



MASS UPDATING THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE FIELD

Purpose: Administration – Instructions on mass updating the primary language field with new primary language codes.

As many of you are already aware, reporting of the Student’s Primary Language in Project EASIER this year (2009) will utilize a new 3-Character code in place of the 4-Digit number used in the past.

This change DOES require you to change the values in your student records on PowerSchool. The OLD values will remain in your records until updated to the NEW values.

As a point of reference – here are a few of the more common codes

Refer to Iowa Dept of Ed.
EASIER
Document: Addendum C:
language Codes ISO 639.2 for
all codes.

NEW CODE	LANGUAGE	OLD CODE
eng	English	1290
spa	Spanish	4260
fre	French	1440
vie	Vietnamese	4800

USING THE NEW DATA FIELD MAPPING FEATURE TO UPDATE VALUES

PowerSchool introduced a new feature in 6.0, called Data Field Mapping. **It is a feature that should be used with caution – but can be a very helpful tool in cases such as this, where you wish to change a value in an existing field.**

To access Data Field Mapping: (This can be done at the School or District Level)

From the Start Page:

1. Click on the **Reports** link on the left
2. Click on the **State** Tab on the reports Menu
3. Click on **Data Field Mapping**

You will now need to complete the Data Field Mapping form. This is where it is best to exercise caution!



You must define:

1. **Table Name (in this case Students)**

2. **The Field Name (in this case primarylanguage)**

3. **The Old Value (for my example we will use 4260 which was Spanish)**

4. **The New Value (for Spanish it is spa)**

5. **For the Commit Changes option choose, No, see Trail Run**

- i. (You have two options here – the first allows you to view the number of records that will be changed. This is a nice feature as while it sort of doubles the work involved, it also prevents you from mistakenly updating tons of students with the wrong information).

6. Click **Submit**

Report Name Data Field Mapping
Version 1.0
Description This report is used to map data within a field when the options for the field have changed. Please enter the name of the table and field followed by comma delimited lists of the old and new data value mappings. For example, entering an old value list of "1,2,3" and a new value list of "A,B,C" will change the value in the field and table specified from "1" to "A", "2" to "B" and "3" to "C" for all matching records. All values will be treated as text, so "01/01/2001" will not match "1/1/2001".
Comments

Data to be filled (Check checkbox on the right to save as default value) **Reset All** ▾

Name of Table	Students	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Field	primarylanguage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old Values (comma-delimited list)*	4260	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Values (comma-delimited list)*	spa	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commit Changes?	No, See a Trial Run	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submit

Once you click Submit, this procedure takes on the characteristics of a Report. You will be taken to the Report Queue just as if you were running mail labels. You continue to hit refresh until the report is completed and has View listed to the right of the listing.

When completed – click **View** and you will see a report similar to the one below. **Please make sure the record count is within reason of what you were expecting!**



Data Field Mapping

Date and Time: 9/10/2009 06:51:06
Changes Committed To Database: YES

[Students]primarylanguage		
Old Value	New Value	Number of Records
4260	spa	71



Once you have established **what you believe to be the right amount of students** in the Number of Records field– simply run the report again and select the 2nd option which says –

Write changes to the database.

Commit
Changes?

Yes, Write Changes to the Database

NOTE: While this is a very powerful feature, we would recommend running it during off peak times. It is not an instant change and I believe in the middle of the day, may put a strain on the resources.