



Follett Aspen™

Aspen 6.5 Release Notes





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Aspen 6.5 Release Notes

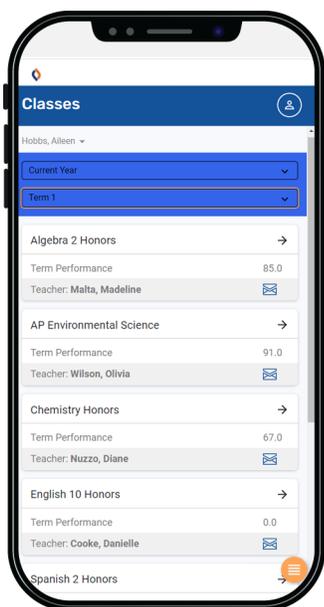
Enhancements to Aspen SIS

Welcome to Aspen 6.5! This release includes several improvements and new features.

All Users

Updated Family portal interface (mobile)

The updated Family portal interface has a sleek design and gives parents access to a more streamlined information set. With a few taps, parents can view assignments and grades, submit a new student registration form, and more!

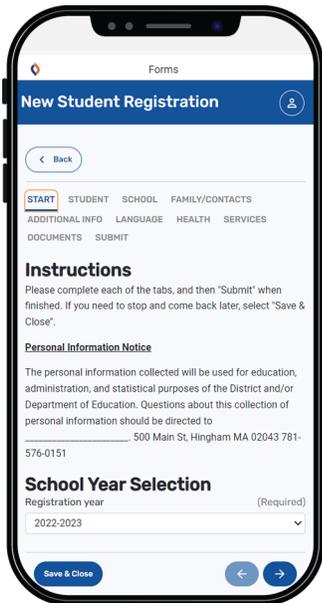


If you haven't seen the updated Family portal interface, contact your Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) or Aspen Technical Support for details.

See the Help topic "Aspen's Updated Family Portal Interface" for more information.

New Student (Online) Registration available in updated Family portal interface

Aspen's New Student (Online) Registration lets parents register students for school remotely from a phone or mobile device. Parents enter their student's information on a series of tabs, upload any required documents, and submit the registration in a smooth, seamless process. In release 6.5, parents can register their students in the updated Family portal interface. Its simple, clean design is a great introduction to Aspen for parents new to your district.



For more information about New Student (Online) Registration, ask your Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) or Aspen Technical Support. The Help topic "Register a New Student in the Updated Family Portal Interface" guides parents/guardians through the workflow.

Quick account creation in updated Family portal interface

Parents who are new to a district can create an Aspen account using the updated Family portal interface. The **Request an account** link appears on the logon screen if the District (Root Organization) Security preference for **Self-serve account creation** is enabled (District [Root Organization] view, District [Root Organization] > **Setup > Preferences > select Security category > Disable is deselected.**)

Note: The account creation process is automated for districts that use Aspen's New Student (Online) Registration add-on feature.

When a parent taps **Request an account**, the following screen appears:

Create Your Aspen Account

[Click or tap here](#) if you are new to the district and the system doesn't contain any of your information.

[Click or tap here](#) to have the account verification email resent.

By tapping the first link, parents can enter their **Personal Information** and **Account Information**.

Create Your Aspen Account

PERSONAL INFORMATION ACCOUNT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Address Line 1

Address Line 2 (Optional)

City

State/Province
MA ▾

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Create Your Aspen Account

PERSONAL INFORMATION

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Primary Email

Confirm Email

Password

[Requirements](#)

Confirm Password

Choose a Security Question

What is your mother's maiden name? ▾

Security Question Answer

Confirm Answer

Previous

Next

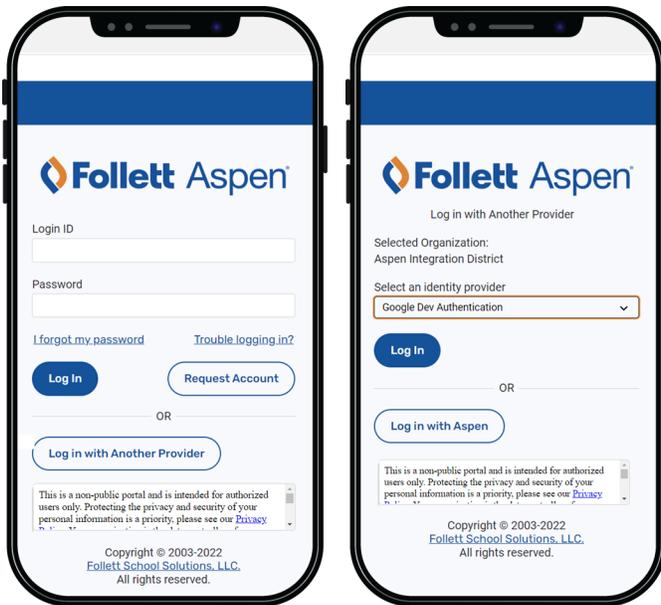
Create My Account

Close

When finished, the parent taps **Create My Account**.

Support for single sign-on in updated Family portal interface

The updated Family portal interface now supports single sign-on. If the user's organization is configured for AASP/SSO, the Login screen lets them log in with another identity provider. When the user taps **Log in with Another Provider**, they are brought to the AASP/SSO Login screen, where they can log in to the appropriate identity provider site (if not already logged in). If the user is already logged in to the identity provider on the current device, they are brought directly to the updated Family portal interface Home page.



Log in to Aspen via AASP using an identity provider's account GUID

Districts are now able to specify an AASP (Access Authorization Service Provider) configuration that allows users to log in to Aspen via AASP using an identity provider's account GUID (Globally Unique Identifier). For example, an AASP configuration can be set up so that certain users in British Columbia are able to use their BC Services Card to log in to Aspen via AASP.

New Template schema for updated Family portal interface

Stay tuned for details. Documentation will be coming soon.



System, District, and School Administrators

Follett API enhancements

Specific enhancements were made to the OneRoster API implementation in Aspen 6.5:

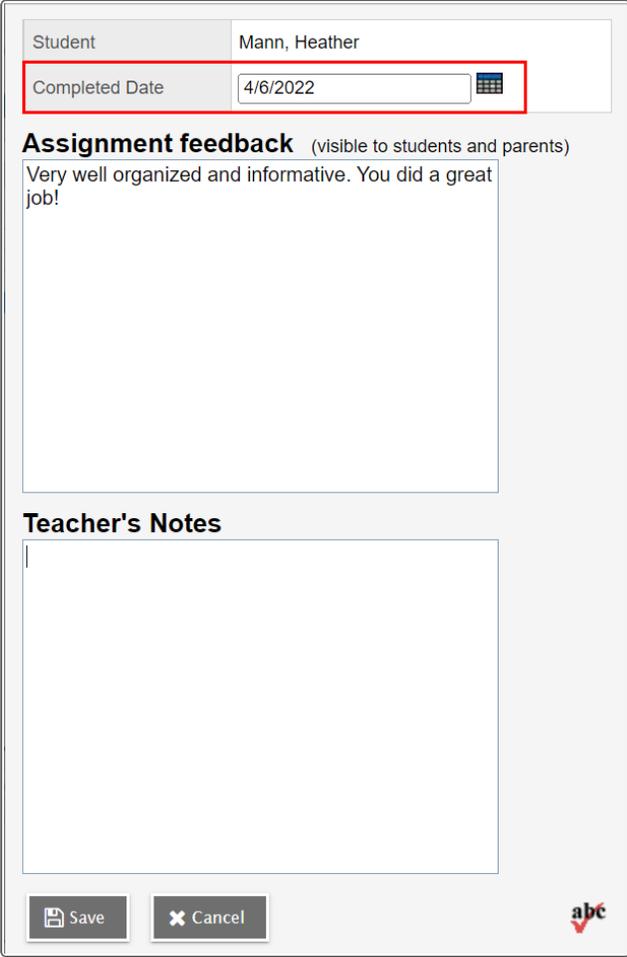
- A clearer message appears when the OneRoster API attempts to PUT a lineitem, and the total points is invalid in Aspen (it exceeds the length of the field). The error message now reads “Invalid numeric value for field Total points”. And, if the total points has a value of zero (0) or a negative number, the message “Total points cannot be 0” appears.
- In Aspen, assignments and scores that are associated with a locked grade term cannot be added or modified. If the OneRoster API attempts to PUT a /lineitem that is associated with a locked grade term, the user is alerted with the message “The grading period for this assignment has been locked. No changes are allowed.” If the OneRoster API attempts to PUT a /result that is associated with a locked grade term, the warning message “The grading period for this result has been locked. No grade changes are allowed” appears.
- When the OneRoster API creates an assignment that has no category specified, by default Aspen creates a category called OneRosterDefault. Once this category is created, the teacher can add Extra Credit Points to it in Aspen. Any new assignment submitted through the API that has no category specified will have that value inserted.
- If a PUT/lineitem changes the category associated with an assignment, Aspen will not reset Extra Credit Points to the new category’s Extra Credit Points default.

Indigenous language support

To support Canadian Aboriginal syllabics, some Aspen database field types were changed from the SQL Server VARCHAR (variable character, non-Unicode) data type to NVARCHAR (national character varying) data type, which stores data such as letters, digits, symbols, and special characters in a variable-length Unicode data field.

Completed Date field for student assignments

Teachers can now record the date a student completed an assignment. In a grading cell, click  to type Assignment feedback or Teachers Notes, and a **Completed Date** field appears at the top of the pop-up (Staff view, **Gradebook > Scores**). To use this feature, enable the **Completed Date** field on the Gradebook Score system table (District [Root Organization] view, **Admin > Data Dictionary > Tables > select *Gradebook Score* > Fields**).



The screenshot shows a pop-up form for entering feedback or notes. At the top, there is a header section with two fields: "Student" containing "Mann, Heather" and "Completed Date" containing "4/6/2022". The "Completed Date" field is highlighted with a red border. Below the header, there are two main sections: "Assignment feedback" (with a subtext "(visible to students and parents)") and "Teacher's Notes". The "Assignment feedback" section contains a text area with the text "Very well organized and informative. You did a great job!". The "Teacher's Notes" section contains an empty text area. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Save" and "Cancel", and a small "abc" logo in the bottom right corner.

See the Help topic "Enter Feedback for Scores in the Gradebook" for more information.

Record late arrivals twice consecutively on the same date

For districts that collect daily attendance more than once during the school day, students can now be marked tardy twice consecutively on the same date. (For example, a student arrives late in the morning, is marked tardy, and then returns to school late after lunch.)

Special Education Professionals

New Special Education system report

Special Education professionals who want to print all of the forms in an active IEP can use a new system report. It is available in the Special Education view, **IEP > Details, Options > Print all forms...** This report creates a list of all the forms, from oldest to newest. Users can deselect any forms they don't want to print.

Print Selected Reports

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IEP	Individualized Education Program	10/19/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TPF	Transition Planning Form New	10/19/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N3	Meeting Invitation	10/19/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PL1 (6-21)(Discon'd)	Placement Consent: 6-21 year olds	10/28/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PL3	Primary Disability/Level of Need	10/28/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N1	Proposed Action Notice	10/28/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PL1 (6-21)(Discon'd)	Placement Consent: 6-21 year olds	11/8/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PL2 (6-21)(Discon'd)	Educational Environment: 6-21 year olds	11/8/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N1	Proposed Action Notice	11/8/2021

Clicking **Select** opens a pop-up, where you choose the format to save the print output. Select PDF, HTML, XML, or CSV. Click **Run** to create the report.

Educational Environment/Place ▼

Format

- Adobe Acrobat (PDF)
- Adobe Acrobat (PDF)
- Web Page (HTML)
- Microsoft Excel (XLS)
- Comma-separated values (CSV)

For more information, see the Help topic "Run the 'Print Selected Forms' Report."

Changes to System Tables, User Roles, and Privileges

Review your user roles to ensure the settings are appropriate for the default user roles used in your district (root organization) and any customized roles you've created from Aspen's default roles. The following table lists new and updated system tables and user role security privileges in Aspen:

New or updated privilege	Default roles affected	Description	Where to access
New system table: Electronic Signature		Enables districts to collect an electronic signature on a form.	District (Root Organization) view, Admin > Data Dictionary > Tables > select <i>Electronic Signature</i>
Updated system table: Person		The length of the First name and Middle name fields has been increased to 50 characters.	District (Root Organization) view, Admin > Data Dictionary > Tables > select <i>Person table</i> > Fields.