

New Features in PowerTeacher 2.3

PowerTeacher 2.3 provides many new features, based on feedback from hundreds of teachers and district staff. This release builds on the features provided in PowerTeacher 2.1 and 2.2.

PowerTeacher enables true standards-based grading, and is endorsed by grading expert Ken O'Connor. For a list of the other new features introduced in PowerTeacher 2.0 – 2.2, refer to the [New Features](#) documents for those releases. For video demonstrations including Feature Overviews and Ken O'Connor's best practices in grading, refer to [PowerSource](#).

Pearson is dedicated to the continual improvement of our products, based on feedback from our customers. Your feedback has been invaluable and helps each new release meet and exceed the expectations of our teachers across the nation.

The following tables display a complete list of enhancements in PowerTeacher 2.3.

Key Features

Feature	Description
New notifications icon and counter	The notifications icon informs teachers when they have new notifications and how many there are. Hover the mouse pointer over the notifications icon to reveal what types of new notifications have been received.
Notifications Detail for added students, dropped students, birthdays and administrator logins	Clicking the notifications icon displays the Notifications dialog with details for all added students, dropped students, birthdays, and administrator login events. New/unread notifications appear in bold at the top, followed by older notifications. Teachers can close the dialog to mark the notifications as read, or select Leave as unread and review new notifications later.
Teacher email to parents/guardians and students	Teachers can now send emails from PowerTeacher to any selection of parents/guardians and students. With one click, they can send a note to all students in all classes for reminder announcements. Teachers can right-click in the Student Groups pane to send emails to selected groups. They can also click on email addresses listed on the Student Detail pane to email the selected recipients.
Student name display preferences	Teachers can display student names in a variety of ways throughout PowerTeacher. This preference affects the Scoresheet, Student Groups, Email (new), Notifications (new), and Reports.
Student sorting preferences	Teachers can sort students by first name, preferred name, last name, newly enrolled students at the end, and a teacher defined custom order. This preference affects the Scoresheet, Student Groups, Email (new), Notifications (new), and Reports.
Student Preferred Name entry	Teachers can enter a preferred name for each student on the Student Info window. This field can include nicknames, Foreign Language class names, and variety of other options. Data can also be viewed and edited on the Student Detail pane.
Student Preferred Name preferences	Teachers can replace the student's first name with the preferred name throughout PowerTeacher. One preference affects the Scoresheet, Student Groups, Email (new), and Notifications (new). A separate preference can be enabled to include Reports.

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Student extra class columns	Every teacher now starts with five extra blank columns on the Student Info window for entering student data specific to each class. Teachers can label the columns and enter in any appropriate information. Teachers can add more columns as needed, to track an endless variety of items about the students. Examples include book number, lab coat number, field trip tracking and much more. Data can also be viewed and edited on the Student Detail pane
Student Info tab: drag-and-drop column ordering	On the Student Info window, teachers can now drag-and-drop the columns into any order. Pre-existing columns, new extra class columns and the new Preferred Name column can all be dragged in any order needed by the teacher.
Copy Preferred Name and extra class columns to other sections	Student Preferred Names, Student Extra Class Columns, and the data entered in those columns can be copied to other sections as needed.
Teacher personal note	Teachers can enter a note or other information about each student on the Student Detail pane. This data is not sent back to the SIS and does not appear on any reports, it is for the teacher's personal reference.
Teacher personal comment bank	On the Preferences dialog, teachers can now add their own personal comments to the comment bank. On the comment bank selector, teachers can now choose to display district comments, personal comments, or both combined. This allows teachers the ability to quickly select personal comments on assignment comments, standards final grade comments, and overall course grade comments.
Student view, Assignment Scores column: Preference to hide and show percent and letter grade	Teachers can now choose to hide or show the percent and the letter grade on the Assignments column of the student view. Many districts using standards have requested the ability to hide the percent or both percent and letter grades here. Collected, Late, Missing, Exempt, and Comment indicators will still be retained.
Standards Grades calculation roll-up	PowerTeacher now has preferences that allow lower level standards to roll up automatically and calculate higher level standards grades. Options include Mean, Median, Mode and Highest.
Assignment scores push into the standards assignment scores	Based on customer feedback, options now exist to push the assignment score to the standards assignment scores. This is similar to PowerGrade functionality, and particularly useful when there are only one-or-two standards on a given assignment.
Category preferences: Assignment Publish status	The default publish states are now available at a category level. For example, some categories can be set to publish to the PowerSchool Parent and Student Web Portal immediately, while others are set on a specific due date.
Course names and expressions on reports	All reports now look to the teacher preferences for displaying course names. The reports will now be able to display course name and period, rather than only section number.
What Every Teacher Should Know in PowerTeacher Gradebook	New quick reference document for teachers, available from the Help menu in the gradebook. Also available as a printable PDF. Provides quick tips on different ways to run reports, sort students, filter the scoresheet, and more.

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Standards Final Grade Calculation - Weighted Mean	Based on customer feedback, the weighted mean is now available as one of the standards final grade calculation options in PowerTeacher and PowerTeacher Administrator. (PowerTeacher 2.2.2)
Teacher Score Codes appear on reports	Based on customer feedback, the teacher Score Codes now appear appropriately on reports. (PowerTeacher 2.2.2)
Multi-Section Report: Show Dropped Classes	The Multi-Section report now has an option to show or hide data from a student's dropped classes. This allows teachers to see previous scores and grades when a student has switched in from another section. (PowerTeacher 2.2.2)

General Fixes (Released in PowerTeacher 2.2.2)

Feature	Description
Memory usage optimizations	PowerTeacher initial state and other memory usage has been optimized for better performance.
Scoresheet report	The Scoresheet report no longer shows dropped students by default. Dropped students can be selected for display using the student groups area, but no longer show by default.
Multi-Section report	The Multi-Section report no longer shows dropped sections by default. Dropped sections can now be selected for display if needed, but no longer show by default. It also no longer shows previous year's classes by default.
Student Roster report	The Student Roster report now displays the entire roster correctly for each class when all Active Classes are selected. Previously, running the report for multiple classes would only list students once, even if they were in many sections.
Weighted Mean calculation	The weighted mean in the Student View summary area was previously using the assignment weight only. It has been updated to now include "total weighted points", which uses both the points possible and the assignment weight.
Standards Preferences saving	Teacher preferences for standards calculation now save appropriately, even if no preference has been set in PowerTeacher administrator.
Null standards grades to PowerSchool	Taking an action that removes the only assignment standards score (and thus should blank out the standards final grade) is now working correctly. Actions such as deleting an assignment or deleting the last assignment standards score will now correctly remove any associated standards final grades from both PowerTeacher and PowerSchool.
Custom grade scales for new teachers of a section	When a new teacher takes over a section, custom grade scales are retained. Any students who were on custom grade scales will remain on those custom grade scales.



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Clicking blank score cells keeping null value	Clicking in null final standards grade score cells is no longer interpreted as the teacher intending to enter a blank score (and thus manually overriding calculation). This is fixed in Final Grade mode and Student View. A red exclamation icon is now available in Student View to identify any scores previously in this state.