

What's New in PowerSchool 8.0

PowerSchool 8.0 is a major milestone for PowerSchool customers, and includes key administrator features that have been highly requested. PowerSchool 8.0 includes database extension enhancements delivering expanded functionality to support PowerSchool customizations, as well as document attachment for student records, allowing all of the key documents related to a student to be available electronically in PowerSchool. Additional field level security enhances your control over who can access specific fields in PowerSchool. Support for a new PowerSchool special education plugin allows for a seamless integration of special education data.

Performance and usability improvements can be found throughout PowerSchool 8.0; including a new search feature that makes finding and sorting through complex sets of students a breeze, and a database upgrade to Oracle 12c, which allows for continued enhancement of database performance and delivers a secure environment for your data.

Key Features and Enhancements

- Database Extension and Page Customization feature enhancements
- Document attachments for student records
- Additional fields supported with field level security
- Student search codes available in start page field list
- Enhanced PowerSchool Search and user interface improvements
- PowerSchool special education add-on module, powered by TIENET
- Localization enhancements
- Database Extensions enhancements for data access and editing
- PowerSchool Installer supporting an upgrade to Oracle 12c
- PowerTeacher Gradebook 2.8 enhancements

Database Extensions

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Expanded Functionality to Support PowerSchool Customizations	PowerSchool 8.0 provides additional features supporting the ability to create and manage real database extensions rather than legacy custom fields. Plus, PowerSchool 8.0 delivers robust page customization tools. This new database extension functionality allows you to create real tables and fields that are easy to access and will significantly improve performance. Database extensions support one-to-one and one-to-many data as well as field data typing, and may be based on most database tables within PowerSchool.
Management Tools for Database Extensions	PowerSchool 8.0 provides the ability to migrate legacy custom fields to become database extensions and integrated data validation. Database extension fields can be added to custom pages using Custom Web Page Management in the PowerSchool System Administrator application. Page fragments may be added at common or custom insertion points, and customizations may be packaged and shared as plugins. These features, designed to improve the performance and scalability and flexibility of PowerSchool, make it a powerful and customizable solution capable of managing the common and unique administrative processes of any K-12 customer. <i>See the Database Extensions Advanced User Guide for PowerSchool 8.x available on PowerSource for more information about page customization and plugin creation features.</i>
Enhancements to Data Export Manager	In PowerSchool 8.0, you can limit and export database extension records using the Data Export Manager. These enhancements allow you to choose columns from both parent and child tables and filter records based on specific criteria.
Edit Database Extension Records	You can edit database extension records for one-to-one, one-to-many, and independent tables after making a record selection using the Data Export Manager.

Document Attachments

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Document Attachments	It is now possible to attach documents and files directly to a student's core record in the Administrative Portion of PowerSchool. See all of a student's attachments on one screen, or use the powerful Search Attachments group function to search for and manage documents for all of the students in your selection at one time.

Field Level Security

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Field Level Security	Field Level Security has been enhanced to include over 50 additional Students table fields. As with the seven fields made available previously, Field Level Security can be enforced in the Administrative Portion of PowerSchool, Custom web pages, Quick Export/Template Export, as well as through Data Access Tags and tlist. See Knowledgebase article 72328 available on PowerSource for a complete list of fields now available to Field Level Security, along with other important details.

Student Search Codes

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Student Search Codes Available in Start Page Field List	You can now easily access student search codes from a new area within the Start Page field list. Just enter an asterisk "*" into the field search area and the page will automatically scroll to the Student Search Codes area. You can click on a student search code within the field list to add it to the search criteria.

PowerSchool Enhancements

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Improved Student Search	The improved Start Page search allows you to select students by hand and have quick access to group functions. The new Advanced mode allows you to create selections from multiple searches by being able to add, subtract, or find students within the previous student selection.
User Interface Improvements	A new user interface makes content easier to read and easier to find with improved table and menu formats, new icons and images, and better-organized setup items.
Custom Image on Login Pages	Your district logo or other image can now be easily uploaded to appear on all of the PowerSchool login pages without needing to customize those pages. For more information, see Knowledgebase article 72465 available on PowerSource.
Delete Student Photo	A Delete Photo button is now available on the Photo student screen, allowing administrators to remove outdated or incorrect student photos without having to directly edit the student's record in Direct Database Access (DDA).

Special Education

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
PowerSchool Special Education	PowerSchool Special Education, powered by TIENET is a new optional special education module that can be added to PowerSchool 8.0. PowerSchool Special Education, powered by TIENET offers the ability to manage IEP and special education functions. Contact your PowerSchool sales representative for additional information.

Language Toolkit

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Student Search Codes Localization	Student Search Codes listed within the Start Page field list can be localized to appear in another language.
New Localization Import/Export Features	The Page and Data Management area in the administration portion of PowerSchool now includes new tools to support offline translations. Sites that use an external translation service in order to translate PowerSchool text can export delimited files of text keys or online help text files. When the external translation service has completed their translations, their files can be imported back into the system in order to create a new language package. If a site wishes to share their translations, they can export an entire language package for a specified language and then import that package into other PowerSchool instances.
PowerTeacher Gradebook Smart Pronouns Translation	<p>The smart pronouns used in PowerTeacher Gradebook can now be localized for different languages. The smart pronouns are found within the PowerTeacher Gradebook category of the Language Toolkit.</p> <p>Teachers can now use localized smart pronouns to create comments in languages other than English. Currently only one language at a time is supported. Localized smart pronouns appear based on the teacher's preferred language. In order to use smart pronouns in an additional language, the teacher must sign out and then sign back in with another language. For more information, see Knowledgebase article 72363, available on PowerSource.</p>
PowerTeacher Administrator Translation	PowerTeacher Administrator can now be translated and displayed in multiple languages. A French translation of PowerTeacher Administrator is included in PowerSchool 8.0. In order to activate the French version of PowerTeacher Administrator, you must have at least one French language locale enabled on your system.

PowerSchool Installer

The enhanced functionality provided in this release includes:

Feature	Description
Oracle 12c Database Upgrade	PowerSchool 8.0 features an update to an Oracle 12c database. This allows for continued enhancement of database performance.

PowerTeacher Gradebook

For more information, see the *PowerTeacher Portal User Guide for PowerSchool 8.x* or the *System Administrator User Guide for PowerSchool 8.x*, or the online help. **This update was originally released with PowerSchool 7.11.**

PowerTeacher Gradebook 2.8 includes a new way to launch the Gradebook:

Feature	Description
New PowerTeacher Gradebook Launcher	Teachers can now launch the Gradebook using a method that protects against Java updates and does not require browser plugins. After running a quick setup process, teachers can take advantage of the new launch method and enjoy the same Gradebook features they use today.
PowerTeacher Gradebook Desktop Shortcut	The new Gradebook launch method provides a desktop shortcut that allows direct sign-in to the Gradebook. Administrator Installers Installers are available for administrators to help teachers with the setup at Start page > System Setup > System Settings > PowerTeacher Gradebook Launch Installers.