

PowerSchool Update

April 1, 2020

PowerSchool Version 20

PowerSchool 20 is slated to be released this month. At this time the PS team does not have the release date.

According to a recent PowerSchool tech note some of the new features of PS 20 include:

- Enhanced PowerSchool SIS Experience - Administrators now have an enhanced look and feel that provides powerful searching capabilities, quick data charts, and more direct access to content.
- Change History - Administrators can now track changes to data in the system, such as demographics, attendance, stored grades, school and class enrollments, lunch, transportation, incidents, user permissions, and health data.
- Health - Additional functionality added for the Health module, including a nurse's daily log, health plans, and diabetic monitoring events. In addition, enhanced health functionality is added for medication tracking (inventory/doses), physicals, new health alert function, contact/communication logs, and more.
- Improved Attendance Dashboard - The enhanced attendance dashboard now allows attendance to be taken and edited quickly without leaving the page.
- Attendance from Incidents - Disciplinarians can now take attendance for actions affecting attendance directly from the incident.
- Batch School Setup - Administrators can set up years and terms, calendars, reporting terms, and quick lookup and push to other schools.
- Incident Templates - Disciplinarians can now create and use templates to create quick incidents that are specific to an incident situation.
- Career Tech Details - CT coordinators can enter the CT clusters, programs, and credentials offered by academic year, as well as enter the reimbursement needed for CT credential testing for each academic year. School counselors can now view and add declared CTE programs, courses, and earned credentials to a student record.
- PowerTeacher Pro improvements include:
 - Transfer Scores now allows teachers to transfer assignment scores from any term in the school year.
 - PowerTeacher Pro's Demographics page and Student Report now pull more student contacts information.
 - Teachers can now adjust grade scales to fit their grading practices.

April PowerSchool Tasks

At this point in the school year some of the tasks your school may need to complete include:

- Create the new school year in PowerSchool at each school and District Office. We recommend using an 8/10/2020 start date for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Once the new school year is set up, brand new students who are starting in 2020-2021 can be pre-registered.

April PowerSchool Tasks - *continued*

- Enter student requests in PowerScheduler and work on the master schedule. Some schools may already be at the point where they are ready to run a build or load.
- Prepare to store Q3 grades.
 - At the end of the third marking period, the Q3 gradebook grade will be stored. Schools may also be storing a Y1 grade for 10-week classes.
 - Communicate to teachers that Q3 report card comments are entered under the Q3 grade term in their gradebook and advise them when the Q3 grade verification/grades are due.
 - Run and review the Q3 report card to check for updates that may be needed.
- If your school uses custom paperless grade verification:
 - Reset grade verifications to prepare for Q3 grade verification.
 - Set up the grade verification settings and instructions by going to Start Page > School > Current Grade Display. At the end of Q3 teachers will verify the Q3 grade. The Active Term should be set to Q3 (this determines where the comment pulls from on the paperless grade verification screen).
 - Some schools may show past grade terms on the grade verification screen such as Q1 and Q2.
 - If your school has 10-week classes and stores a Y1 for 10-week classes, Y1 should also be entered to show on the grade verification screen.
 - Provide teachers with instructions on verifying grades using paperless grade verification.
- For schools that use section readiness for grade verification, provide teachers with instructions on verifying grades.
- Some schools may be starting the process of elementary scheduling for the coming school year by performing the copy master schedule function to bring the sections over to the 2020-2021 school year.
- For schools scheduling in PowerScheduler review the Years & Terms set up for the upcoming school year. *PowerScheduler > Years & Terms > Click the Edit Terms link for 2020-2021.* Update term dates to reflect your schools term dates. The start date for the Years & Terms should be 8/10/2020 and the end date should be 6/30/2021. *If the dates are incorrect, student course enrollment dates will be incorrect when the schedule is committed.*
- For those districts that use a 7 1/2 semester ranking as their final ranking, and/or who wish to retain the 7 1/2 semester rank, you must export the rank information from PowerSchool and re-import it into custom rank fields. This process should be performed soon after Q3 grades have been stored and the 7 ½ semester rank has been calculated and verified.