

New Features in PowerTeacher 2.0

PowerTeacher 2.0 provides the latest technology for true standards-based grading. Endorsed by grading expert Ken O'Connor, PowerTeacher 2.0 combines rich standards functionality with many quick-entry features for teachers. The design ensures teachers can work quickly and efficiently, while taking advantage of best practices in standards-based grading across all types of assignments.

Key features include:

- Associating any number of standards to an assignment
- Quick score entry using the new standards drawer
- New Student View mode on the Scoresheet, allowing teachers to review all scores and determine final standards grades
- Automatic calculation of standards final grades based on a choice of sophisticated grading measures
- Key enhancements such as the inclusion of student photos, quick launch button, a preference to hide students not yet enrolled, performance improvements, and more!

Pearson is dedicated to a process of continual improvement, to bring you the features you need to be successful in the classroom today and in the future. Your feedback is important to us, and helps each new release meet and exceed the expectations of our teachers across the nation.

The following tables display a complete list of enhancements in PowerTeacher 2.0.

Key Feature Overview

Feature	Description
Associate standards to an assignment	Teachers select which standards are assessed on each assignment on the Assignment Detail window.
New standards drawer for quick score entry	Any assignment with associated standards displays a quick entry drawer, allowing easy access for score entry, without taking room on the scoresheet. An indicator alerts teachers if any scores are missing.
New Student View on the Scoresheet	Provides teachers with a concise look at all of a student's assignment and standard scores, course grades, and standards final grades, across all reporting terms. Designed for analyzing a student's performance, reviewing the calculated standards grades, and making final grades determinations. It also presents an aggregated view of performance for any selection of students, or for the entire class.
Automatic calculation of standards final grades	A variety of powerful calculation methods are now available. Districts, schools and teachers select the preferred grading methodology by which the standards final grades are automatically calculated. Teachers view the data from all of the grading methods, and can override the default calculation if needed.
Quick Entry features for teachers	New quick entry features include: Quick Fill, copy/paste scores in every column, the grade selector in every score field, and the traditional Fill Scores feature added to all new Scoresheet modes.

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Feature	Description
New Standards Report, with three layouts	The new standards report has three layouts that allow users to easily report on any/all standards data.
Performance improvements	Performance improvements are specifically designed to optimize saving standards final grades, loading the Scoresheet, and help gradebooks with large amounts of data to load faster.
Support for numeric scales for all standards scores and final grades (ex. 1-4 scale)	Support for standard scores and standards final grades using a numeric scale (ex. 1-4, 1-7, etc). These scales are defined in the SIS and associated to specific standards.
General features and fixes: student photos, quick launch, and more!	Student photos now display in PowerTeacher. The quick launch button allows teachers to launch the gradebook directly from PowerTeacher Portal. Other general features include a preference to hide and show pre-enrolled students, performance enhancements, and report fixes.

Detailed Feature Descriptions

NEW - Quick Entry Features

Feature	Description
One-click Quick Fill	Quickly fill scores in any column with just one click in the column header. More advanced options are available using the existing Fill Scores command.
Copy and paste scores	Copy and paste scores feature is now available in every column. Copy scores from one assignment to another, from an assignment to the standards scores, from standards to an assignment, or from standard to standard.
Quick grade selector	Every score field now has the quick grade selector. Right-click in a score field, and pick the letter grade, percent, or points score.
Student Group filtering in the standards drawer	The Student Groups pane allows for filtering the Scoresheet to specific student selections, allowing quick entry for groups. Standards scores can be filled for just those students, and the process can be repeated for the next group selected.
All Score Inspectors have the quick grade selector	All Score Inspector dialogs now have the elegant "triple option" method for selecting letter grades. Based on teacher usage pattern research, you can now select the letter grade from a pop-up menu, enter the letter manually, or browse through the grade scale options.
All Fill Scores dialogs have the quick grade selector	All Fill Scores dialogs now have the elegant "triple option" method for selecting letter grades. Based on teacher usage pattern research, you can now select the letter grade from a pop-up menu, enter the letter manually, or browse through the grade scale options.

New Features in PowerTeacher 2.0

General PowerTeacher Features

Feature	Description
Student photos display	Student photos appear in the Student Detail pane, and in the new Student View mode on the Scoresheet.
Quick launch button	The quick launch button allows teachers to rapidly launch PowerTeacher from any main page in the PowerSchool Teacher portal, without going to the gradebook launch page.
Copy Assignments updated to work with standards	The Copy Assignments function retains any standards associated to the assignment. This feature allows teachers to create assignments and associate standards once, and then copy them to other classes and other reporting terms.
Hide or show pre-enrolled students	This preference allows teachers to hide or show pre-enrolled students. Displaying these students allows teachers to plan ahead for students joining the class in the future. Hiding the pre-enrolled students removes them from the gradebook until they join the class.

Standards Based Grading Methods and Preferences

Feature	Description
On/off option for standards based grading	This preference allows a school to gradually ease into standards. Some teachers can use standards-based grading, while others can hide the advanced features for future use.
Preferred grading method for automatic standards grades calculation	<p>A variety of powerful calculation methods are now available. Teachers select their preferred grading method, and the standards final grades are automatically calculated based on their selection. The teacher can override the default calculation when needed.</p> <p>The available calculations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean: Calculates standards final grades based on the student's mean, or average score. • Median: Calculates standards final grades based on the student's median, or middle score. • Mode: Calculates standards final grades based on the student's mode, or most frequently occurring score. • Highest: Calculates standards final grades based on the student's highest score achieved. • Most Recent # of scores: Calculates standards final grades based on the most recently occurring scores. The number of scores to use and their relative weights can be defined. • None/Manual: For teachers and schools who prefer no automatic grade calculation. With this setting, teachers evaluate the scores, and manually insert the final standards grade. <p>The PowerTeacher Administrator section below describes district/school settings.</p>

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Feature	Description
Ultimate Flexibility with the Most Recent Scores Calculation	The Most Recent Scores Calculation defines the number of recent scores to use and their relative weights when calculating final standards grades. The default includes the last three scores, equally weighted. This calculation can be set by each teacher, or defined at the school or district level.
Support for numeric standards scores (for example, 1-4 scale)	Districts can set up true numeric grade scales (ex. 1-4 scale). Teachers can use these scales for entering in assignment standards scores and final grades.
Preferences: Hide and show standards in Final Grades mode (from PowerTeacher 1.6)	To focus on category totals, teachers can hide standards from Final Grades mode. This feature also enables some teachers to start using standards while others can wait for future use.

Scoresheet: New Student View Mode

Feature	Description
Student View mode	The main Scoresheet area lists all assignments on the left, and the standards across the top. Teachers can select any student to get a concise look at all of a student's assignment and standard scores, course grades, and standards final grades, across all reporting terms. They can also select multiple students and/or groups to view aggregated results across students. Any score changes made in other modes are seen immediately in the Student View mode. This mode was designed for analyzing a student's performance, reviewing the calculated standards grades, and making final grades determinations. This mode is also great for parent/teacher or student/teacher conferences.
Visual display of relationships between standards	The Scoresheet columns visually display the relationship between standards, giving a clear indication of the hierarchy. This provides an elegant way for teachers to differentiate the standards being assessed.
Clear matrix of standards and assignment scores	Student View mode clearly displays which standards are part of each assignment. Any standards not associated with a given assignment are shaded in the score field, allowing teachers to quickly focus on the applicable scores.
Quick filter buttons	The following filter selections are available on the Student View mode to view specific information. The last filter selections are always remembered, so teachers don't have to set them each time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments: Teachers can show and hide assignments with no standards attached. Hiding allows focus on just assignments that have standards scores. Showing displays all assignments for the selected reporting period. • Terms: Teachers can show and hide data for all reporting terms. Hiding allows focus on the selected reporting term. Showing displays standards final grades and course grades from all reporting terms. • Comments: Teachers can show and hide standards comment columns. Hiding allows focus on the standards scores. Showing displays standards comments and allows comment entry for the report card.

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Feature	Description
Student selection	Students are selected from the Student Groups pane. The selected student's name and photo appears. Teachers can also use the arrows under the name or hot keys to navigate to the next student.
Aggregate view for student groups and the whole class	Teachers can select any number of students or groups to see the aggregated performance across student groups, or for the entire class.
Final Score row	The Final Score row displays the overall course grade and the final calculated grade for each standard. Teachers can review the calculated standards grades, and override them as needed. Teachers can enter in the standards comments for standards that have comments defined.
Automatic calculation of standards final grades	Based on the teacher's (or school/district) preferred grading methodology, the standards final grades are automatically calculated and displayed on the Final Score row. The specific grading methodology is selected on the Preferences dialog
Calculated standards grade indicator, and manual entry indicator	Indicators display when a calculated standard grade is overridden. Hovering the pointer over the new score displays both the manually entered score and the originally calculated score in a Tooltip.
Summary area: Metrics representing grading best practices	This area displays the mean, median, mode, the highest score, the most recent scores calculation, and the number of times assessed for every standard. This area allows the teacher to review all of the data and override the default calculation where appropriate.
Student View: Quick entry options	All quick entry options are available in Student View mode, including: Quick Fill, Copy and Paste Scores, Fill Scores, and the grade selector in all score fields.
Fill Scores for standards	Fill Scores allows quick entry for a standard score on every assignment.
Standards Score Inspector	The Score Inspector for standards allows easy entry of standards scores and other score attributes, including exempt, late, missing, and collected.
Final Grade and Comments Score Inspector	The Score Inspector on the Final Score row allows entry of final standards scores, standards comments, and the overall course grade. It displays the automatically calculated standards final grades and any manually entered grades.
Standard detail window	This window displays all information about a selected standard, including: name, ID, description, grade scale (conversion scale), and score type. Clicking on the grade scale name displays additional details.
Related Standards tab	This window displays the complete hierarchy of course standards, making the relationships between standards easy to understand.
Assignment Detail window	This window displays assignment details in Student View mode. From here, teachers can view and edit assignment information and the standards associated with that assignment.
Assignment scores and overall course grade	Assignment scores and the overall course grade can be edited in the Student View mode.

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Feature	Description
Mouse-over comments for final standards grades	Hovering the pointer over the comment icons in Student View mode displays the comment text in a Tooltip.

Scoresheet: Final Grades Mode

Feature	Description
Calculated and Manually Entered Grades	This mode displays all students' final standards and course grades for the selected reporting term. The mode now shows all calculated and manually entered final standards grades. For any manually entered grades, mouse-over the score to display the originally calculated grade. Changes made in Assignments mode and Student View mode display immediately in Final Grades mode. This is a great mode to review everyone's final grades before report card time. It is also a convenient way to quickly fill in standards final grades for the whole class at once.
Score Inspector displays calculated and manually entered standards grades	This Score Inspector now displays both the automatically calculated standards final grades along with any manually entered standards final grades.
Quick entry options	All quick entry options are available, including the new Quick Fill, Copy and Paste Scores, Fill Scores, and the grade selector in all score fields.

Scoresheet: Assignments Mode

Feature	Description
Standards selection tab for assignments	New tab on the Assignment Details window. The teacher selects which standards are to be assessed on each assignment.
Standards Details dialog	This dialog displays the standard name, ID, and the standard description, which can include information about the rubric for that standard. It also includes all the grade scale details.
Standards Drawer indicator and completion status	When standards are selected for an assignment, the assignment column header displays an "S" icon. Teachers can quickly see which assignments have standards and which do not. Clicking on the "S" opens the standards drawer. When all standard scores are entered for the assignment, the "S" displays in green, to indicate that there are no missing scores.
Standards Drawer for quick score entry	Clicking the "S" indicator opens and closes the standards drawer for that assignment. The drawer allows for quick standards score entry, without cluttering the main Scoresheet with additional columns.
Visual display of relationships between standards	The columns on the standards drawer visually display the relationship between standards, giving a clear indication of the hierarchy.

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Feature	Description
Student filtering in the standards drawer	The Student Groups pane allows teacher to filter the Scoresheet to specific student groups, allowing quick standards score entry for the selection.
Fill Scores in the standards drawer	Fill Scores allows quick entry for standard scores for all selected students.
Score Inspector on the standards drawer	Score Inspector on the standards drawer allows easy entry of standards scores and other assignment attributes, including exempt, late, missing, and collected.
Standards tab	This area displays the Standard ID, description, grade scale (conversion scale), and score type. Click on the grade scale name to display Standard Details dialog.
Related Standards tab	This area displays the complete hierarchy of course standards, making the relationships between standards easy to understand.
Quick entry options on all columns	All quick entry options are available, including the new Quick Fill, Copy and Paste Scores, Fill Scores, and the grade selector on all score fields.

NEW - Standards Report

Feature	Description
Standards Report: Class Spreadsheet	This report displays data from Final Grades mode. Allows teachers to view all students' standards final grades for a reporting term in one spreadsheet.
Standards Report: By Student – Assignment Scores	This report displays data from the new Student View mode. For each student, it displays standards scores on each assignment and the final standards grades.
Standards Report: By Student – Final Grades	This report displays data from the Quick Look-up Standards Grades page in PowerSchool, PowerTeacher Portal, and Parent Portal. By student, it displays standards final grades for every reporting term for each class in the student's schedule.
Standards Report Options: Portrait vs. Landscape	This report allows portrait or landscape orientation. This setting is remembered, so teachers do not have to select it every time.
Standards Report Options: Scale Sizes (and saved setting)	This report allows for scaling down the size to allow more data to fit on a single page. Scale options include 100%, 80%, 70%, and 50%. This setting is remembered, so teachers do not have to select it every time.

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PowerTeacher Administrator Features

Feature	Description
On/off option for standards-based grading by school	This area sets a default starting point for the standards based grading on/off option. If set to off, individual teachers can turn it on if there is a need for them to use standards with assignments.
Default standards final grade calculation method by school	The school can set the default standards final grade calculation method. Options include the mean, median, mode, highest, or Most Recent Scores Calculation. Each school has the option to allow or not allow teachers to edit this setting in PowerTeacher gradebook.
Define the default Most Recent Scores Calculation by school	The school can set the default Most Recent Scores Calculation. This setting includes the number of scores to use, and the relative weighting of each score. Each school also has the option to allow or not allow teachers to edit this setting in PowerTeacher gradebook. Teachers still see the Most Recent Scores Calculation (along with the other metrics) in the Student View mode Summary area, even if this metric is not the default for grade calculation.

Key PowerTeacher Performance Improvements and General Fixes

Feature	Description
Performance improvements: Saving standards final grades	Significant performance optimizations have been made when the teacher saves standards final grades.
Performance improvements: Loading section data	Performance optimizations have been made to loading the Scoresheet and section data, especially helpful for gradebooks with large amounts of data.
Performance improvements: Student Photos	To ensure that the addition of student photos has no impact on performance, the following features were added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student photos are only loaded when needed. • When accessed, the photos load in the background separately from other data so the teacher can keep working in the gradebook. • Photos are automatically scaled down to greatly reduce the size of each photo.
Reports: Edited gradescale values now appear on reports	Previously, reports showing students on an edited gradescale did not use the edited gradescale values on assignment scores and category totals. All students on an edited gradescale now display correct assignment letter grades and category totals, based on their edited gradescale.
Category Totals in Final Grades Mode	The category totals displayed in final grades mode now take assignment weighting into account.