Cell# is now displayed along with more information for contacts (Up to 3 telephone number and type per contact). The teacher can currently edit email info for a student but not cell phone#. If teachers would like to be able to edit cell# - let us know.
- To work same as GUI, if a student has a restricted tag – the user will see that the student does have that tag but will not be able to see the contents of the tag.

Student Attendance

- Reminder that it is good for teachers to hit <save> as they advance to next page(s) when doing attendance BUT really the system is doing a save automatically when page down is requested.
- Homeroom attendance can now mark reason codes for 'T'

Messaging

- Previously, you could be getting the message YOU HAVE NEW MESSAGES even if you are not using messaging and auto-messages due to discipline or schedule changes etc. were occurring. The system now listens to your school setup options (STU.324) and will only highlight messaging if you have this function turned on.

Alternate Sign-In

- There is a new option that the office can use (TCH.410) to assign temporary access to a teacher ID for a Sub. This means not having to change the teacher password or worry about changing things back. Assign a sub a temporary ID and password for a prescribed date(s). Then the sub can use the Teacher ID, Sub ID, and Sub Password to sign in and work on behalf of the teacher. At the end of the day(s) the ID will expire automatically.

Assign Access to other Teacher(s) to your course/section(s)

- From the office TCH.420 will allow the secretary to assign any teacher authority to any other teacher's course/sections. This will work with things like PhysEd where kids move and a variety of teachers require access to all of the kids taking PhysEd. In the next release of Teacher Connect there is a new <Access> tab that will allow teachers to do this themselves, ie: provide authority to other teachers to manage their course/sections of students.
- Upon teacher sign-in, the shared courses will appear in a different colour and at the bottom of the teacher's regular courses. In previous releases the shared courses mixed in with the teacher schedule – much better to show them all at the bottom to more clearly separate them from regular duties.

(BC Only) Elementary School Yearend Marks

- There were some creative homeroom teachers that could make marks duplicate. Grade entry was revamped to be even more super tolerant to the things users do. We also added a new field to stamp what program was used to update the grade (Web, TCH.301P, GRD.450 ...) so we can pinpoint where marks are being edited/duplicated incorrectly.

School Calendar

- Enhanced the display by making the calendar boxes bigger and wider to show more
- Now colour each calendar activity according to type to make it more visually appealing

Student Assignments

- There has been MAJOR enhancements to the Teacher gradebook from within CIMS in two areas:
 - accommodate posting of assignments, test results, bulletins to parents – all from within TeacherConnect. The goal here is to use CIMS only and not also post to third party web applications or your teacherwebsites. A parent can in ONE SPOT get all of the course related information for all courses in a consistent fashion rather than to have to search through teacher websites (which are all different) or third party applications (which are all different and require yet another password for the parent)
 - accommodate assignment grading, completions, interim reporting for internal purposes (to calculate grades) and also to communicate with parents directly from CIMS.
- The initial options are all available – schools who wish to consider using CIMS to do it all should start looking at these new features with a few teachers to qualify the product and begin working with us to make it your gradebook.
- New fields have been added to assignment definition - when to display assignment to PC/SC, what grade title to include assignment in, whether to show marks to PC/SC (Timing)
- Options have been changed to show all assignments in task# order which teachers can control
- New option to copy assignment to another course/section
- Screens have been reformatted, changed slightly to manoeuvre easier

- Enhanced assignment report TCH.560 to include/exclude names (to be able to post marks but now expose student names). Also added ability to select single assignment to get an assignment listing for the class.
- Copy assignment function now also copies attachments. The Copy buttons have been moved to the top of the screen to save time for the user scrolling down. There is also a new feature to copy with the same assignment# so that block courses will work
- New report added TCH.562 for Student Summary/Profile
- Course assignment mark entry now allows for block selection (include all students who are in that block with that teacher rather than just by course/section)
- Enhanced course assignment summary to allow sort by mark
- Enhanced course assignment summary to all limit to grading period (just RP1)
- Reformatted student assignment summary to better display student marks and overall percentages
- Added new checkbox 'Display marks to parents' to allow teacher control of when to show marks to parentconnect
- Added new checkbox 'Include marks in calculation' to control when an assignment is to be included in the calculation. If an assignment has been assigned and nothing back yet – should not be in the calculation.
- Enhanced assignment summary to display incomplete assignments '- -'
- Enhanced Assignment summary print option <Don't include names> to sort in a random order so order of list does not match alpha. Also does not include comments
- Enhancements to TCH.562 Student Profile – added ability to include an overlay (expecting ASGxxx where xxx=school). An overlay will make that report almost 100% interim report card ready! Also adding comments to that report and ability to select for just a grading period.
- Added block logic to all of the views and prints in Teachergradebook. As long as courses within a block have consistent assignment definitions – then lists and marking views can be requested all at once.
- New ability to copy setup from one course to another
- New ability to setup each reporting period uniquely ... ability to weight categories differently between reporting periods AND weight reporting periods differently to come up with a final mark calculation
- Reviewed and enhanced profile prints to show information more clearly, to listen to the selects from the views (to print profiles just including reporting period one items) and blocks.
- Enhanced the marking and summary pages to show class averages and failure percentages and to colour failures and over achievement.
- To Student Assignment Summary user can now select whether to include Class Average or not on student profiles
- Student Profile now prints YTD attendance
- Student Assignment class average logic changed to not include student assignments that have been excluded when tallying up the class average.
- Assignment summary view enhanced/simplified to show/round only two decimal places.
- Added new post assignment marks to report card option
- Added a new grid <PRINT> (TCH.564) to assignment screen so teachers can view all students in the course and a grid of all their work and marks. Also ability to display names yes/no in case the grid is to be posted.

- Added 'lock in' for limit to grades .. meaning. If a teacher selects to see just the assignments relating to TIP – then as he folds through different select screens that filter will remain intact.
- Course assignments text adjusted to more clearly indicate order of operations when attaching documents.
- Assignment <Copy> removed from Add ... Once the assignment has been saved – then the copy function becomes available to copy that assignment to other sections.
- On course assignment setup new checkbox appears so teacher can show overall/accumulating marks to parents/students Yes/no. If the box is checked, then all course details plus the accumulating and term progress marks will be displayed to parent/student.
- In Upload marks to report card – maximum of 100% has been added so that even if in assignment accumulation mark has exceeded 100% (eg: 102%) .. mark will upload as 100%
- Enhanced summary of marks per student grid to show assignment table at bottom
- New <Print in Summary> button on assignment summary that will allow teacher to print class and totals per category (rather than to grid each assignment separately).
- Enhancements to Assignment Grid (double space, correction to include all assignments not cut off at 21, provides additional columns for summary by categories, provide an assignment index

Student Folder

- New Student Folder access available to teachers. Other than IEP, PSR, Discipline documents, and report cards that store directly in those areas – schools can begin eFiling other documents that can be visible to teachers or not based on STU.007 category restrictions you add for user TEACHxxx (as per your current district teacher userid strategy, ie: could be TCHSDxx, TCHRxxx)



Student Connect

- Ability to change password

Corrections

- Locked down URL <tabs> so users cannot maneuver to 2 Tenrds eyot ma

- Corrected any issues with excludes not being counted
- Deleting course assignments caused erratic delete behaviour .. resolved.
- When filtering in class average screen the average/fail indicators were not listening and totals were off.. resolved.
- Course assignments were not properly sorting by task# ... they are now.
- For SD22 – teacher assignment attachments were not going to the correct folder .. corrected.