

## DoDEA HQ's SIS Branch comments in Blue on *Gradespeed*

### Concerns about Gradespeed (as submitted by members):

1. What safeguards will be in place to ensure that any electronic gradebook is developmental appropriate for early childhood? We are working with the company to remove averaging from the early childhood portion of the grade book. Basically the teacher would be able to enter assignments and the students' progress toward the standard. At the end of the quarter the teacher would then evaluate student progress and assign a mark indicative of the students' progress. A calculated average would not be available for these grade levels.
2. Input into SMS keeps getting erased, creating more work. What steps are being taken to rectify this? The program is working as it is suppose to. It is a bit complicated, but once the users are trained there seems to be no issues. Once the teacher starts using Gradespeed it is the system of record. If they then go into SMS and enter a grade during the nightly process that grade will be overwritten by the calculated grade in Gradespeed. Training emphasizes that once you start using Gradespeed you should not go back and enter grades directly into SMS. The only exception to this is after the end of the quarter. As we move from first to second quarter Gradespeed will no longer transfer grades for the previous quarter. Any grade changes or incompletes would need to be changed in Gradespeed. Again, this is emphasized in the training.
3. Comments for the report card are taking up to 5 days to show up in SMS. Gradespeed doesn't instantaneously transfer into SMS. Can this be fixed? This should be fixed at this time. Grades transfer to SMS overnight. I don't know that we will ever be able to have them transfer "instantly". Most users understand the transfer process and are comfortable with the overnight transfer. The comment transfer has been fixed and now transfers nightly with grades. All Areas now have automatic posting set up and spot checking has insured that grades and comments are transferring correctly.
4. Gradespeed is only allowing 2 comments per subject to transfer over. Can this be fixed? This answer depends on whether we are talking about elementary or secondary schools. The secondary report card only allows for 2 comments so this is working correctly. The elementary report card allows for 5 comments. The program has been modified to transfer 2 comments for secondary schools and 5 comments for elementary schools. This has been resolved.
5. Some classes, like "computer skills" don't exist, forcing teachers to create labels to register grades for the report card. Can this be fixed? The subject framework for elementary schools is set at headquarters. Currently "computer skills" is not something that is reported on a student report card. Technology skills can be reported as a comment in the "Life Skills" section of the report card. Until a revision is made this class will not appear on the report card. The system is working as expected.
6. There are difficulties with grade modifications. Some classes need comments, but no grade, and without grade, the comments won't transfer. Can this be fixed? There is was a grade added for this. It is the Z grade which states "No Grade

- Required”. This allows the comments to be transferred without a letter grade for the section. This is working as expected.
7. Modified classes for some special needs students won't allow a "P" to be given. Can this be fixed? A P is one of the grades that can be added as an override grade. Further training may be required to assure that all users know where to enter over ride grades.
  8. The computation of Honor classes in the GPA is incorrect in schools. Can this be fixed? There is no weighting for Honors courses so the GPA should be calculated correctly. There was an issue with weighting of AP courses for GPA calculation, but that has been fixed.
  9. Teachers who have grouped students in a class find that they cannot edit sections, i.e., the second and third sections, but only the original section of a class –so they cannot give overall grades. I do not understand what this issue describes. If there is a class in SMS the teacher can assign an overall grade in Gradespeed. I would need further information to investigate this as an issue.
  10. How can grades given by special education teachers inserted into Gradespeed? Can they do it directly or must it go through the regular classroom teacher? If the special education teacher has the class and the students in the class they can enter them directly into Gradespeed. If the special education teacher is assigning grades for an inclusion class they can be added as the "Alt Teacher" and have access to the grade book to add the grades.
  11. When you have to go to "Options" again and hit the tab to print each student report on an individual page, it doesn't carry over from last quarter. Can this be addressed?? What doesn't carry over from last quarter?? The setting?? Or the grade?? With more information I will investigate.
  12. A teacher reported in a World History class, one category was deleted and existing category was doubled. The categories are required to total to 100 so if the teacher had only two categories and deleted one the remaining category would be increased to cover the deleted category.
  13. There should be the possibility to use more than one email address when sending reports. In the old eClass Grades it was possible to send progress reports to more than one email address. Evidently in Gradespeed there is only one email address allowed. Currently this is correct. Only one email address is allowed in Gradespeed. The company is working on allowing the parent, through the parent connection, to add additional email address to send reports to. This should be a feature for the next school year.
  14. Does Gradespeed have a program that let's the teacher know how often a parent or student is checking their grades?? At this time, no, but this is a very good suggestion and I will submit as a feature request. Does Gradespeed let the teacher know when an email has been sent to the parent? A confirm/notification window will be added by the start of next school year.