

InformationNOW Summer 2014 Release Notes

v6.5.12.15767

After the update has been completed, the version number should read **v6.5.12.15767** in the lower left corner of the main *InformationNOW* screen. All changes affect all states except where noted.

Note: This update also includes changes that have been released as Service Builds since the winter 2014 update.

Enhancements

The enhancements listed below have been implemented in the v6.5.12.15767 release of *InformationNOW*.

It is strongly recommended that users review the *InformationNOW –Summer 2014 Release Preview* document from the STI support site for details regarding the following enhancements. To access the document, log in to <http://support.sti-k12.com>. Click **Documentation**. Select **Quick Reference Guides** and then **InformationNOW Web-based SIS**.

Classroom

- Under **Classroom | Grade Book**, teachers have the ability to **Copy Grade Books** from one class to another. Prior to the summer update, when a user selected to **Copy Grade Books** if the user had not set up options in the sending Grade Book the program would assign default options to the receiving class. Options are set up under **Classroom | Grade Book**. Select to **View** the class and click the **Options** link under the *Manage* menu on the left. After the summer update is applied, when the user selects to copy a Grade Book where options have not yet been set up, the program will assign the school default settings for the following:
 - **Averaging Method**
 - **Standards Calculate Weight Maximum Value**
 - **Standards Calculate Rule**
 - **Standards Scale**
 - **Standards Calculate Method**

Grading

- A new error message has been added that warns users who change the **Average Setup** on a graded item. When the user makes a change and clicks **OK**, the following message will display: *Changing the averaging method for the selected graded item will remove all previous average methods assigned by all users.*

People

- Historical Tracking
 - Contacts: Historical tracking has been added to contacts for students and staff. When a contact is added or the relationship data is changed, a historical record will be created of the change.
 - Addresses: Historical tracking has been added to addresses for the following: **Contacts, Staff, Staff Contacts** and **People**.

Reports

- Grade Label: Added new 3 ¾ x 2 7/8 label size to accommodate up to seven graded items and 13 sections per label.
- Transcript: Extra white space has been removed from the *Transcript Landscape* report.
- Health Plan Read Receipts: Read receipts are being added to student *Health Plans*. This change requires not only the summer 2014 update of *InformationNOW* but also the summer update of the *InformationNOW* Health module, which is currently scheduled for late summer 2014.

Students

- A new option has been added which allow users to set required fields for student records. The option has been added to three locations:
 - Student *Main* tab: Go to **Students | Student Maintenance**. Search for and select to **View** the student.
 - Student Enrollment *Main* tab: Go to **Students | Enrollment**. Search for and select to **View** the student.
 - Student Registration *Main* tab: Go to **Students | Registration**. Search for and select to **View** the student.
- Student Forms: There have been two changes to student forms:
 - A **Notes** field has been added.
 - Users may now attach documents to student *Form* records.
- Add Student Permission: A new permission has been added under **System Preferences | Permission Maintenance** for **Add Student**. When the update is applied, users who already have **Maintain Student** permission will be granted **Add Student** permission by default, as this is the functionality prior to the summer update. Once the update is applied a user with only **Maintain Student** permission will no longer be able to add a student. User must have both **Maintain Student** and **Add Student** permission to add a student. The permission affects the ability to add a student from the following menus:
 - **Students | Student Maintenance | Add**
 - **Students | Enrollment | Search for Student | Add**
 - **Students | Registration | Search for Student | Add**
 - **Students | District-wide Students | Add**
- Adding Sections To Student Schedule: If a user is adding sections to a student schedule, and the student was enrolled in school after the start of term, when the user goes to add sections to the schedule, the **Start of Term** field will default to the student's enrollment date rather than today's date.
- Schedule Conflict Checking: Student schedule conflict checking has been modified to include period variations.
- Dual Enrollment – Importing Grades: The ability to import report card grades, comments and notes from one school to another in the same district has been added. The most common application of this option is for a *Reporting School* to import (sync) grades students have earned at a *Serving School*, such as a vocational or other type of Serving School. The Reporting School will then be able to print grades on report cards and other grade reports.

System Preferences

- Custom Fields: The ability to add custom fields has been added to busses.

Utilities

- Standardized Test Import: The **Standardized Test Import** has been modified. A **Requirements Minimum** setting has been added to the component level. This was an issue for some districts whose test results were both numeric- and text-based.

State-Specific Changes – Alabama

The following state-specific changes are included in this release:

- Allow for exception schools to bypass AL state enrollment (enrollment action that the district performs will not be updated in the locator). An *exception school* (one whose school number is alpha-numeric) is needed for dual enrollment – grades to allow a student to be dually enrolled.
- Locator will exclude schools with alpha numeric school numbers from the locator build.
- Direct Certification additional code functionality & Direct Certification expanded coding for extended eligibility:
 - Added code functionality for DC children (2 new codes – 21, 22).
 - Expanded coding and updated business rules for Extended Eligibility Students.
- Ability to manually set a registered student to E98:
 - Permits the E98 of registered students with blank SSIDs which:
 - Eliminates the need for support to have to turn off state enrollment to mass enroll students who were registered via 3rd party online registration.
 - Eliminates the need for iStateQA to create E98 hot fixes for registered students.
 - Eliminates the need to change locator business rules to accommodate the root problem.
 - Allows users to continue to register students while state is off.
 - Enabled on an ‘as-needed’ basis via a script to set System Setting.
- Federal Programs student tab has changed:
 - Changed *HOMELESS STATUS* to *HOMELESS RESIDENCY STATUS*.
 - Corrected drop-down menu under *SERVED BY*: to include new options. Mapped current data for *Title IA* to *Title I* and for *McKinney Vento complete Sub grant* to *McKinney-Vento Grant*.
 - Changed layout / mapping for *Federal Program* tab:
 - Added three new headings and new layout.
 - Added fields defined in other locations.
 - Removed category and all custom fields referenced in that category.
 - Even Start:
 - Local Funds
 - Migrant Program
 - Office of School Readiness
 - Private School or Day Care
 - Special Education
 - Title I
- A valid SSN is no longer required on the student record.
 - Allows blank/null in *SSN* field on extracts, but ensures that if an SSN is entered it will comply with

current format requirements.

- An empty SSN will not cause an extract to have a soft or hard error.
- A tooltip is added to the *SSN* field indicating *SSN Not Required*.
- Teacher Schedule Report: Removed *highly qualified* flag. Also removed column *HQ* from the Teacher Schedule Report.
- Removed race code “Not Specified” and business rules associated with it.
- Updated Direct Certification Expanded Coding for Extended Eligibility.
- Added Additional Student Custom Fields “Four Year Plan” and “CCRS”.
- Removed obsolete Withdrawal, Exit Type and Dropout Codes.

Other Items of Interest

- Fee post/unpost routines – performance/table lock updates. For large districts, posting fees during the school day resulted in performance issues. Performance has been improved in the routine so schools may post or unpost during school hours.
- Added support for Internet Explorer 11.

Security Changes

This section contains a list of any changes to Permission Maintenance that correspond to new or changed functionality. This is to provide a quick overview for any users who manage **Permission Maintenance** in the school/district to determine what, if any, new functionalities need to be modified/added for current *InformationNOW* users. Changes to permissions are performed under **System Preferences | Permission Maintenance**.

New Permissions Added

- **System | Maintain Required Field**
- **Person | View Historical Contacts**
- **Person | View Historical Addresses**
- **Student | Add Student**: Once the update is applied, any user who had permission to **Maintain Student** will automatically be granted permission to **Add Student**.

Changes To Existing Permissions

- **Maintain Student** no longer allows the user to add a student.
- **Maintain/View Forms** permission has been updated to allow the user to also **Maintain/View Attachments**.
- **Maintain Academic Session, Maintain Closed Academic Session, or View Academic Session** now allows the user to maintain or view the list of serving schools on the **Academic Session Edit** page for the reporting school.
- **Maintain Section** allows the user to update the serving section from the **Section Edit** page for the reporting school.
- **Maintain Grading** allows the user to sync grades from the **Management Console**.
- A user who may currently create custom fields in other areas of the program will be able to add custom fields on buses.

- A user who is able to maintain buses can add custom field data.

Modifications

The modifications listed below have been implemented in the v6.5.12.15767 release of *InformationNOW*.

Discipline

- When multiple dispositions were entered, users could not delete them.

Grading

- Users received stack trace errors when attempting to remove a valid grade from the grading scale.
- Users received errors when attempting to modify grading scale.

Query

- Google Chrome: Could not export query results to csv, xml or txt.

Reports

- Grade Book Report:
 - Did not print in student average order when selected.
 - Was blank if user changed the start date or end date.
 - The *Activity Value* was not included when selecting detail regardless of the options selected.
- Standardized Test Report: When generating the report, results were not limited to the selected date range.

Scheduling

- User received error *Enroll date must be in first scheduled term* when copying a schedule from another student.
- *Valid Course Inactive* checkbox was not saving for some users.
- On the student's **Schedule** screen, under the **View History** link, when the user clicked to **Save Notes**, it changed every transaction for a schedule change.
- When applying models en masse or individually, and entering an enrollment date, the model would not apply.
- Required Scheduling Rules were not being taken into consideration when using the Master Schedule Builder.