

NEWS RELEASE

Pearson Centerpoint Now Features Scheduling Optimizer

Web-Based Tool Allows Schools to Reduce Scheduling Conflicts

MESA, Ariz. – March 29, 2006 – Schools using Pearson Centerpoint will now be able to quickly and accurately schedule middle or high school students using the student information system's new Scheduling Optimizer technology from Tabby Software. As a result, fewer students will show up in the office on the first day of a semester with schedules that include two classes in the same time slot or classes that aren't appropriate for their learning needs. Time that educators previously spent dealing with numerous scheduling conflicts can now be devoted to teaching and learning.

The Scheduling Optimizer is a fully featured student scheduling loader program. It performs the task of assigning students to classes based on course requests, a given master schedule and specified scheduling rules. The Optimizer generates an interrelated set of simulation reports, which can conveniently be viewed in a browser.

The result: fewer scheduling conflicts. For example, a school of 1,000 with a near-final master schedule may see the number of students accurately scheduled go from 75 percent to 85 percent. This translates to a reduction in the number of conflicts from 250 students with standard Schedule Pro alone to 150 students with the Scheduling Optimizer optimization, a 40-percent reduction.

“Enhanced scheduling capability is the number-one request from our Centerpoint customers,” said Mike Evans, president, Pearson School Systems. “Now, with the power of the Scheduling Optimizer, they will be able to efficiently manage student schedules and spend more time on critical instructional activities.”

Tabby Software's Scheduling Optimizer functionality debuted with the launch of Centerpoint 6.5 on March 3, 2006. Customers will pay no additional license or support fee for this new capability.

About Pearson School Systems

Pearson School Systems (PSS) is changing the face of K-12 student performance and information management through its offering of tightly integrated, mission-critical district enterprise solutions. Through its innovative digital solutions, PSS is dedicated to helping schools perform and students succeed. Its all-encompassing product lineup includes SASI, the widely acclaimed, comprehensive student information system; Pearson Centerpoint, the multi-platform, Web-based student information and performance management system; CIMS®, the comprehensive finance, human resources and student information system; Pearson Inform, the achievement data analysis and decision support tool; and Pearson Benchmark, the customizable, Web-based district benchmark testing solution. PSS is a business unit of Pearson Education, the world's leading integrated education company, which in turn is part of Pearson (NYSE: PSO), the international media company. For more information, visit:

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