



# Follett Aspen™

## Aspen 6.7 Release Notes

July 2023





# Table of Contents

Enhancements to Aspen SIS .....	3
<b>All Users</b> .....	<b>3</b>
New Continuing Education feature .....	3
<b>Students and Families</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Enhancements to Aspen's New Portal for mobile devices .....	4
<b>System, District, and School Administrators</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Enhancements to Aspen's New Portal for mobile devices .....	4
API enhancements .....	4
Grade Post Verification report updated .....	5
View changes from Tool History side-tab .....	6
Error message stack trace information .....	6
'Other' alert hover text .....	7
New Grade Input filter .....	7
Dictionaries added to Aspen .....	7
Support for special characters .....	7
Ability to export and import queries .....	7
Increased field length supports Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) format .....	7
New Graduate Seniors message .....	8
Universal logon experience .....	8
Calculated fields now support if/then statements .....	9
<b>Attendance Staff</b> .....	<b>11</b>
New Multi-Add class attendance functionality .....	11
Added support for schools that take second daily attendance .....	11
New filter on Class Office page .....	12
Clarification of 'Other codes' field on Class Attendance pop-up .....	12
Foreign language support added to Social and Emotional Support module .....	12
<b>Health Staff</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Prevent duplicate immunization dose entry .....	13
<b>Teachers</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Calculate assignment score based on percentage of total possible points .....	13
Current Cell History option shows deleted scores .....	14
<b>Changes to Preferences</b> .....	<b>15</b>

# Aspen 6.7 Release Notes

## Enhancements to Aspen SIS

Welcome to Aspen 6.7! This release includes several improvements and new features.

**Note:** [Watch a video](#) that highlights many of the changes available in Aspen 6.7.

## All Users

### New Continuing Education feature

With Aspen's exciting new Continuing Education feature, parents and students can sign up for educational classes and activities offered by their district using the New Portal (mobile).

The screenshot shows the 'Browse Courses' interface. At the top, there is a 'Continuing Ed Portal' dropdown and a user profile icon. Below this, there are filters for 'All' (dropdown), 'Start Date' (02/03/2023), 'End Date' (06/30/2023), and a 'Hide Full Courses' checkbox. A 'Reset Filter' button is also present. The main content is a table of courses with columns for Course ID, Course Name, Start Date, End Date, Meeting Times, and Availability.

COURSE	COURSE NAME	START DATE	END DATE	MEETING TIMES	AVAILABILITY
6003k-001	Literacy	3/20/2023	6/16/2023	Mondays and Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Course full, 4 in wait list
051-001	Film Studies	2/20/2023	6/19/2023	Tuesdays from 6:30PM - 7:30PM	Open seats: 15
051-002	Film Studies	2/20/2023	6/19/2023	Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Open seats: 11
064-001	Writer's Workshop	4/3/2023	6/19/2023	Mondays 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Open seats: 12
052-002	Studies in Mystery & Horror	2/24/2023	5/31/2023	Fridays from 7:00PM to 8:00PM	Open seats: 9
110-002	United States I	4/3/2023	6/19/2023	Thursdays 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Open seats: 7

Continuing Education is an add-on feature. Contact Technical Support for information.



## Students and Families

### Enhancements to Aspen's New Portal for mobile devices

If your district uses Aspen's New Portal for mobile devices, you'll notice improvements to the user interface that make it easier to view and use. In addition, you can:

- Complete returning student registration forms [in districts that use Aspen's New Student (Online) and Returning Student Registration add-on feature].
- View published reports, such as report cards.

For more information, see *Aspen's New Portal* in Aspen Help.

## System, District, and School Administrators

### Enhancements to Aspen's New Portal for mobile devices

Aspen's robust New Portal for families continues to expand with additional features for release 6.7. Here is an overview of the development:

- Parents can now complete returning student registration forms (in districts that use Aspen's Returning Student Registration add-on feature).
- Forms can be made available to a select group of users, such as students taking a field trip. Administrators can create a workflow and, using selection query functionality, specify criteria for a set of students. In the New Portal, the form only appears for parents of those students (on the Forms tab).
- Parents can submit the same form as many times as needed (for example, a student absence notification form).
- Parents can view published reports, such as report cards.
- A 'Request for Student Access' screen allows the parent or guardian to verify their relationship to a student, enhancing data security.
- User interface adjustments were made in accordance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1. These include better color contrast for error messages, increased padding at the bottom of screens for improved button access (clickability), darker fonts, and removed drop-shadow effects for visual clarity. In addition, the Student drop-down was removed from the homepage.

### API enhancements

Specific enhancements were made to the Aspen API implementation in Aspen 6.7, including the following:

- Added endpoints to support Microsoft School Data Sync (MS SDS) requirements.
- Implemented the OneRoster endpoint for getTeachersForClass to meet Microsoft School Data Sync (MS SDS) requirements:

Service Call	Endpoint	HTTP Verb
<a href="#">getTeachersForClass</a>	/classes/{class_id}/teachers	GET

- Extended the api.oneroster.teachers export format to accept and pass values in the OneRoster enumeration column of Aide, Administrator, and Proctor. This applies to the Role Type column in the endpoint and extends the previously-supported Teacher code.
- Returned all teachers assigned to a section when a GET is executed for class information. Previously, only primary staff members were returned.
- Allowed API consumers to filter data by its sourcedId.
- Limited the GET results (students/staff) to the user's assigned organization level. The user will not receive data associated with a higher organization level.

### Grade Post Verification report updated

Two new fields appear on the pop-up to run the Grade Post Verification report: **Group by class** and **Omit courses marked as 'hide from grade input'**. (School view, **Grades > Grade Input > Reports > select Grade Post Verification**)


#### Grade Post Verification

Term	T3 <input type="text"/>
Post type	<input type="text"/>
Grade column	<input type="text"/>
Group by class	<input type="checkbox"/>
Omit courses marked as 'hide from grade input'	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show non-posts only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exclude empty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sort results by	Teacher <input type="text"/>
Format	Adobe Acrobat (PDF) <input type="text"/>

If you enable **Group by class**, merged class sections will appear together on the report. (Classes are merged in the School view, **Schedule > Classes > select a class > Details > select the *Combine Gradebook field***).

The report's header indicates whether the classes are combined:

**Grading Term:** Term 4  
**Post Type:** Term grades for all students  
**Grade Column:** Term 4 Grade

CLS /040-001 /030-00 English 12  Combined Gradebook: **Yes** Total Students: 10

Course	Description	Teacher	Students	Grades	Posted On	Posted By
040-001	English 12	[REDACTED]	3		Not Posted	
030-001*	English 11	[REDACTED]	7	5	5/4/2023 9:43 AM	[REDACTED]

\* Indicates primary section

Enable **Omit courses marked as 'hide from grade input'** so classes flagged to prevent grades from being viewed, entered, or edited do not appear on the report.

For more information, see *Run the Grade Post Verification report* in Aspen Help.

### View changes from Tool History side-tab

From the new Tool History side-tab, system administrators can review changes users made to imports, exports, procedures, and reports. The page displays the user who made the change, tool name, type of change, and other information:

Options ▾
Reports ▾
Help ▾✖

0 of 1 selected

All Records

User Login Name	Tool Id	Tool Name	Parent Tool Id	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> [REDACTED]	TSC000001Yr05Q	Continuing Education Message Resources Import		Modify

(District [Root Organization] view, **Tools > Imports > Tool History**)

For more information, see *Tool History* in Aspen Help.

### Error message stack trace information

When users encounter an error in Aspen, a simple error message appears, directing them to contact the system administrator. The message includes a GUID (globally unique identifier), which the administrator can review in the system log (District [Root Organization] view, **Admin > Logs > System Log**). The error message no longer displays stack trace information to the end user.

**A system error has occurred. Contact your system administrator if this problem persists.**

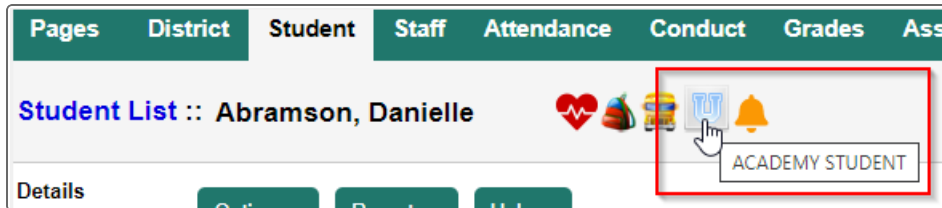
Error ID: GKJT-KC1E-ZAYL

Error logged at 2022-10-18 15:05:34 +0000

Return to the application homepage.

## 'Other' alert hover text

Previously, when hovering over an Other alert, the hover text just said "Other Alert". In Aspen 6.7, hover text picks up the text from the **Description** field in **Admin > Data Dictionary > Reference > Alert Icons**.



For more information, see *Customize Other alert icons* in Aspen Help.

## New Grade Input filter

A new filter, *Sections with only Withdrawn Students*, can be selected when staff members prepare grade input. The filter allows staff to prepare grade input for class sections that do not currently contain any active students due to withdrawals. (School view, **Grades > Grade Input**)

## Dictionaries added to Aspen

Aspen contains dictionaries for American English, Canadian English, French, and Spanish for spell-checking capabilities. These dictionaries are available based on the default locale specified in the user's General preferences.

## Support for special characters

Aspen now supports Unicode, the information technology standard for text and characters used worldwide. This lets Aspen accurately represent indigenous syllabics, French diacritical marks, and even emojis, in assignment resources and other documents.

## Ability to export and import queries

System administrators can export and import queries that are XML-based from the Queries side-tab.

(District [Root Organization] view, **Tools > Queries > Options > select Export**)

(District [Root Organization] view, **Tools > Queries > Options > select Import**)

For more information, see *Import and export queries* in Aspen Help.

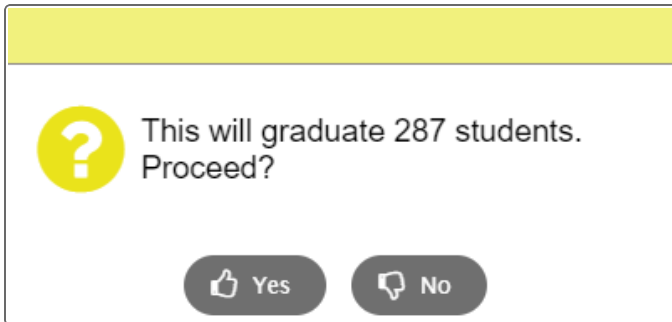
## Increased field length supports Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) format

The USER\_ACCESS\_LOG\_UAL\_IP\_NUMBER column now allows for 200 characters. Before, the column allowed for 50 characters, which occasionally truncated the field value.

(District [Root Organization] view, **Admin > Data Dictionary > select User Access Log > Fields > select IP number > Database field length** field)

## New Graduate Seniors message

To run the Graduate Seniors procedure, users complete the fields on the Graduate Seniors pop-up, and then click **Finish**. Aspen now displays the number of student records that will be updated:



After reviewing the student count, users can choose to graduate the students or exit the procedure.

(District [Root Organization] view, **District [Root Organization] > Setup > Details > Options > Graduate Seniors**)

(Intermediate Organization view, **Intermediate Organization > Setup > Details > Options > Graduate Seniors**)

(School view, **Student > Options > Registration > Graduate Seniors**)

## Universal logon experience

Now, Aspen system administrators can use custom links to direct users to the preferred Aspen application using a single logon page. This allows administrators to control which version of Aspen a user accesses. For example, you may want students and family members to access Aspen's New Portal, and teachers and other staff members to access the desktop version of Aspen.





Login ID

Password

[Forgot password](#)

[Trouble logging in](#)

Log In

Request Account

This is a non-public portal and is intended for authorized users only. Protecting the privacy and security of your personal information is a priority, please see our [Privacy Policy](#). Your organization is the data controller of your information. For data requests, please contact them.

Copyright © 2003-2023  
Follett School Solutions, LLC.  
All rights reserved.

All of the following links bring the user to the same logon page, but direct each user to a different application after logon:

[districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/desktop](http://districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/desktop)

[districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/go](http://districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/go)

[districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/con-ed](http://districtname.follettsoftware.com:8080/aspden-login/con-ed)

## Calculated fields now support if/then statements

Aspen system administrators can now use if/then statements in the **Calculated expression** field in the Data Dictionary. For example, districts can use this new functionality to display a person's preferred name in Aspen.

Operators available are: isEmpty, beginsWith, contains, endWith, endsWith, equals, equalsIgnoreCase, notEqualTo, and notEqualToIgnoreCase.

**Example 1:** A district adds the user-defined field **FieldC007** on the Person table. This field contains a person's preferred first name, if specified. To use the preferred name in Aspen, the administrator logs on to the District (Root Organization) view, selects **Admin > Data Dictionary > Calculated Fields** and clicks **Person Name View**. In the **Calculated expression** field, the administrator enters the following expression:

```
{person.lastName}, {IF(person.fieldC007, isEmpty, 'person.firstName',  
'person.fieldC007')}
```

Now, a person with the first name John, last name Smith, and preferred name Johnny (in **FieldC007**) appears in Aspen as Johnny Smith.

**Example 2:** The One Roster API defaults all students to Active. Third-party vendors are expected to filter data based on schedule enrollments. If you want to provide only Active students via the One Roster API, you can do the following:

Enable a new field, which has a calculated expression:

```
{IF(status, equals, 'Active', 'active', 'tobedeleted')}
```

Then, point the API to that field.

For more information, see *Create and use calculated fields* in Aspen Help.

## Attendance Staff

### New Multi-Add class attendance functionality

School users can enter class attendance for several students, for many periods and dates, at once. A Multi-Add button appears on the Class Office input page (School view, **Attendance > Class Office**). Click **Multi-Add** and select the students, periods, dates, and other information in the pop-up:

The screenshot shows a pop-up form for entering class attendance. At the top, it displays the school name "Crow Point High School". Below this, there are two columns of radio buttons for selecting records: "Students" (with options: Section, Homeroom, Group, Query, Snapshot, Selection) and "Duplicate Records" (with options: Skip, Replace). The "Skip" option is selected. Below these options, it says "Selected students: 0". The main form area has several fields: "Date" (6/6/2023), "Periods" (with a search icon), "Absent?" (checkbox), "Tardy?" (checkbox), "Dismissed?" (checkbox), "Time In" (text input), "Time Out" (text input), "Excused?" (checkbox), "Other code" (dropdown), "Other code 2" (dropdown), "Reason" (text input with search icon), and "Comment" (text area). At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Preview", "Save", and "Cancel".

If the school has set the Daily Attendance preference *Classroom input type* to **Period** (School view, **School > Setup > Preferences > select Daily Attendance category**), then the corresponding daily attendance records will be created.

Click **Preview** to view the student class attendance records and, when appropriate, daily attendance records that will be created. Then, click **Cancel** or **Save** to proceed.

For more information, see *Enter class attendance in the office for several students* in Aspen Help.

### Added support for schools that take second daily attendance

School users can now push the Daily AM attendance code to AM classes, and the Daily PM attendance code to PM classes. Periods are designated as AM or PM in the **Type** field on the Bell Schedules details page (available on a customized template). (Note that the School Daily Attendance preferences, *Second daily attendance* and *Push AM/PM from Class office*, must both be enabled.)

A new column, **Daily Code PM**, appears on the Class Office Input page (School view, **Attendance > Class Office**). School users can push the AM or PM daily attendance records to the appropriate AM and PM periods to create period attendance records.

For more information, see *Enter class attendance in the office* in Aspen Help.

### New filter on Class Office page

A new filter, *Primary Active Students*, is available on the Class Office page.

(School view, **Attendance > Class Office**)

### Clarification of 'Other codes' field on Class Attendance pop-up

This enhancement supports schools that collect daily attendance for a second time during the school day (School view, **Setup > Preferences > select *Daily Attendance* at *Category* field > click *Advanced* tab > enable *Second daily attendance***).

If you need to enter other codes in your attendance record, enter the other code for AM in the first **Other codes** field (on the left), and the other code for PM in the second **Other codes** field (on the right) in the Class Attendance pop-up:

The screenshot shows a form for entering attendance for a student named 'Montero, Andre'. The form has several sections: 'Name' (Montero, Andre), 'Absent?' (checkbox), 'Tardy?' (checkbox), 'Dismissed?' (checkbox), 'Excused?' (checkbox), 'Other codes' (two dropdown menus), 'Reason' (text input with search icon), and 'Comment' (text area). The 'Other codes' section is highlighted with a red box. Red arrows labeled 'AM' and 'PM' point to the left and right dropdown menus respectively. At the bottom, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

(Staff view, **Attendance > Class > Input**)

(Staff view, **Attendance > Class > Seating Chart**)

(Staff view, **Attendance > Class > Trends**)

(School view, **Attendance > Class Roster > Students**)

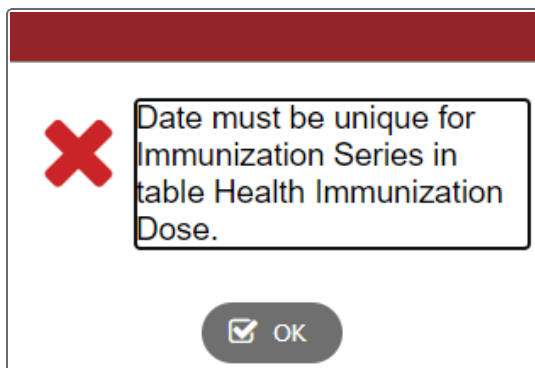
### Foreign language support added to Social and Emotional Support module

Widget names, templates, navigation, and other components can now appear in non-English languages in the Social and Emotional Support module. These components have been moved to a message resource, so the module is easier to translate into Spanish, French, and other languages.

## Health Staff

### Prevent duplicate immunization dose entry

When entering a dose for an immunization series, Aspen displays a warning message if you attempt to enter the dose a second time for the same date.



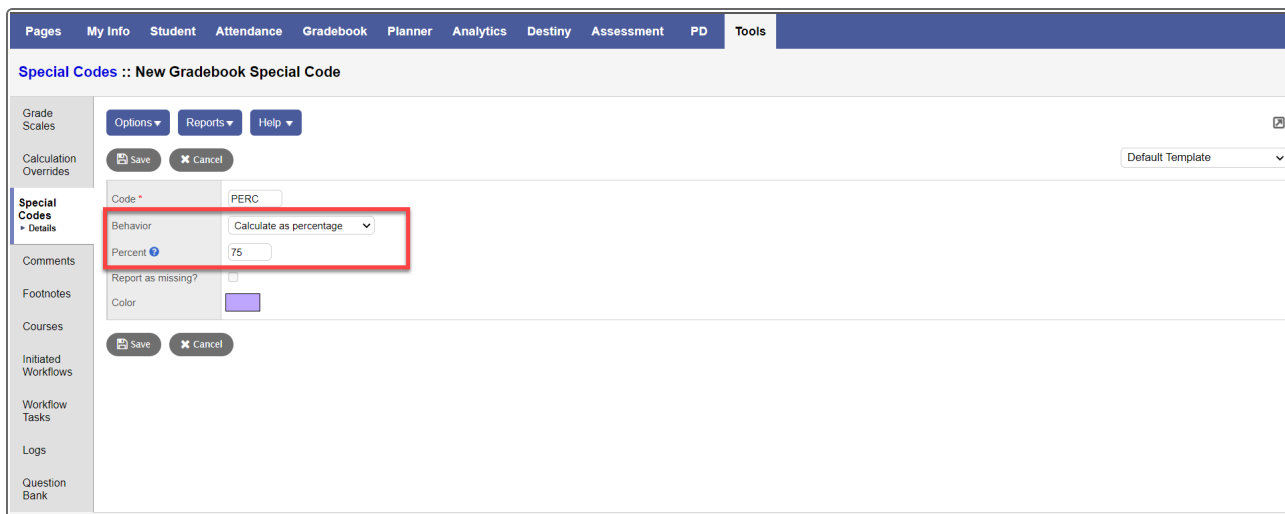
(Health view, **Student > Immunizations**)

For more information, see *Complete immunization forms for students* in Aspen Help.

## Teachers

### Calculate assignment score based on percentage of total possible points

A new special codes option tells Aspen to calculate an assignment score based on a percentage of the total possible points. When creating a special code, select the option **Calculate as percentage** at the **Behavior** field. At the **Percent** field, enter the percentage of the total points (up to 100) to use in the calculation when a value is entered on the Scores page and the special code is attached.

A screenshot of the "Special Codes :: New Gradebook Special Code" form. The form has a top navigation bar with tabs: Pages, My Info, Student, Attendance, Gradebook, Planner, Analytics, Destiny, Assessment, PD, Tools. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for "Options", "Reports", and "Help". A "Save" button and a "Cancel" button are also present. The form fields include: "Code" (text input with value "PERC"), "Behavior" (dropdown menu with "Calculate as percentage" selected), "Percent" (text input with value "75"), "Report as missing?" (checkbox), and "Color" (color picker). A red box highlights the "Behavior" and "Percent" fields. The left sidebar contains a list of navigation options: Grade Scales, Calculation Overrides, Special Codes (selected), Comments, Footnotes, Courses, Initiated Workflows, Workflow Tasks, Logs, and Question Bank.

(Staff view, **Tools > Special Codes**)

For more information, see *Create special codes for assignment grades* in Aspen Help.

### Current Cell History option shows deleted scores

The Current Cell History option shows teachers all previously entered scores for a grading cell.

Now, if a score is deleted from a grading cell, the teacher can click in that cell, select **Current Cell History**, and view the score that was deleted:

Change History for Today

User > Name	Time stamp	Previous Value	Changed Value	Reason	Comment
Bailey, Elizabeth	4/20/2023 10:09 AM	<input type="radio"/> 85	Deleted		

To revert to a previous value, select the appropriate button and click OK. Otherwise, to return to scores grid click Close.

In the pop-up, click a **Previous Value** and then **OK** to reinstate the score.

(Staff view, **Gradebook > Scores > Options > Current Cell History**)

(Staff view, **Gradebook > Scores > Student > Options > Current Cell History**)

(Staff view, **Gradebook > Scores > Assignment > Current Cell History**)

For more information, see *Enter assignment scores on the Scores page* in Aspen Help.

## Changes to Preferences

New or updated preference	Where to access	Description
<p>New School preference: <b>Push AM/PM from Class Office</b></p>	<p>School view, <b>School &gt; Setup &gt; Preferences</b> &gt; select <i>Daily Attendance</i> category</p>	<p>Pushes daily attendance for AM and/or PM to the respective class attendance periods (creating period attendance records) from the Class Office Input page. (The <i>Second daily attendance</i> preference must also be enabled).</p> <p>When enabled, the Class Office page displays a new <b>Daily Code (PM)</b> column.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0f7fa; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #cfe2f3;"> <p><b>Note:</b> The school must specify which periods are AM or PM for each bell schedule (School view, <b>Schedule &gt; Bell Schedules &gt; Details</b>).</p> </div>
<p>New School preference: <b>Classroom to daily post mode</b></p>	<p>School view, <b>School &gt; Setup &gt; Preferences</b> &gt; select <i>Daily Attendance</i> category</p>	<p>When this preference is set to <b>Post</b>, Aspen updates the daily attendance record each time a teacher posts class attendance. (The <i>Classroom input type</i> preference must be set to <b>Period</b>.)</p> <p>When set to <b>Post Once</b>, Aspen does not update the daily attendance record with class attendance, if the daily attendance record already exists.</p>