

RELEASE NOTES

PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2

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October 22, 2014. © 2014 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. This edition applies to Release 8.4.2 of the PowerSchool SMS® software product and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions or updates.

This document outlines the enhancements and fixes in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2. All enhancements, updates, and fixes from previous versions and HotFixes are included in this and subsequent releases.

PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2 supports operation with the following software:

- PowerTeacher 2.8.1
- ParentCONNECTxp 4.5

For instructions on upgrading to or installing this release, and for information about system requirements, refer to the *System setup & maintenance* chapter in the [PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2 Administration Manual](#).

Important Notices

- PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2 and ParentCONNECTxp 4.5 support Internet Explorer version 11 (as well as 9 and 10).
- If your system runs on Windows Server 2008 32-bit, download and install the Microsoft Windows Server 2008 update package from <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/980368/en-us> and then restart your server.
- PowerSchool SMS 8.3 and higher require Microsoft .NET 4.5. For further information and to download .NET 4.5, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30653>.

What's new in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2

This section describes the enhancements made in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2. (The SMSMAINT numbers are tracking numbers for changes in PowerSchool SMS.) For detailed information about the items in these release notes, see "What's new in 8.4.2" in the [PowerSchool 8.4.2 SMS Administration Manual](#).

ART/AQ

Upgrade ART when AQ installed/Upgrade AQ when ART installed

(SMSMAINT-26025, 26071)

Districts can now upgrade to a newer version of Advanced Reporting Toolkit (ART) when Advanced Query (AQ) is already installed, as well as upgrade AQ when ART is already installed.

ParentCONNECTxp 4.5

Can control parent's access to fields in ParentCONNECTxp

(SMSMAINT-25391)

There is a new **District > Online Contact Editing Preferences** permission in PowerSchool SMS that controls a new "Online Contact Editing Preferences" link and page. The Online Contact Editing Preferences page enables District Administrators to control parents' and guardians' access to address fields in ParentCONNECTxp.

When a PowerSchool SMS District Administrator sets the Online Contact Editing Preferences permission to Edit or View, the new link appears on the District Setup page, under Preferences [Figure 1].

FIGURE 1



When the permission is set to Edit (the default), the Online Contact Editing Preferences page [Figure 2] allows the District Administrator to control whether a parent or guardian can view or edit home address fields and employment address fields, or whether the fields are completely hidden.

FIGURE 2

Home > District Setup > Online Contact Editing Preferences

Online Contact Editing Preferences

Add Contact

When adding a new contact:

- Allow users to enter contact home address information
- Allow users to enter contact employment address information

Edit Contact

When editing contact information, choose the appropriate option for each panel.

Home address: Allow user to modify

Employment address: Allow user to modify

- Allow user to modify
- Show for viewing only
- Hide

Can use ParentCONNECTxp in different languages

(SMSMAINT-25437, 25457, 25458, 25459, 25460)

ParentCONNECTxp 4.5 provides multi-language functionality. In AdminApp, a PCxp administrator can enable two new languages: Spanish and Russian. When either or both of these languages is enabled, a language selector appears on the Member Sign In page (the indicator always includes English). If neither language is enabled, ParentCONNECTxp defaults to English and does not display the language selector.

Ability to assign custom labels in multiple languages

(SMSMAINT-25452)

In AdminApp, a PCxp administrator can assign custom labels in Spanish and Russian in the same manner that labels are customized in English.

Registration

Registration editing restriction applied when new student info matches existing student at other school

(SMSMAINT-27035)

When a school-level user attempts to register a new student and selects “Match” when prompted, if the student is already enrolled at another school and the Registration and Enrollment preference “Allow other schools to edit student registration and contact information” is deselected, the registration page for the matched student is not editable.

Tennessee State Reporting

Tennessee State Reporting updates from the PowerSchool SMS 8.4.1.010003 and 8.4.1.020003 HotFixes are included in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2. For details about these updates, refer to the [SMS 8.4.1.010003 \(TN\) Release Notes](#) and the [SMS 8.4.1.020003 Release Notes for Tennessee](#).

What's fixed in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2

This section describes the issues fixed in PowerSchool SMS 8.4.2. (The SMSMAINT numbers are tracking numbers for changes in PowerSchool SMS.)

Address Validation

Google Maps images do not render properly

(SMSMAINT-27007)

When validating addresses, Google Maps sometimes displayed map images incorrectly. This has been fixed.

Attendance

Error message when clearing attendance

(SMSMAINT-27036)

When a school administrator tried to clear attendance for all students in all classes for a school year, the following error occurred: *The requested resource is currently unavailable. Please try again or contact your system administrator.*

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign into a school as a School Administrator.
- 2 In the Admin menu, click Attendance.
- 3 Under Manage Attendance, click Clear Attendance.
- 4 Under Step 1, click All students.
- 5 Under Step 2, click All classes.
- 6 Under Step 3, click Entire school calendar year.
- 7 Click OK and OK again in the confirmation prompt, and confirm that no error occurs.

Class in multi-period meeting pattern not contiguous for attendance taking

(SMSMAINT-27149)

If contiguous periods were created out of order in a bell schedule, when a teacher tried to take attendance for a class in contiguous periods in the associated meeting pattern, the teacher's attendance drop-down list for the class showed multiple class times instead of just one.

Preconditions:

There is a school with the following setup:

- Periods on the bell schedule are contiguous (that is, there are no gaps between periods or the gaps are within the maximum allowed contiguous period gaps defined for the school in General Settings).
- There is a Meeting Pattern that meets in multiple periods every day; for example, Periods 1-4.
- There is a class with students scheduled that is assigned to this meeting pattern.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign in to the school from the preconditions.
- 2 In the Admin menu, click Scheduling.
- 3 Click Bell Schedules.

- 4 Add a new period which falls in the middle of the meeting pattern from the preconditions and make sure there are no gaps before and after the period.
- 5 On the Scheduling page, click Meeting Patterns.
- 6 Click the meeting pattern from the preconditions.
- 7 Select the new period, so that the meeting pattern contains contiguous periods.
- 8 Wait overnight for the CSL_SMS_TRACK_DATE_CLASS_ATT table to be re-populated.
- 9 Sign in as the teacher for the class from the preconditions.
- 10 Click the Attendance icon for that class and confirm that there is no time period drop-down list and that you only need to take attendance once.

Tardy code not applied if contiguous periods out of order

(SMSMAINT-27236)

If contiguous periods were created out of order, after applying 8.4.0 HotFix 1, PowerSchool SMS did not always apply the Tardy code to the first period.

Preconditions:

- Contiguous periods created out of order (e.g., Period 1 created before Period 0)
- Meeting pattern tied to both contiguous periods
- Class A tied to meeting pattern
- Teacher assigned to Class A

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign in as the teacher from the preconditions.
- 2 Click Class A and ensure 'Display by' is set to "Classes".
- 3 Click Attendance.
- 4 Click 'T' for one or more students.
- 5 Click Save and confirm that a 'T' attendance code displays for the student(s).

cTools

Client validation script code does not run at page startup

(SMSMAINT-25345)

Sometimes, PowerSchool SMS would not run a client validation script code when a page was opened and/or would run the script code when the page was saved instead of when it was opened.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign in as a District Administrator.
- 2 In the Admin menu, click District Setup.
- 3 Under cTools, click Manage Pages.
- 4 Choose: any cTools Feature Area, any *Published* cTools page, any cTools Panel, and any cTools Field (ensure the field is *not* read-only).
- 5 Under Client Validation, click "Client validation by" and select "JavaScript code block".
- 6 In the Script code area, type `alert("alert text")`.
- 7 Click "Execute script code at page startup" and click OK.
- 8 Click Apply Pending Changes and sign out of PowerSchool SMS
- 9 Perform an IISRESET on the Web Server.
- 10 Sign in to PowerSchool SMS and navigate to the page you chose in step 6 above. Confirm that as soon as you open the page, the alert you created appears.

Next Year Prep

UNYS switches student grade level back to previous grade

(SMSMAINT-26679)

If a student was enrolled into a zoned school and a summer school in the Active Calendar and then enrolled into the summer school in the Planning Calendar, after UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS ran, the student's grade level was set back to the Active Calendar grade level.

Precondition: District is set up to use the Projected School Map

Fix verification steps:

- 1 In the Active calendar, enroll a new student into his or her zoned school (School A) in Grade 2. Make this the student's home school.
- 2 Enroll the student into School B (e.g., a summer school) for one month during the active district calendar.
- 3 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 4 Open the student's Enrollment record and confirm the student's grade level for School A is 3 for next year.
- 5 In the Planning Calendar, enroll the student into School B (summer school).
- 6 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 7 Open the student's enrollment record and confirm that the student's next year grade level is still 3.

Running UNYS results in multiple left codes for students

(SMSMAINT-26681)

When the UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS task ran, it created new withdrawal codes for withdrawn students. This resulted in students having multiple left codes with the same date at the same school.

Preconditions: Address Validation is set up. Projected School Map is set up.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 In the Active calendar, enroll a new student into School A. Make sure this is the student's home school.
- 2 Enroll the student into School B on the same date.
- 3 On the District-level Personal Info tab, set the student's requested school to School B for next year.
- 4 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 5 Open the student's enrollment records for School A and for School B and confirm the student has been withdrawn from both schools, and that there is only one withdrawal code for each school for that date.
- 6 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 7 Open the student's school enrollment record for School B that ends at the end of the district Active Calendar. Confirm that there is still only one withdrawal code for that date.

UNYS ignores retained setting for dual-enrolled students who are in the graduating grade level

(SMSMAINT-26758)

If a retained student was dual enrolled and in the graduating grade level, the UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS task ignored the retained setting and moved the student's grade level up one.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Enroll a new student into Grade 12 in School A for the start of the Active Calendar. Make sure this is the student's home school.
- 2 Enroll the student into School B for the start of the Active Calendar.
- 3 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 4 In School A, mark the student as "Retained".
- 5 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS or wait for the overnight task to run.
- 6 Open the student's enrollment record at each school and confirm the student's grade level is still 12.

Transfer Homeroom results in NYP not processing grade level for retained student

(SMSMAINT-26850)

If you transferred a "Retained" student to a new homeroom in the Planning Calendar and then ran NYP, the student's grade level was incorrectly advanced.

Preconditions: There is a student in the planning calendar with a promotion status of "Retained".

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign in to the school for the student from the precondition.
- 2 In the Planning Calendar, search for and select the student from the preconditions.
- 3 In the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom.
- 4 Select a homeroom and click OK. If the Change options dialog appears, select a change Reason and click OK.
- 5 Run UPDATE_NEXT_YEAR_STUDENTS. Confirm that the student's grade level has not advanced.

ParentCONNECTxp 4.5

Discipline alert sent to parent repeatedly

(SMSMAINT-25480)

If a discipline alert did not have a timestamp that ended in 00:00:00, it was sent to the parent repeatedly. This has been fixed.

DataRefresher fails with error

(SMSMAINT-25778)

If a student was enrolled in two classes in the same period and you changed his or her attendance data, when you ran DataRefresher an error occurred and DataRefresher failed. This has been fixed.

Attendance Delay option appears as not saved

(SMSMAINT-26308)

If you changed the Attendance Delay option to -1 to disable the Attendance alert, the change was saved in the database but did not appear as changed in the application. This has been fixed.

Student Behavior Lite

Slow performance when opening existing Behavior Incident

(SMSMAINT-27086)

Opening an existing Behavior Incident was very slow because PowerSchool SMS was not implementing staff account filters until after the page opened, instead of before the page opened.

Preconditions: "Use Student Behavior Lite" is selected on the Student Behavior Preferences page.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign in as a school administrator.
- 2 In the School menu, click Student Behavior.
- 3 Click Display All Records.
- 4 In the Search Results, click a number in the Incident Number column. Confirm that the Behavior Incident page opens in an acceptable amount of time.

Student Demographics

Transfer Homeroom displays some totals as 0

(SMSMAINT-26806)

On the Transfer Homeroom page in the Planning Calendar, 'M', 'F' and 'Total' columns incorrectly displayed 0.

Preconditions: A school with a Planning Calendar and homerooms set up.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign into the school from the preconditions as a School Administrator.
- 2 Switch to the Planning Calendar.
- 3 Perform an Advanced student search and select one female and one male student in the same grade level.
- 4 In the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom.
- 5 Select a homeroom and click OK.
- 6 Perform another Advanced student search using the same grade level as in step 3. Select any student (other than the two students from step 3).
- 7 In the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom.
- 8 Select a homeroom and click OK.
- 9 To confirm that the values in the M, F and Total columns are updated with the homeroom transfers from steps 3-8, search for and select another student in the same grade level and, in the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom. View the values in the M, F and Totals columns.

Transfer Homeroom displays incorrect Ethnic Category values

(SMSMAINT-26812)

When transferring students to a new homeroom, the totals in the Ethnic Category column on the Transfer Homeroom page were either too low or all zeros.

Preconditions: There is a value entered in the Ethnic Category field for several students in the same grade level at a school and the students are assigned to a homeroom.

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Sign into the school from the preconditions as a School Administrator.
- 2 Perform an Advanced student search and select the students from the preconditions.
- 3 From the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom.
- 4 Select a homeroom and click OK.
- 5 To confirm that the values in the Ethnic Category column are updated with the homeroom transfers from steps 3-4, search for and select another student in the same grade level and, in the Actions menu, click Transfer Homeroom. View the values in the Ethnic Category column.

Tennessee State Reporting

Fields not populated after Year-End Processing is run

(SMSMAINT-27250)

When Year-End Processing created re-enrollment records for returning students, the "Instructional Service Bkg" and "English Language background" fields displayed N/A on the student Enrollments page.

Precondition: The YEP preference "Create withdrawal and re-enrollment records for returning students using the following status codes" is selected

Fix verification steps:

- 1 Run YEP.
- 2 Sign in to PowerSchool SMS and open the demographic record for a student who is returning to the same school.
- 3 In the control bar, click Enrollments.
- 4 Open the enrollment record created by YEP and confirm that the "Instructional Service Bkg" and "English Language background" are populated.

Texas State Reporting

Year-End Processing performance issue

(SMSMAINT-23352)

The YEP_UPDATE_STATUS_CODES_LOCAL stored procedure took many hours to run. This has been fixed.

Year-End Processing

Cannot complete YEP for Permanent Record

(SMSMAINT-26575)

When there were 6 GPA reporting periods tied to grading periods, rounding issues in PR_CREATE_ACTIVE_PERMANENT_RECORD caused YEP to fail. This has been fixed.

Known Issues

ParentCONNECTxp

When using Adobe PDF Reader 11 with Internet Explorer 11, the PDF-based Report Card and Academic Plan Progress reports in ParentCONNECTxp may not display correctly.

Workaround: Uninstall Adobe Reader 11 and install Adobe Reader 10.

Using the customer support web site

Log in to *Pearson PowerSource* (<https://powersource.pearsonschoolsystems.com>) to search a KnowledgeBase with frequently asked questions, tips, and troubleshooting, and the latest information about PowerSchool SMS. You'll find helpful instructions about how to use PowerSchool SMS, along with the latest known issues and workarounds.

PowerSource is also a unifying portal, connecting School Systems customers together within the same environment. So, no matter what School Systems products your district is using, you'll be able to find the resources you need.

How to report an issue

Please report any issues to Pearson Technical Support:

- By web: *Pearson PowerSource* (<https://Powersource.pearsonschoolsystems.com>).
- By email: psstechsupp@pearson.com
- By telephone: 800-688-9939 (Monday to Friday, 5 am to 5 pm Pacific Standard Time.)