

# New Features in PowerTeacher 2.5

PowerTeacher 2.5 provides a variety of integrated attendance capabilities, along with other highly requested features by teachers and administrators.

New features include:

- Seating chart attendance and layout
- Full class multi-day attendance grid
- Improvements for entering single day attendance
- Quick attendance access from the gradebook
- Improvements to Comment Bank filtering, searching, and Smart Text support.

PowerTeacher enables true standards-based grading, and is endorsed by grading expert Ken O'Connor. For a list of the many other highly requested new features introduced prior to 2.5, refer to the [New Features](#) documents for those releases. For video demonstrations including Feature Overviews and Ken O'Connor's best practices in grading, refer to [PowerSource](#).

The following tables display a complete list of enhancements in PowerTeacher 2.5.

## Single Day Attendance

Feature	Description
Fast Attendance Code entry	Enter attendance in three convenient methods. Use the single-click quick select attendance code, type a code directly in the field, and/or use the pop-up menu and arrow keys in each field. Navigate between students using the keyboard.
Single class view of all student alerts	See all of the student alerts for the entire class in one consolidated view.
Ease-of-use improvements	Ease-of-use improvements include: attendance taking area is now closer to the student name; more contrast on the alternating row colors; and other general cosmetic enhancements.
Attendance Comments	Add Attendance Comments when entering an attendance code.

## New Multi-Day Attendance View

Feature	Description
Entire class attendance view	See attendance for the entire class in a grid-like view on one page. The Multi-Day Attendance page defaults to a 21-day range that can be adjusted to a period of time to see only the days needed.
Easy spreadsheet-like navigation	Use the arrow keys to move around the grid, or click in specific fields as needed.

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Feature	Description
Fast Attendance Code entry	Enter attendance in three convenient methods. Use the single-click quick select attendance code, type a code directly in the field, and/or use the pop-up menu and arrow keys in each field. Navigate between students using the keyboard.
View all sections meeting at the same time	Teachers with multiple sections meeting at the same time can view and take attendance for all students in all of those sections.
Office staff availability	The Multi-Day Attendance page is also available for office staff managing attendance, making it easier to handle attendance entry for entire sections at the same time.

### Seating Chart

Feature	Description
Fast Attendance Code entry	Using the single-click quick select attendance code, teachers can click anywhere on a student photo to enter attendance. Teachers can also select the pop-up menu directly on the photo and apply a different code by clicking, typing, or using the arrow keys.
Attendance Comments	Add Attendance Comments when entering an attendance code.
Random Student Selector	Allows a teacher to highlight any student at random for classroom participation (such as answering questions, special jobs, etc.).
New students available immediately	New students added to the class are immediately available for attendance, even if they have not been assigned a space on the seating chart.
Layout tools	Arrange the classroom quickly by adding rows of seats, table arrangements, and single chairs. Teacher can also see the exact placement of rows and tables before saving the layout to the seating chart.
Class seat assignment	Add students alphabetically, alternating M/F, or randomly to the seating chart with a single click. Or, drag students individually on and off the chart layout as needed.
Visual orientation tools	Orient the room visually by adding teacher's desk, white boards, doors, and text labels to any area of the seating chart layout.
Easily move multiple objects	Easily move multiple objects at the same time. Click objects to select them, and/or use the mouse to highlight everything in a given area. Objects stay selected, allowing for easy movement and refinement of the layout.

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Multiple layouts per class	Create as many layouts per class as needed.
Copy layouts from other classes	When creating a new layout, teachers can use any seating chart from any of their other classes as a starting point, including previous year's layouts.
Easy class reshuffle	Use the Clear All and Populate buttons on the seating chart to retain your exact class seat arrangement, but clear all of the students out of the seats and re-populate to rebalance or reshuffle the seat assignments.
Blank layout jumpstart	When starting with a blank layout, teachers can get started immediately by prepopulating all of the students onto the layout, and then adjusting the layout as needed.
Student seat swap	Select two students to access the seat swapping option.
New students available immediately	New students added to the class are immediately available for attendance, even if they have not been assigned a space on the seating chart.
View all sections meeting at the same time	Teachers with multiple sections meeting at the same time can view and take attendance for all students in all of those sections.
Seating chart for substitutes	Substitute teachers have access to take attendance on the seating charts in the PowerSchool Substitute portal. If the teacher has created no seating chart layouts, substitutes are able to access a prepopulated alphabetical layout to enter seating chart attendance.

### Gradebook Attendance and Comment Features

Feature	Description
Hide/Show Attendance Totals columns	Teacher preference to hide or show the absences and tardies totals columns in the gradebook.
Quick access to Attendance	PowerTeacher Gradebook now provides a new Attendance menu in the toolbar, to quickly launch any of the attendance views. In addition, a new Attendance icon provides access to the various attendance options. The Attendance icon itself has a quick launch area that takes teachers immediately to single day attendance from anywhere in the gradebook. Short-cut keys are also available to launch the various attendance views.
Smart Text for student comments	Teachers can create personal comment bank entries that include Smart Text. Examples include He/She, His/Her, student name, and other items that will fill in the appropriate pronoun or other data element right into the comment. Administrators can also use Smart Text to create entries in the



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Feature	Description
	district comment bank.
Comment Bank filtering	Enhanced filtering of Comment Bank entries.
Comment Bank Favorites	Teachers can now mark specific District comments as favorites. This feature allows teachers to create a much smaller subset of comments that they use all the time, rather than scrolling through a long list of District comments.