

Welcome to Wednesday's Wisdom – A weekly dose of support! February 10, 2016

Announcements

TODAY at 1:00pm – February User's Group WebEx Meeting – Today's User's Group Meeting WebEx will be on the topic of "SIF Reporting." Laura Patton will discuss March SIMS and getting ready for EOY SCS & SSDR. [Click here for User's Group WebEx details](#)

TOMORROW – STILL TIME TO REGISTER – High School Scheduling Workshop begins.

High School Scheduling Workshop

Dates: February 11 and April 7

[Click here for workshop details.](#)

Times: 9am to 11:30am, 12:30pm to 3pm

Location: Maynard Public Schools Administrative offices located next to the Fowler Middle School, 3R Tiger Drive in Maynard, Massachusetts

Registration is required for all courses; Courses are limited to the first 25 registrants. [Click here to register.](#)

See more information below in the Reminder section about the Middle School Scheduling Workshop scheduled for April.

NEW iPass_Sync Release – Coming out during school vacation

During School Vacation week we will be taking sites down for a NEW iPass_Synced Version Release. If you are on version 7.0.20160129_sync your site will get this new release. We believe the work will be done on or around Feb 18th or 19th. Please let the Support Team know in a ticket if your district is planning any activity in iPass during that time so we can find another time to apply the release.

Here are some of the items in the release:

- Holidays/Snow Days are not correctly being applied to the calendar
- Publisher - publishmain.html - "Publishable Content Error: parseerror"
- Course Search - schcoursesecsched.html - unable to search courses - courses return with html code
- SIF 2.7 > Need to verify that only events for the current school year are being sent.
- SIF 2.7 > SchoolCourseInfo > change logic for course credits
- SIF 2.7 > Schoolwide Title I indicator. Set it on the school instead of on all students in that school
- Course Recommendation Enhancements/fixes
- Duplicate Attendance Records – Fixed for when NO set for use Multiple Attendance

SIMS State Reporting Resources Available – Support has provided helpful resources in iPASS Help to assist you in preparing your March 1 data for submission to the DOE. These include the *Helpful Hints Guide – March SIMS 2016*, WebEx recordings for past reporting periods, and FAQs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I transmit SIF SIMS report data “as of” March 1?

A. SIF Districts must set the DOE Parameter ‘Last Transmission Date’ to the “as of” date of 03/01/2016.



Go to DOE ID Manager > DOE Maintenance > DOE Parameters screen. Set the Last Transmission Date = 03/01/2016.

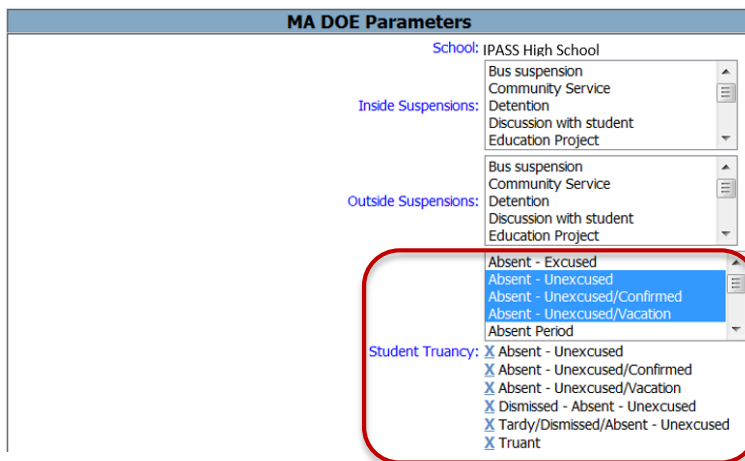
NOTE: The Last Transmission Date will reset to the date used when running the SIMS 52 Export or SIMS 13 Export (SCS). We recommend that you run these reports using the “as of” date for the reporting period (ie. 03/01/2016). If a different date is required for the report, remember to set the Last Transmission Date back to the reporting date.

Q. Why are all the students in the Out of District school generating the SIMS error of “Days in Attendance exceeds maximum for collection period”?

A. The Out of District school calendar must include major holidays and school vacation weeks. The DOE validates SIMS Days in Attendance (DOE017) such that the days cannot exceed 65 for October 1 reporting, cannot exceed 170 days for March 1 reporting, and cannot exceed 261 days for EOY reporting.

Q. How is the DOE052 (Unexcused Student Absences) field value generated from iPASS?

A. This value is calculated based on the “Absent Unexcused” Attendance codes selected in the Student Truancy box on the MA DOE Parameters screen. Please check that all Attendance codes for Daily “Absent Unexcused” have been selected in the Student Truancy box at each of your schools. Go to DOE ID Manager > Maintenance DOE > Parameters. Repeat for each of your schools.



NOTE: The DOE updated the DOE052 in August 2011 to replace ‘truant’ language with ‘days of unexcused absences.’

DOE052 Unexcused Student Absences

The number of school days a student was recorded with an unexcused absence.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type: Alphanumeric | Length: Minimum 1 Maximum 3 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Acceptable Values/Code Description:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 000-261 | Number of days with an unexcused absence. |
|---------|---|

Notes:

1. The definition of an unexcused absence is based on local school district definition.
2. Unexcused absences are cumulative throughout the school year. If the student had four days by October 1st and accumulated four more in January, March data should report eight days.

Dependencies:

1. The sum of days of unexcused absence plus the number of days in attendance (DOE017) cannot be greater than the number of days in membership (DOE018).



Reminders

Register for 2-Day Scheduling Workshops – Harris School Solutions will be hosting iPASS Workshops for Middle and High School Scheduling for the 2016-2017 school year. Each workshop will consist of two-day, hands-on sessions where attendees will be working in their own iPASS database to schedule their schools for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Registration is required for all courses; Courses are limited to the first 25 registrants. [Click here to register.](#)

High School Scheduling Workshop

Dates: February 11 and April 7

[Click here for workshop details.](#)

Times: 9am to 11:30am, 12:30pm to 3pm

Location: Maynard Public Schools Administrative offices located next to the Fowler Middle School, 3R Tiger Drive in Maynard, Massachusetts

Middle School Scheduling Workshop

Dates: April 5 and May 12

[Click here for workshop details.](#)

Times: 9am to 11:30am, 12:30pm to 3pm

Location: Maynard Public Schools Administrative offices located next to the Fowler Middle School, 3R Tiger Drive in Maynard, Massachusetts

