

NWOCA's PowerSchool "Start of Year Checklist"

District and School Administration

- Verify that the system includes Entry, Exit, and Ethnicity Codes

District Office Start Page > District > Entry Codes (or) Exit Codes

No changes from the previous year are currently required by ODE.

District Office Start Page > District > Federal Ethnicity and Race Settings

No changes from the previous year are currently required by ODE.

Verify Assessment of Automatic Fees

If your district uses PowerSchool's fee system, review your district's school enrollment fees and course enrollment fees.

- School Enrollment Fees - Update as needed

District Office Start Page > District > Schools/School Info > [School Name] > School Enrollment Fees

NOTE: If your school wishes to delay the assessment of school and/or course enrollment fees, set the field "Fee Exemption Status" to Students Exempted From (course, school, or all) fees. This will prevent all students in this school from being assessed during the enrollment process or when courses are added to the schedule. When the school is ready to begin assessing fees, this field can be changed back to "Students Not Exempted".

- Course Fees - Update as needed – at the School level
 - **Select your School > Set your Term to the New School Year**
 - **Start Page > School > Courses > Select the course > Fees Tab**
- Fee Types (Review existing or add new)
 - **School Start Page > School > Fee Types**

If fees do not assess automatically, they can be assessed manually (*by group or all*):

School Office Start Page > Special Functions > Fee Functions > Assess School Enrollment Fees > Submit

AND...

School Office Start Page > Special Functions > Fee Functions > Course Enrollment Fees > Submit

- Verify Assessment of Automatic Fees – Spot check student fees
- Note: Helpful search command: *Enrolled_in=[course] e.g.
*Enrolled_in=ART2100
- Assess any other fees

Review and Update School Information

District Office Start Page > District Setup > Schools/School Info

- (If using) Review PowerLunch Prices and Options
Start Page > PowerLunch > Set Prices and Options

- Update the Default Term Level

Start Page > School Setup > Miscellaneous

The default term level setting determines which term level is displayed at the top of the PowerSchool pages. It also controls the term teachers see in PowerTeacher. (In order for the new term level to be displayed, you must sign out of PS and sign back in.)

- (If using) Update the School Bulletin

Start Page > Special Functions > Daily Bulletin Setup

Note that the Daily Bulletin was cleared as part of the End of Year Process.

- (If using) Set Up Sub Sign In Settings

Start Page > School Setup > Sub Sign In Settings

School/Building Specific (If you elect to include the current date as a prefix to the password that was entered in the Substitute Sign In Password field, the number for each day is the prefix to the password entered and changes daily. For example, if the password is sub, and the current day's date is 10/25/2019, the substitute password for today would be **25sub.**)

Scheduling

- Review Years and Terms

Start Page > School Setup > Years & Terms

- Review Periods and Cycle Days

Start Page > School Setup > Periods

Start Page > School Setup > Days

- Review Bell Schedules

Start Page > School Setup > Bell Schedules

- Complete Calendar Setup

Start Page > School Setup > Calendar Setup

- Pre-register Students

Start Page > Enroll New Student

- Schedule Pre-registered Students

Start Page > Search for the student > Modify Schedule

Attendance

- Review Attendance Codes, Categories, and Conversions

Start Page > School Setup > Attendance Code Categories

- Review Full Time Equivalencies and Conversions

Start Page > School Setup > Full Time Equivalencies (FTE)

Click on "defined" for full time FTE and make sure conversions are complete

- Review Attendance Preferences

Start Page > School Setup > [Attendance] Preferences

□ **Grading and Assessment**

○ Review GPA Calculations

District Office Start Page > District Setup > GPA Calculations

Review the GPA calculations setup at the district for any term-specific information. For instance, a GPA calculation may be set up to only include grades from a certain school year. If you wish to use the same GPA calculation for the current year, you may have to adjust the school year settings for that GPA calculation, or create a new GPA calculation. The majority of schools use a “projected” calc method for current year GPA displays. Make sure the year field is set to 2019.

○ Complete Final Grade Setup

Start Page > School Setup > Final Grade/Reporting Term Setup

Set up final grade reporting terms for each school. Final grades define the length of each grading period for a particular scheduling term. The start date and end date of a grading term determine which grade book scores (assignments, tests, projects, etc.) are included in a particular final grade. If giving exams, make sure you end Q2 a couple of days prior to semester end, and set your exam bucket for those days so term weighting works correctly. Example: S1=8/22/2019-1/10/2020, Q2=11/1/2019-1/8/2020. E1=1/9/2020-1/10/2020. This will permit term weighting to work correctly. Likewise you would have to do this for Q4. If you have quarter length classes with exams, you will have to do this for all quarters. Be sure to work with your administrators to set final grade deadlines once final grade setup is complete.

○ Update Current Grade Display

Start Page > School Setup > Current Grade Display

Current grade display settings control the grade display on the Quick Lookup student screen as well as the current grade display throughout PowerSchool. The following settings should be updated at the end of each reporting term throughout the school year:

- a. Select the Active Term, which is used for the GPA on Quick Lookup and is the default term for current gradebook grades when a term is not specified
- b. Select Quick Lookup Preferences > to select how grades are displayed on the Quick Lookup screen
- c. Update the source of data for each column so that grades are initially returned from the grade book (current grades) instead of Historical (stored) grades
- d. Use the checkboxes to enable the display of the grades on the Parent/Student portal, Teacher portal, and Admin side.
- e. Update the Parent/Student Access Term field, will need to be set to 19-20.

- Update GPA Student Screens

Start Page > School Setup > GPA Student Screens

The settings on the GPA Student Screens setup page determine which GPA calculation method is used for the current GPA on the Quick Lookup student screen and which data is displayed on the Cumulative Information student screen.

Verify the following settings at the start of the school year:

- a. If needed, update the GPA calculation method to be used as the current GPA on the Quick Lookup student screen
- b. Review any of the data access tags used in each of the 10 rows for the Cumulative Information student screen, then update any term-specific data access tag attributes if necessary.

This is common with data access tags related to attendance and GPAs.

- Review Honor Roll Levels

Start Page > School Setup > Honor Roll

Configure honor roll methods and levels at each school. The grades included in the honor roll calculations are based on the associated GPA calculations setup at the district office.

At the start of the school year, review the GPA Calculation associated with each honor roll level and ensure that the calculation is configured properly for the current school year.

- Review Class Rank Methods

Start Page > School Setup > Class Rank > Class Rank Methods

Configure class rank methods at each school. Class rank is used to rank students based on GPA. Setting up class rank involves selecting or setting up a GPA calculation method at the district, defining a class rank method at the school and calculating the class rank at the school.

At the start of the school year, review each class rank method and ensure each is associated to the correct GPA calculation method.

- Review Class Rank Calculation Frequency – It is recommended the frequency be set to either daily (updates rank with any new historical move in information nightly) or with the storing of grades.

- **Reports**

- Update DATs in User Defined Reports

Start Page > System Reports > Setup tab

Object reports, form letters, and report cards are all user-definable reports that often contain term or year-specific information in data access tags. At the start of the school year, review the elements used in each report to ensure any term specific information has been updated for the current school year or the current term if you wish to use that report during the new school year. **Example:** The ^(*gpa) data access tag can be used in a report card footer to return a student's GPA based on a specific method. It is possible to specify a year in which to query grades for the GPA calculation. If any of your reports include the ^(*gpa) data access tag with a year parameter, update the year value accordingly for the upcoming school year. The following instance of the ^(*gpa) data access tag will return a GPA value using the "Simple" method and will only include grades from the 2019-2020 school year. ^(*gpa method="simple" year="2019")

- (If using) Update Reporting Segments

Start Page > School Setup > Reporting Segments

- **Student Information**

- Update Missing Student Information (FTE, Gender, Ethnicity)

Review student records periodically for blank or invalid values in commonly required fields. Student records with missing information may often lead to unexpected results in various PowerSchool reports.

For example, Search for students without a full-time equivalency. If any students are returned, update their current school enrollment on the Transfer Info student screen with an FTE. Students without an FTE will cause invalid ADA calculations. Perform the following search on the Start Page: **FTEID=**

- Verify School Enrollments

Start Page > System Reports > School Enrollment Audit

- Middle School Courses for High School Credit

NWOCA realizes there is no single uniform practice in place, as schools handle this situation differently. Check to make sure Middle School courses taken for High School credit are pulling correctly to the HS transcript. Make sure these courses were stored with potential credit, earned credit, and a credit type that pulls to the transcript. Some school set ups will pull a historical grade from a Grade 7 or 8 course to the transcript, while other schools change Grade 7 or 8 to a historical grade of "9" in order to pull it to the transcript. You need to check your transcript coding for set up and for credit hours to make sure you are pulling credit value as per historical grade levels for all courses.

- Enroll Students in Activities

Start Page > Search for the student > Activities

To enroll a group of students in an activity:

Start Page > Select a group of students > Group Functions > Student Field Value

1. Enter the field name associated with the activity as the Field To Change.
2. Enter 1 as the New Field Value.
3. Click Submit.

Access to PowerSchool Student and Parent Portals

After completing a school year, it is common for PowerSchool administrators to disable student and guardian access to the PowerSchool Student and Parent Portals while school is not in session (during the summer months). Use the ID/Password Assignment group function to generate user names and passwords for **new** students and guardians, and to enable student and guardian access to the Student and Parent Portals for the upcoming school year.

For districts using the single sign-on feature, it is NOT necessary to recreate web id's and passwords for parents/guardians. [Doing so will cause duplication, confusing emails to users and countless phone calls to the school!](#) If users report that they cannot get into the portal, simply direct them to the "Having trouble signing in?" link.

Enable Parent and Student Web Access to the Public Portal

Note: A value of 1 in these fields means enabled, and a value of 0 means disabled.

1. Select the students that you want to enable Parent and Student web access for from the Student Search Page.
2. Select from the "Select a function for this group of students" at the bottom of the page the function of Student Field Value.
3. In the Field To Change enter AllowWebAccess
4. In the New Field Value enter a 1, and click submit.
5. This will take you to a confirmation screen with a warning on it of WARNING: This change is irreversible. Click submit at the bottom and the Parent Web Access will be enabled.
6. Click on the cookie crumb above with the name of Student Field Value.
7. In the Field To Change enter Student_AllowWebAccess
8. In the New Field Value enter a 1, and click submit.

9. This will take you to a confirmation screen with the following message - WARNING: This change is irreversible. Click submit at the bottom and the Student Web Access will be enabled.

Verify School Entry Date on Modify Info Screen

For the new 19-20 PowerSchool users, the entry date should be your first day of school.

For veteran PS users: This School Entry Date represents the first date a student was physically attending classes in a specific school building. This date does not represent the first day of the school year. The initial School Entry Date was set to the first day of the school year we were importing into per vendor import recommendations. Setting this date to that first day allowed all the PowerSchool functions to work. That date must be equal to or before the first transfer info record in order for all to work properly. What this means, is for the 11-12 implementation districts, if a student did not change buildings, the School Entry date remains as we set it in 2011. If a student changes buildings though, the School Entry date should be changed to reflect the first day the student is attending in the new building. The date does not change during EOY. If a student enrolls after the first day of the school year, that School Entry date should match their admission date on the Transfer Info record.

For districts needing to modify this date:

Select the group of students (possibly by grade level) > Student Field Value > Fields to Change: SchoolEntryDate > New Field Value: (enter first day of school) > Submit. Verify that the changes you are about to make are correct and hit Submit again.

Assigning Lockers

1. From PowerSchool select the students by building and/or grades, etc. for which lockers assignments are needed.
2. Using the quick export, generate an output file including only the student_number for the selected students. Export this into a tab delimited file.
3. Open the tab delimited file in Excel. We will call this the Locker Import spreadsheet
4. In the column next to the Student_number, enter the word "Random" in the header column.
5. In the first cell of the column enter the function =RAND() and press the 'enter' key.
6. Using Excel, copy that function to the remaining cells in this column. This will populate a random generated number for each student. This random function generated number will default to 5 decimals. The recommendation is to take the default.
7. Using the Excel Sort capabilities, sort the entire spreadsheet using the "Random" column value as the primary field to sort on as desired. The sort will be deceiving as it appears nothing is happening since neither column will appear to be 'sorted'. If you choose to sort this multiple times, the record order will change each time.
8. Open the locker combinations spreadsheet
9. Select the locker number column and paste it into the next open column of the Locker Import spreadsheet
10. Select the column of the locker combination rotation in use for the current school year and paste that into the next open column of the Locker Import spreadsheet
11. Label the column with the locker number; "Locker_Number"
12. Label the column with the locker combination; "Locker_combination"
13. Delete the extra rows of data for which there are no students to assign to lockers – these will be at the bottom of the spreadsheet, the student_number will be blank.
14. Delete the column named "Random"
15. Using the PowerSchool Quick Import, import the data into the appropriate building.

Watch for 'red' entries during the import; update manually any records as needed to assign lockers.

Printing schedules for the upcoming school year:

If printing schedules for the upcoming school year
Select your school > system reports > set up tab > report cards > find your schedule report and open it > click on schedule listing > look for check box that says "print future schedules". *This needs to be unchecked after EOY.*