



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we are thrilled to share our latest newsletter with you! This issue is packed with helpful tips, timely updates, and exciting activities to help you finish the school year strong. We hope you find it informative and valuable, as you navigate this busy season.

First, I would like to mention a few newcomers to NEOnet. I want to welcome Deb Burrell-Horn, Gabriella Hart, Sara Skraba, and Christian Walker to the NEOnet team. They are dedicated to providing you with the support you deserve. You can read their biographies on page two of this newsletter.

We are happy to let you know about the final stages of our merger with NCOCC, with the recommendation for approval scheduled for May 8, 2023. Despite the complexities involved, we are confident that the merger will be successful and enable us to offer greater value and service to our members. We prioritize building strong relationships with our members and maintaining a local presence to deliver the best possible service. Through the merger, we are expanding our network of reliable individuals for your district to rely on. We are committed to providing the highest level of technology and IT support in education and look forward to bringing even greater value and service to our members in the future.

As a valued owner of NEOnet, we want to make sure that we are meeting and exceeding your expectations in the services we provide to your school district. To do so, we will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey and would greatly appreciate your participation. In the coming days, you will receive an email with a survey link. The survey will take less than 2 minutes to complete and will provide us with valuable feedback to better understand your satisfaction with our services. We believe that customer satisfaction is key to maintaining a long-lasting and successful relationship with our owners. By understanding your needs and expectations, we can continuously improve our services and provide the support you deserve and the resources that you require to achieve your educational goals.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at 330.926.3902 or by email at gdovin@neonet.org if you have any questions about the newsletter contents or would like to learn more about our services.

And remember that without you, there would be no NEOnet!
Matthew Gdovin, Executive Director

New Employees



GABRIELLA HART, RECEPTIONIST

Gabriella Hart comes to NEOnet from G.Stephens Inc, where she was an Assistant Project Manager. She received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kent State University.



DEB BURRELL-HORN, EFP FISCAL SERVICES SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Deb Burrell-Horn graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of General Studies. Deb and her family relocated to the area in 2018 and she previously worked for Portage County as a Fiscal and Personnel Specialist. In her spare time, she spends time with her family, golfs with her husband Ken, and is an avid gardener and animal lover. When time allows she loves to spend time at their second home in Port Orange, Florida.



SARA SKRABA, EMIS SERVICES SUPPORT LIAISON

Sara Skraba graduated from the University of Akron. Prior to joining NEOnet, Sara reported Preschool EMIS data for 10 districts working at the Summit County ESC. Sara is the youngest of 8 children and is married with three wonderful sons. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling in their RV and plans on visiting 50 states during retirement.



CHRISTIAN WALKER, DATA CABLING SPECIALIST

Christian Walker was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, with his older sister and younger brother. Coming from a military-oriented family, he joined the U.S. Army as a Tactical Satellite Communications Systems Operator and deployed to Iraq in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Christian spent six years in the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, three years in Darmstadt, Germany, one year in Iraq, and subsequently, returning full circle with two years in an Airborne Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Bragg. After the Army, he worked in the Middle East (Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan, Djibouti, and Dubai) for seven years as a Civilian Contractor with the Department of Defense. Christian recently relocated from New Bern, North Carolina, to Kent, Ohio, to be closer to his sister. He loves the location and the life that Ohio has to offer. In his spare time, he enjoys welding and machining, building motorcycles or custom cars, and spending time with his family as often as possible!

From the Tech Director

CHRIS ZOLLA

This year, security has been at the top of every Technology Coordinator's priority list. The landscape has changed drastically, requiring schools to focus more on security than ever before. While navigating these waters with our customers, we continually try to provide value and help make this process easier. In search of solutions for our customers, we found two products that really stood out: Abnormal Security and Sentinel One.

Abnormal Security is a solution that uses artificial intelligence to respond to the advanced threats that so commonly plague school district email platforms. The machine learning engine helps identify malicious content in an email by looking at many factors and measuring the validity of the sender. Traditional anti-spam products look at just the content of the words in the email, but Abnormal Security goes well beyond that methodology. It will look at all aspects of the messages, including the sender, the content of the message, the source domain, the source IP, and many other factors. The system can identify malicious emails, prevent the end user from receiving those messages, and notify the appropriate support staff of the activity. It is the next-gen SPAM protection we all need.

EDR has also been an extremely hot topic lately. We offered online demos of Carbon Black, Sentinel One, and ThirtySeven4 EDR solutions. Sentinel One (S1) seemed to stand out as a leader in the EDR market. All three products touted similar functionality with respect to deployment, advanced threat detection, and monitoring, but S1 had two additional functions that stood out. The first was the roll-back feature. S1 can remediate malicious activity and roll back any changes that might have been made as a result. This provides peace of mind that the data on the machine is protected. The other function that stood out was Sentinel One Ranger and its ability to identify and block unknown or malicious devices on your network. If an infected guest machine connects to your network, Ranger has the ability to identify that device and block it from any machine running the S1 agent.

I truly believe these tools have the capability to change the threat landscape for schools. Coupling Abnormal Security with an industry-leading EDR like Sentinel One not only checks a lot of security boxes for compliance but also provides excellent protection for the two most common vulnerabilities for schools:

- Giving up credentials or sending money to malicious actors
- Ransomware attacks

NEOnet has become a reseller for both of these products because we believe in their ability to reduce threats to our schools and help protect their data. We will also continue to work on getting better pricing so that these tools can be more affordable. If you have any questions on either product or security in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to zolla@neonet.org.

Technology in Education

JAY MILLIRON

Technology has become an integral part of education in recent years. From online learning platforms to improved infrastructure, technology is being used in classrooms around the world to enhance the learning experience and improve student outcomes.

One of the biggest ways technology is being used in education is through online learning platforms. These platforms allow students to access course materials, submit assignments, and communicate with their teachers and classmates from anywhere. This can be especially beneficial for students who live in remote areas or who have busy schedules.

In addition to online learning platforms, schools are also investing in more general technology infrastructure like high-speed internet, laptops, tablets, and other devices. These investments allow students and teachers to access online resources, collaborate with others, and complete assignments more efficiently.

Technology is also helping to personalize the learning experience for students. With the use of learning management systems, teachers can track student progress and tailor instruction to meet the needs of individual students. This helps ensure that all students are challenged and engaged in the learning process.

While technology can be a powerful tool for improving education, it is important to remember that it is just one part of the equation. Teachers, parents, and students need to work together to ensure that technology is being used effectively and that students are learning the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.



Technology Integration

DAN NIESSEN

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to revolutionize the way students learn and teachers teach, providing personalized learning experiences that cater to each student's individual needs. AI can also assist in administrative tasks such as grading and lesson planning, freeing up more time for teachers to focus on instruction. It will not be long before we see AI powering more technology tools teachers use on a daily basis. Google and Microsoft both recently announced AI features that will become a part of their workspace apps. For example, teachers will soon be able to create a brand new Google Slides presentation just by giving a prompt.

However, as with any new technology, there are also concerns and warnings regarding the use of AI in education. One such concern is the potential for bias in AI algorithms, which could perpetuate existing inequalities in education. AI has also been documented providing demonstrably incorrect information. Another concern with the use of AI in education is the collection and use of students' and users' data by AI companies. As AI algorithms require vast amounts of data to operate effectively, there is a risk that sensitive student data could be misused or leaked. It is essential that schools and administrators prioritize data privacy and security when adopting AI technologies and that schools, students, and families are informed and have control over how their data is used.

As a result of the increasing prevalence of AI in education, there will need to be a greater emphasis on Project Based Learning (PBL) and the 4Cs (Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity). PBL allows students to apply their learning to real-world problems or relevant questions, while the 4Cs are essential skills for success in the 21st-century workforce. These two concepts are essential for developing skills and experiences for students that AI cannot do for them. Instead, PBL and the 4Cs complement the benefits of AI by emphasizing the importance of human skills and creativity in education, while AI handles basic or repetitive tasks.

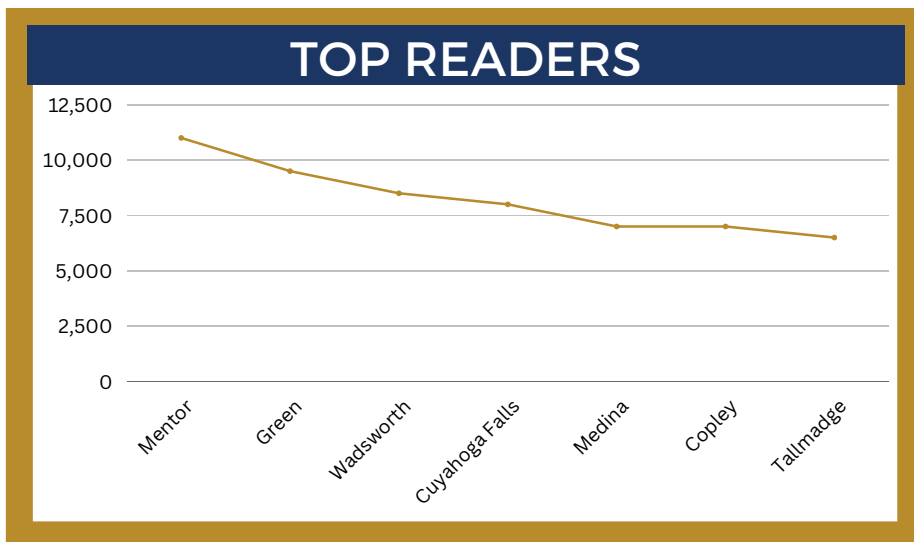
AI has the potential to transform education, but it is important to approach it with caution and awareness of its limitations. By incorporating PBL and the 4Cs into our educational practices, we can ensure that we are preparing our students for success in a world that is increasingly reliant on technology. In combination with PBL and the 4Cs, AI can provide a powerful tool for improving learning outcomes and preparing students for success in the 21st century.

This article was largely written with ChatGPT, with minor edits. The original prompt was: "Create a 3-4 paragraph newsletter written from the perspective of an EdTech expert for an audience of teachers and school administrators. Give a brief overview of the possibilities AI brings to education, the concerns or warnings with AI in education, and the importance of Project Based Learning and the 4Cs in education as a result of AI becoming more prevalent."

NEOnet's Shared OverDrive eBook Collection

TAMRA DUGAN

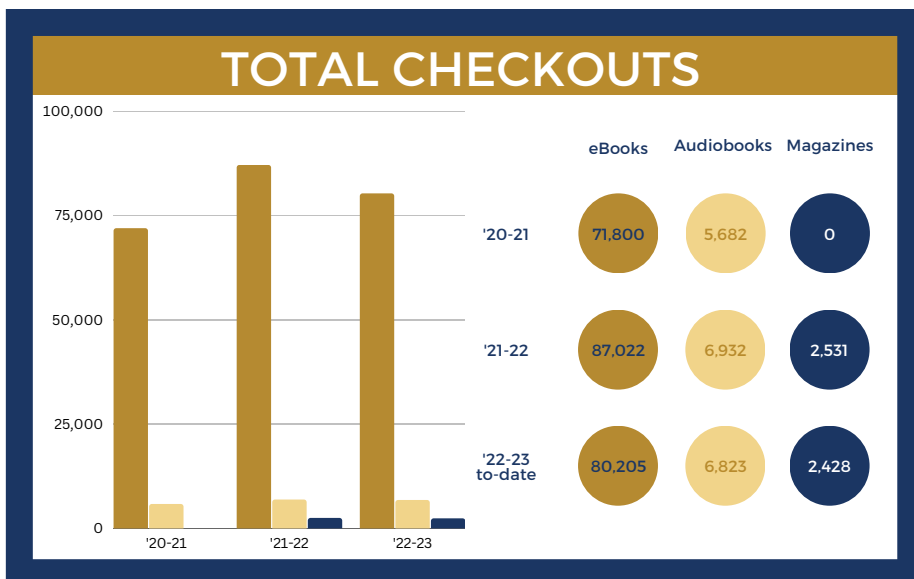
Thirty-five local districts currently use the Sora platform to provide their readers with high quality materials.



Sora's annual summer reading program, Sweet Reads, begins May 15th

ALWAYS AVAILABLE EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS
15 MAY - 28 AUGUST

soraapp.com



Technical Applications

The Technical Applications team is getting ready for what we consider our busiest season, which typically falls between the end of one school year and the beginning of another. During this time, we receive multiple requests for third-party extracts from both new and established vendors, each with their own unique specifications. To better manage the workload and avoid some of the problems we experienced last summer, NEOnet has been discussing ways to improve our process throughout the year.

For the 2023-2024 school year, we have decided to implement a soft cut-off, meaning that any extracts submitted after **July 1st** are not guaranteed to be completed in time for the start of the school year. We understand that this puts undue stress on districts during budgeting and requisitioning for the new year, as well as on staff who may be off for the summer. However, we believe that this approach gives our team the best chance to complete requests and ensure a successful start to the school year.

We are also taking steps to enhance our security efforts by conducting annual audits of third-party extracts and vendors through Vendorlink. These audits are then sent to Technology Coordinators for review. The initial review emails should have already arrived or be arriving in the next few days. While we have not set a specific date for the release of these lists in future years, we anticipate that they will be sent before the end of the school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at techappshelp@neonet.org.

Thank you,
Steve Foster
Michael Hoffman
Spencer Zolla

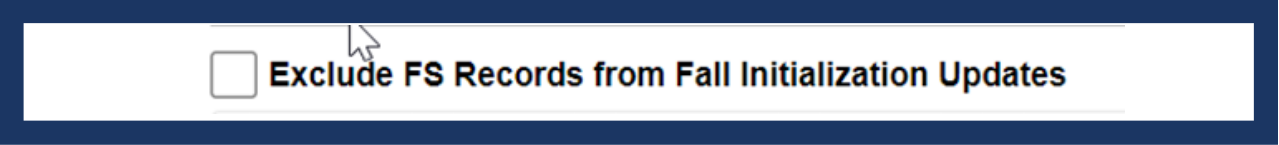


EMIS

CATHERINE WRIGHT

As we approach a very busy time for EMIS reporting, there are so many things to remember. Below are some data elements that are commonly overlooked and what area they may effect on your **Local Report Card (LRC)**.

- **Student**
 - Missing students
 - Retained students next year updated
- **Staff/Course** - District profile page and District Profile Report (CUPP Report)
 - Staff missing
 - Staff Long term absences*
 - Processing CTREMIS/CLIEMIS (For DASL Users)
 - Updating college courses with credits earned
- **Career Tech** - Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards
 - While reconciling CTE reports, make sure to also make changes to the same courses in the next school year (if applicable)
- **TGRG** - Used for the Early Literacy Component
 - Reading Diagnostics*
 - RIMPs
- **EL program codes*** - English Language Proficiency Improvement Indicator (Gap Closing Element)
- **District/Building records**
 - PBIS - Other Report Card Elements
 - PE Grade Bands - Other Report Card Elements
 - Eye Exams*
 - Connectivity* - Other Report Card Elements
- **Gifted*** - Gifted Performance Indicators (Gap Closing Element)
 - Acceleration (FB) Records from prior years
 - Gifted service codes
- Grad core summary and non-grad - Graduation Component
- Review Gen Issues Reports
- CTE report errors - Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards
- **Chronic Absenteeism*** - Chronic Absenteeism Improvement Indicator (Gap Closing Element)
- In the **23/24** school year, check the **EXCLUDE** box for any students that you do not want the FS, FD or FN tabs synced to match the corresponding tabs in **22/23** with Fall Initialization (For DASL Users).



Exclude FS Records from Fall Initialization Updates

* = Element in EMIS Cross Check

GradeBook

BETHANY LADICH



PARENTACCESS MOBILE APPLICATION

The ParentAccess Mobile app enables parents and students to view GradeBook information.

<https://bit.ly/FPBApp>

Download the Mobile App: Go to the Apple App store or Android Apps on Google Play and search for “ProgressBook Parent/Student” to locate and download the app.

Have an Account: Whether you are a parent/guardian or student, you can use your current ParentAccess username and password to log in to the ParentAccess app.

- Open the mobile app.
- Tap Login.
- When redirected to the website, begin typing your district name.
 1. In the results list that displays, select your district
 2. Tap Go
 3. Enter your username and password
 4. Tap Sign In.

Have a Registration Key:

1. Open the mobile app.
2. Tap Login.
3. When directed to the website, begin typing your district name.
 - In the results list that displays, select your district
 - Tap Go
1. Scroll down to the New ProgressBook? Section
2. Tap Create Account
3. On the next screen, tap New Parent Account or New Student Account
4. Follow the prompts on the screen to complete registration

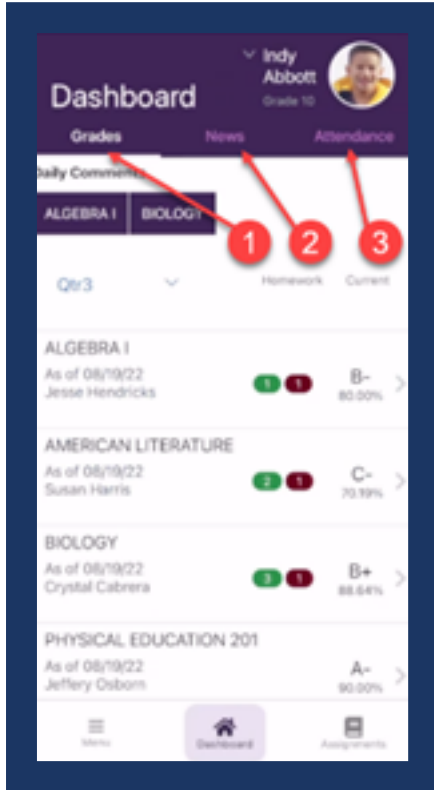
Student using “Google Single Sign-On”:

1. Tap Login
2. When redirected to the website, begin typing your district name.
 - In the results list that displays, select your district
 - Tap Go
1. Scroll down and tap Students Sign in with Google.
2. Follow the prompts to log in with your Google account

MOBILE APPLICATION FEATURES INCLUDE:

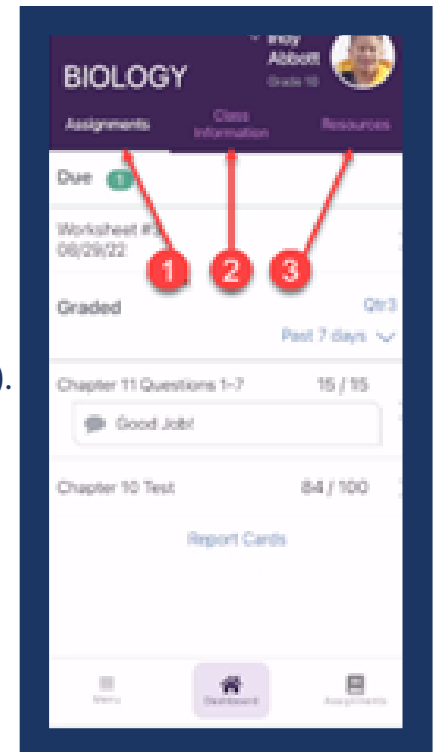
Dashboard The "Grades" tab, users can tap a class to view more details about it. The Class Details view has three tabs for viewing information for the selected class: Assignments, Class Information, and Resources.

1. Grades:



- **Assignments:** Teachers control the display of assignments and grades. If a teacher has added a Daily Comment for a class, the "Daily Comments" section displays on the Grades tab and lists each class with a comment. Users can tap a class listed in "Daily Comments" to view the "Daily Comments" screen and view comment. If no daily comments have been added for today's date, the "Daily Comment" section is not displayed on the "Grades" tab.
- **Class Information:** Teachers manage the information that is displayed on the "Class Information" tab for the class the user selected on the "Grades" tab (see "Class Information for ParentAccess and FPPS" in the GradeBook Teacher Guide).

- **Resources Tab:** Teachers manage the documents and links that are displayed on the "Resources" tab for the class the user selected on the "Grades" tab.



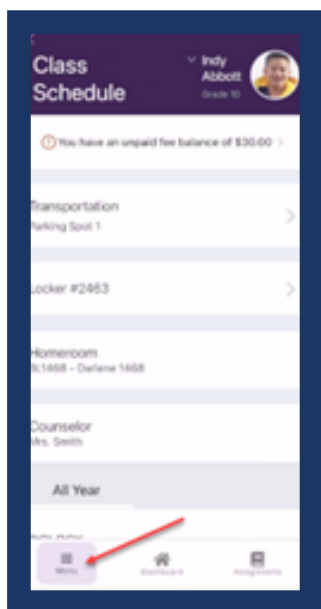
2. **News:** ParentAccess Administrators post the information displayed on the "News" tab.

3. **Attendance:** In the Daily Attendance section, when users tap a date to view additional details, the absence date and absence type are included on the screen with the details. If users tap a date and there is no additional information to display, such as the absence reason or the time of the absence, the following message displays: "No additional details to show."

Assignments With the "Assignments" screen, users can view assignment and homework information for all the student's classes.

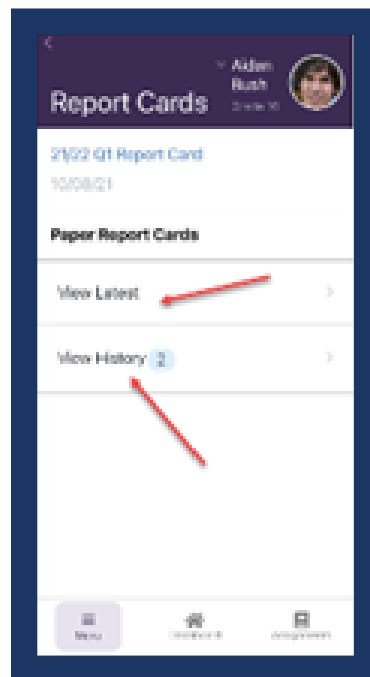
1. **Assignments" tab:** This tab lists missing and upcoming assignment information.
2. **Posted Homework:** Teachers manage the information on the "Posted Homework" tab.
3. **Calendar:** The "Calendar" tab displays all upcoming due dates for homework or assignments.

Menu If enabled by the district, Parents and/or students may view the following:



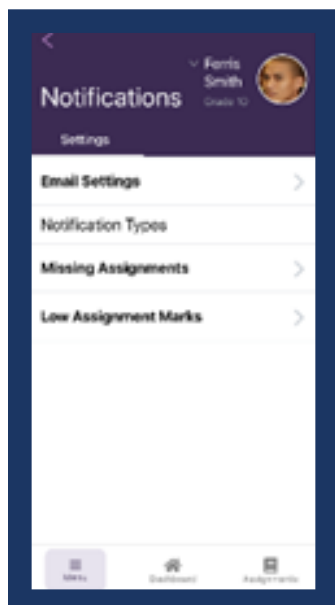
- Class Schedule
- Fees
- Transportation
- Locker Number
- Locker Combination
- Homeroom
- Counselor

Report Card- View latest and historical report cards



Notifications

- Email Settings
- Missing Assignments
- Low Assignment Marks



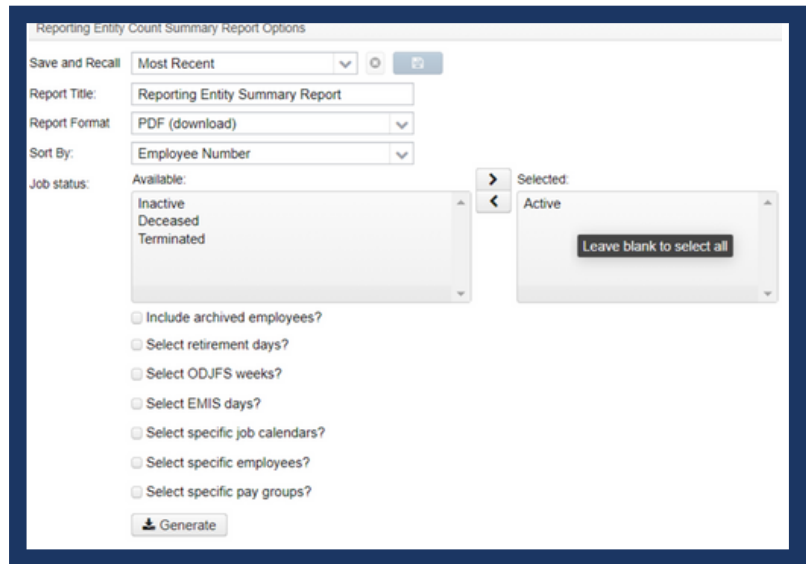
Reporting Entity Count Summary Report (RPTSUM Replacement)

CHELSEA KERR

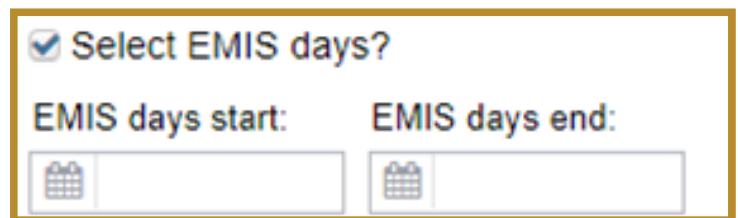
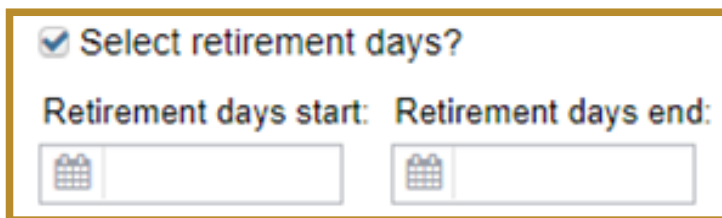
An equivalent replacement for the classic RPTSUM option has been released in USPS. The Reporting Entity Count Summary Report can be found under the Reports menu. This report will pull in attendance information for employees which can be beneficial in evaluating and verifying the reporting data for Retirement, ODJFS, and EMIS data submissions.

On the report screen, there are many selection and sorting options that give the user flexibility to generate the report for a broad range of employees and data, or for a specific group or individual.

The types of data which can be pulled into the report include service days for Retirement, ODJFS weeks, EMIS attendance and absence days, Long Term Illness days, and the Percentage of Attendance for employees by selected time periods. The teacher attendance rate is used for EMIS staff reporting as calculated by the Ohio Department of Education.



When generating the report with Retirement or EMIS days selected, the start and end dates used should reflect the payroll period beginning and end dates for the pay periods that should be included in the respective calculation of days.



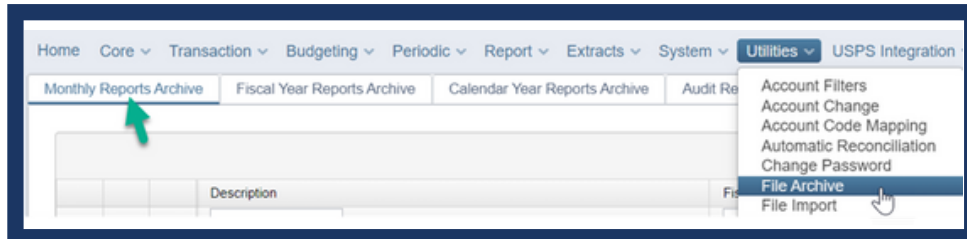
The calculation of ODJFS weeks uses the employee's job calendar to find work days and counts the total number of weeks that have at least one work day within the date range entered. This can be used to verify the number of weeks for ODJFS credit at the end of a quarter.



EXCITING UPDATES IN THE USAS FILE ARCHIVE

MICHELLE INGERSOL

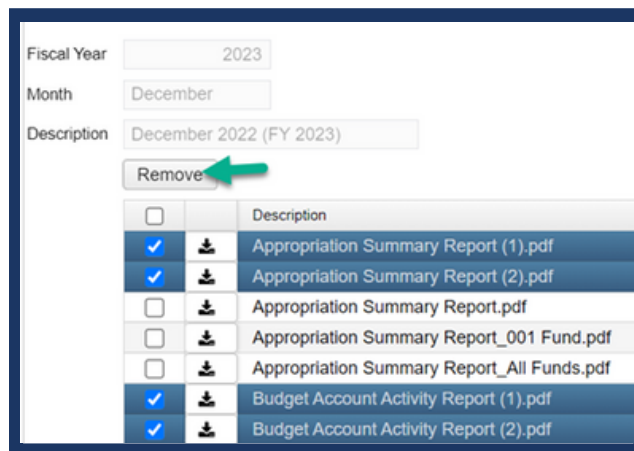
Say goodbye to all those unwanted reports!! You can now delete individual reports from your file archive. All you need to do is navigate to Utilities > File Archive and select your desired Reporting tab:



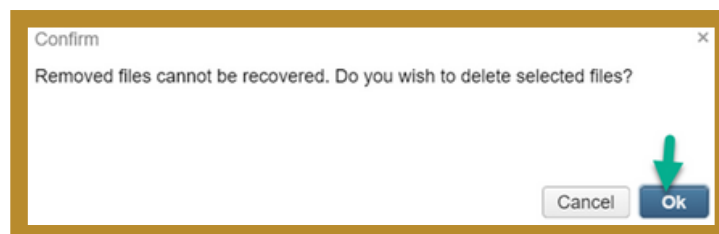
Under the Description Column, left click one time on your desired file:

Description	Fiscal Year
February 2023 (FY 2023)	2023
January 2023 (FY 2023)	2023
December 2022 (FY 2023)	2023

All reports in the file chosen will pop up on the right-hand side of the screen. Here you will notice the new button. Checkmark all individual reports you would like removed and click as seen below:

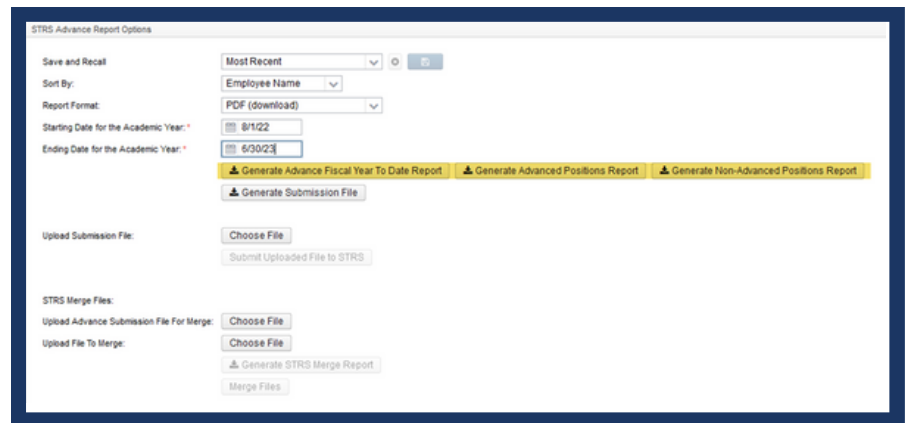
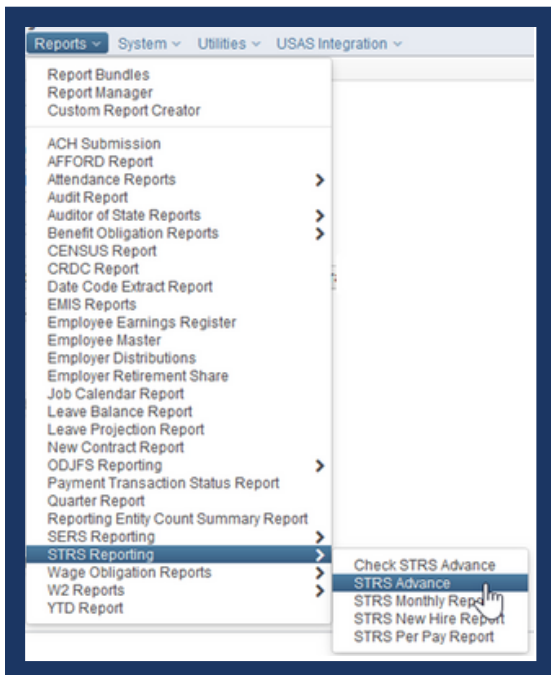


With the confirmation pop up confirmed, those unwanted reports are gone!!



STRS Advance

The time has come to start running STRS Advance and verifying your reports for FY23. There are three different reports that you need to run.



1. Advance Fiscal Year to Date Report
 - a. Generates a report that will provide a complete list of all employees that will be reported for this Fiscal Year.
 - b. Also provides a list of Errors and Warnings
2. Advanced Positions Report
 - a. Generates a report of all STRS staff that will complete their workdays by June 30th of the Fiscal Year
 - b. You will want to confirm that all employees on this list will complete their days by June 30th and still get paid through the summer. Anyone who receives their last pay before July 1st should not be on the Advance Report.
3. Non-Advanced Positions Report
 - a. Generates a report of all STRS staff that will not complete their workdays by June 30th of the Fiscal Year.
 - b. You must confirm that all employees on this list will complete their days after June 30th. You must fix the employee before running the tape file if they complete their workdays by June 30th.
4. Submission File must be created after your final payment in June and before your first pay in July. We highly suggest you rerun all reports after your last payment in June to ensure you don't have any errors or warnings. And reverify that everyone is on the report they should be on.

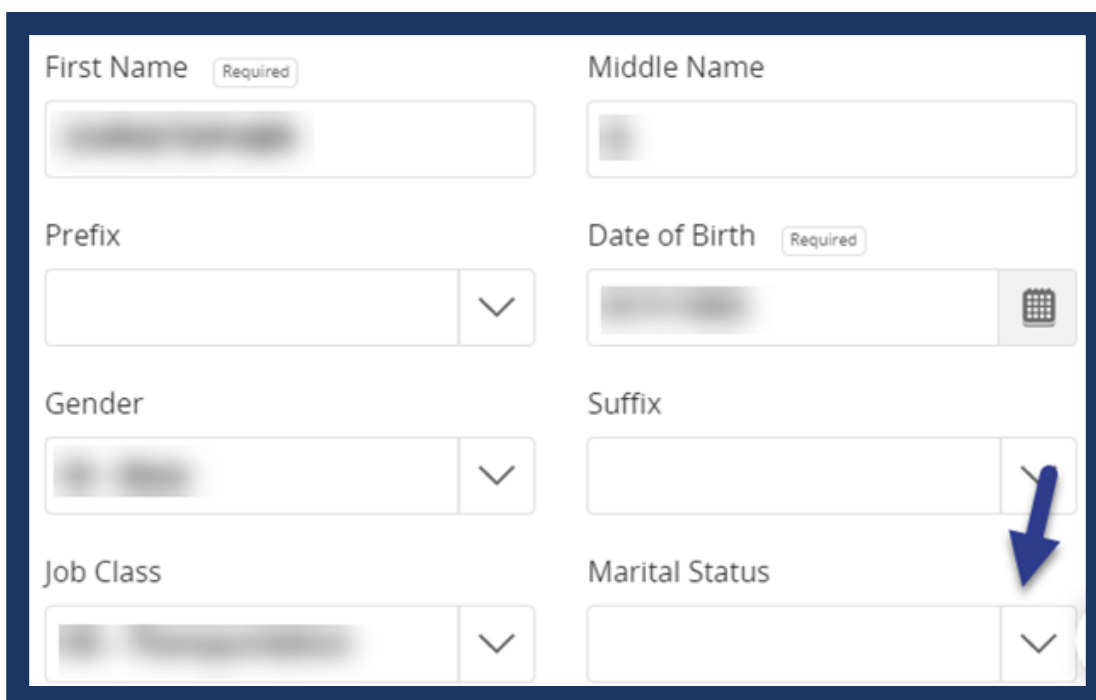
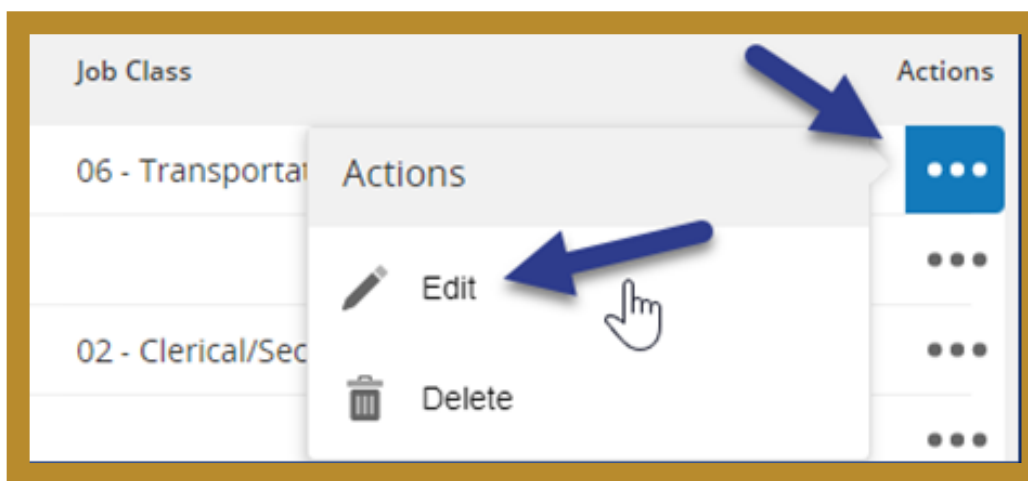
You will want to run these three reports and fix errors and warnings. Please reach out with questions to fiscalhelp@neonet.org.

eFinancePlus (eFP) eSERS Enrollment – Marital Status

SUSANNE SEARL

Under the eSERS Enrollment Report the marital status of employees will be pulled from the Federal Marital Status listed under [Human Resources > Entry & Processing > Employee Information > Payroll Information > Taxes.](#)

If an employee's marital status differs from their federal tax marital status, you may rectify this by accessing the [Human Resources > State > eSERS Enrollment](#), locating the employee in question, and clicking on the ellipsis icon to make the necessary changes to their marital status.



A screenshot of an employee profile form. The form contains several fields: 'First Name' (Required), 'Middle Name', 'Prefix', 'Date of Birth' (Required), 'Gender', 'Suffix', 'Job Class', and 'Marital Status'. Each field is a dropdown menu. A blue arrow points to the 'Marital Status' dropdown menu.