
Release Notes

The following release notes describe modifications, enhancements, user interface changes, and bug fixes for eSembler, sorted in descending order by release date. Note that the first number in the version identification number indicates a major version upgrade (e.g. the "4" of 4.03.1). The second set of digits represents an indicator of a minor version upgrade (e.g. the "03" of 4.03.1). The third set of digits indicates a patch set (e.g. the "1" of 4.03.1). For more information on the methodology behind eSembler's release scheduling, please reference the document titled *Implementation Information*. Only those features that are completed are listed here. There are typically other features in development for the upcoming or current release that may not be listed here.

8.00.0 – TBD

1. [ASSIGNMENTS] Basic Mode & Advanced Mode: eSembler has been modified to include a button labeled Advanced Mode which is located next to the Preferences button. When this button is selected, the Add / Edit Assignment tool is modified to show all advanced assignment creation options including Questions, Default Score, Scoring Method, Retake Rule, Max Retake Score, Description, Standards, Attachments, Lesson Plans, and URL. From the Advanced Mode screen, the button name changes to Basic View. When selected, the Add Assignment tool returns to its default setting. The Preferences in the Basic Mode and the Advanced Mode operate independent of each other. In other words, users can create their own unique Preference options within both the Basic Mode and Advanced Mode and in either screen, select any or all available Preference options.
2. [ADMIN - TEMPLATES - SPECIAL GRADES] Hide Special Grades: eSembler's Special Grades template has been modified to add a Display Assignment option that when set to No, assignments associated with that Special Grade will not appear on the Summary report.
3. [ADMIN - TEMPLATES - SPECIAL GRADES] New Settings for Special Grades: eSembler's Special Grades template has been modified to include the following settings for each grade type: Neutral, Missing, Incomplete, and Exempt. The default Incomplete, Missing, and Exempt special grades are marked Incomplete, Missing, and Exempt respectively. These settings are used to determine if Notifications should be sent when certain Special Grade scores are present. For example, if a special grade is marked Missing (regardless of its label or value), when a user selects Missing on the Notifications tool, when that special grade value is present, a notification will be sent for that assignment.

4. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE (BY STUDENT)] Display Student ID: eSembler has been modified to display the student ID in parenthesis after the student name on the Attendance (By Student) tool.
5. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE (DATE)] Grade Level Preference: eSembler has been modified so that the Attendance (Date) and Attendance (Group) tools now feature a Grade Level filter within the Preferences tool.
6. [ASSIGNMENTS] 0 Point Assignments: eSembler has been modified to allow users to create an assignment with 0 points possible. When a 0 points possible assignment exists, the warning for exceeding the maximum grade threshold is disabled for that assignment. When a 0 point assignment is created, any scores entered for the assignment are not considered when computing student averages.
7. [ASSIGNMENTS] Add URL: eSembler has been modified to include a new tool that allows users to associate one or more web sites with any assignment. Teachers may enter a Title and a URL. The form is intelligent and will automatically modify the entry if "http://" is not included in the URL. If the teacher enters "https://" then this is also allowed. If a title is not provided, then the URL itself is displayed on all tools and reports. One or more URLs can be associated with any assignment. The URLs associated with an assignment are presented on the Add Assignment tool and on the Summary report assignment description with presents the URL information in the following format: "Please review these sites: <NAME or URL>; <NAME or URL>."
8. [ASSIGNMENTS] Assignment Types: eSembler has been modified to include a new feature in the Add / Edit Assignments tool called Assignment Types. This drop down selection tool appears above the Categories drop down and offers the following options: Standard, Final Exam, Extra Credit (Assignment), Extra Credit (Final Exam), and Extra Credit (Grading Period). The Standard option is selected by default. In the case of the Final Exam options, the actual name of the final exam grading period is displayed. In the case of the Grading Period option, the name of the grading period is displayed. When Final Exam is selected, the options available in the Categories selection automatically change to display the appropriate Final Exam categories. In cases where only a single Final Exam category exists, then that category is automatically selected. When the Extra Credit (Grading Period) or Extra Credit (Final Exam) option is selected, the Category selection option is disabled. For these Extra Credit (Grading Period) and Extra Credit (Final Exam) assignments, no category related information is displayed on eSembler tools or reports displaying the assignment information. The functionality of the Extra Credit (Assignment) option works just like the former Extra Credit Only checkbox; that Extra Credit Only checkbox has now been removed.

9. [ASSIGNMENTS] Automatic Grouping: eSembler has been modified so that when a teacher uses the Add Assignment tool to initially create an assignment, classes with the same course number are automatically pre-selected in the Copy to Classes area. This option is controlled by a new Preferences option labeled "Automatic Grouping" which is on by default.
10. [ASSIGNMENTS] Default Score: eSembler has been modified to include a Default Score option in the Add / Edit Assignment tool. When a score is entered in this field, all students are automatically awarded the Default Score upon assignment creation. This new feature appears to the right of the Points Possible option. In cases where a default score is applied to an assignment and later replaced with a Retake, Override, or Special Grade score, the following legend will be displayed on the struck out Default Score on the Summary report: "This Default Score was awarded to all students upon assignment creation. This Default Score does not reflect the actual score earned by this student on this assignment." All students are awarded the Default Score if they were active in the class on the assignment due date (i.e. were not Withdrawn). Copying the default score information is not automatic when using the Copy Grades or Copy Assignments tools.
11. [ASSIGNMENTS] Fractional Multiplier: eSembler has been modified to allow teachers to set a fractional multiplier for assignments. Within the Add / Edit Assignment tool, under the Multiplier option, the drop down list has been replaced by a text box allowing teachers to set any whole number or fractional multipliers including 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20, etc. The default value for this field is 1. The maximum multiplier is still restricted by the appropriate administrative template.
12. [ASSIGNMENTS] Highlight Row Upon Selection: eSembler has been modified so that when a checkbox in the Copy to Classes section is checked, the row background is highlighted with the same color from Grade All row/column selections. The current class is always highlighted by default.
13. [ASSIGNMENTS] Interface Changes: eSembler has been modified to accommodate several small interface changes within the Add / Edit Assignment tool. 1) The Due Date and Assigned Date text area borders have been styled to match the border style seen on the Name text box. 2) The height of all text boxes on this screen have been modified to match the height of the drop-down lists on this screen. 3) The padding in front of the blue table boxes containing Questions, Multiplier, Extra Credit Only, and Private has been modified to match the padding in front of other text areas including the Due Date, Category, Name, and Points Possible. 4) The Lesson Plans drop-down list styling has been changed to match the styling for the Categories drop-down list. 5) The styling of the check boxes has been modified to include a thin border like the one seen on text boxes

- on this tool. It is understood that some of these formatting changes may not be visible on some browsers (including Internet Explorer).
14. [ASSIGNMENTS] Maximum Retake Modification: eSembler has been modified so that the Maximum Retake option functionally has been changed so that value entered represents the maximum score rather than a maximum percentage. The option has been renamed to "Max Retake Score" and the percentage symbol has been removed. A district setting of "Max Retake Value" is now available. The options are "Percentage" or "Score." Score is the default value.
 15. [ASSIGNMENTS] Numbering: eSembler has been modified with several interface changes to the Assignments screen. First, the due date for the assignments has been shortened to MM/DD instead of MM/DD/YYYY. The width of the Due column has been shortened accordingly. Also, an additional column has been added labeled "#" which displays the number of the assignment (right justified). This numeric value matches the numbers on Grade All and the Spreadsheet report based on the default sorting method set for those three screens. The Numbering option has been added as a display preference and is set to on by default.
 16. [ASSIGNMENTS] Retake Rule Selection Change: eSembler has been modified so that the retake rule selection options have been moved to a drop down list and renamed for clarity. The label for this option has been changed to "Retake Rule" and the new renamed options include: Highest Score, Average All Scores, and Average of Two Highest Scores.
 17. [ASSIGNMENTS] Scores Entered: eSembler has been modified so that the Assignments screen displays a new column labeled Scores. This column will display the total number of assignment scores that have been entered for each assignment allowing the teacher to quickly ascertain which assignments are graded, not graded, or partially graded.
 18. [ASSIGNMENTS] Total Points Default Setting Via Preferences: eSembler has been modified to include a new Preferences option in the Add / Edit Assignment tool. The new Preferences option allows teachers to define their default value for Total Points via a drop down list with values ranging from 0 to 200. The district defined value is selected by default.
 19. [CATEGORIES] Class Display Rules: eSembler has been modified so that the Add Category and Category tools will display class name and selections attributes in a certain manner when district templates preclude the copying of category information to other classes. When category templates disallow the copying of category information to other classes, the relevant class information is displayed but the check box is disabled and may not be selected by users.

20. [CATEGORIES] Sorting: eSembler has been modified to allow teachers to sort categories by selecting up and down arrows next to each category listing. If the sort order is not changed by a teacher, the sort order remains alphabetical. Once the sort order is changed by a teacher, new categories added are placed in alphabetical order below the existing sorted categories.
21. [CHECKLISTS] Description Length: eSembler has been modified to restrict Checklist description lengths to 3000 characters.
22. [CLASSES] Change to Student Counts: eSembler has been modified so that if a student has been added to or withdrawn from a class on the previous day, then the total number of enrolled students will be displayed in a red font.
23. [EPORTAL] Notifications Button Names & Positions: eSembler has been modified so that the Notifications buttons have been renamed "E-mail Notifications." The E-mail Notifications button has also been added to the detailed view of the student's class/assignment information (Summary report).
24. [EPORTAL] Report Card Option: eSembler has been modified so that a Report Card button has been added to the orange button bar in the ePortal interface. When this button is selected, a Print View displaying report card official and/or submitted information. Computed information is not displayed. This button is available on all ePortal screens.
25. [EPORTAL] User Interface Changes: eSembler has been modified to accommodate the following ePortal interface changes: 1) The "Your Account" button is now present on all screens / reports; 2) The "Add Student" button is now present on all screens / reports.
26. [GENERAL] Color Selections: eSembler has been modified so that color selections in the Categories and Add Lesson tools now display the actual color in addition to the name of the color in the drop down list selection.
27. [GENERAL] Locked Grading Period Warning Message Change: eSembler has been modified so that all of the Locked warning messages (when accessing locked grading periods) has been changed to the following: "You may not perform the requested action. An administrator has locked this grading period. If district grading policy allows teachers to modify information from previous grading periods, contact an administrator and request that this class be unlocked. Then access the Submit Grades tool, select the appropriate grading period via Preferences, and select the Retrieve option."
28. [GRADE ASSIGNMENT & GRADE STUDENT] Special Grades Behavior: eSembler has been modified so that grade entry related to special grades has changed. The behavior has been changed so that when a grade modifying special grade is entered in the Score or Retake columns or the check mark is selected (I for Incomplete, M for Missing, etc.), the special grade value is removed from the Score or Retake columns and automatically

- moved to the Override column. Also, when the special grade is removed from the Override column (or changed), the appropriate check box is also deselected.
29. [INTERFACE] Select / Deselect All: eSembler has been modified to include a Select / Deselect All check box option for the class and student lists on the following tools and reports: Add/Edit Assignment, Comments report, Schedules (Class) report, and the Summary report [all variants].
 30. [LESSON PLANS] Export of Standards Associations: eSembler has been modified so that the Export / Import features found in the Lesson Plans tool also accommodates the import and export of associated standards data.
 31. [NEW FEATURE] Administrative Attendance Interface Modification: eSembler's user selection interface has been modified to ensure greater ease-of-use. The user interface has been enhanced to include a Search function that can be accessed through an orange button on the header bar. The administrator may then enter a student's ID number or name whereupon a list of those students meeting that criteria is presented.
 32. [NOTIFICATIONS] Assignment Score of 0: eSembler has been modified so that the Notifications tool now includes an option to be notified when a student receives an assignment score of zero (0). This rule only applies when an actual score of 0 is entered. The rule does not apply to special grades with zero values.
 33. [NOTIFICATIONS] Exempt Assignment Scores: eSembler has been modified so that the Notifications tool now includes an option to be notified when a student receives an Exempt (special grade) assignment score.
 34. [NOTIFICATIONS] Frequency Selections: eSembler has been modified so that if a user attempts to Save or Apply and a Frequency has not been set then they will receive the following Warning message: "The notification frequency has not been set. Please select the appropriate checkbox(es) to indicate frequently you would like these notifications delivered."
 35. [NOTIFICATIONS] Graded Assignment Notification: eSembler has been modified to include a new option in the Notifications tool that provides information when a new score has been added to an assignment. The notification message states: "For the class <CLASS NAME> <PERIOD>, taught by <TEACHER>, a score of <SCORE> has been recorded for the assignment titled "<ASSIGNMENT NAME>."
 36. [NOTIFICATIONS] Incomplete Assignment Scores: eSembler has been modified so that the Notifications tool now includes an option to be notified when a student receives an Incomplete (special grade) assignment score.
 37. [NOTIFICATIONS] Interface Changes: eSembler has been modified to include the following interface changes in the Notifications tool. 1) The radio buttons have been removed and replaced with a check box that when selected, indicates that a notification

- should be received; 2) The "Report Frequency" label has been changed to "Frequency"; 3) The "Below" blue box has been reduced in width; 4) the default value in the Below drop down list has been changed to 75; 5) The None option in the Below drop down list has been removed; 6) When the check box for the Student Average option is not selected, the Below drop down option is grayed out and may not be selected; 7) The Comments options have been reformatted into two columns of similar length. The Apply to All Classes option now includes a Select / Deselect All option; 8) The Delivery Method option / row does not appear except in cases where the district has enabled Phone Notifications. 9) Unexcused Absence & Tardy options have been moved below the New Assignment option.
38. [NOTIFICATIONS] Message Changes: eSembler has been modified to increase the brevity of Notification messaging. These changes include: 1) the e-mail reply to address is now named "<DISTRICT>" with the Reply To address still set to the district e-mail address; 2) the subject line is now "Gradebook: <STUDENT FIRST NAME> <STUDENT LAST NAME>"; 4) the period (.) punctuation has been removed from the subject line; 5) all appearances of the text "For the class <CLASS> <PERIOD>" have been changed to "For <CLASS> <PERIOD>"; 6) the year has been removed from all dates presented in notifications – specifically assignment due dates; 7) in all cases where a teacher name is presented, the name format is now changed to first initial and last name only – the full first name is no longer presented; 8) the format of <PERIOD> has been changed so that the "Period" label is removed and only the period number/letter is presented in parenthesis [e.g. <CLASS> (02)].
39. [NOTIFICATIONS] SMS Text Messaging: eSembler has been modified to include a new Notifications delivery option titled SMS Text Messaging. When this option selected, a data entry element appears below the SMS Text Messaging check box which prompts the user to enter a mobile phone number (3 text fields) and their carrier (drop down list). When this option is selected, eSembler will deliver multiple text messages to the recipient. For all text messages, the textual information presented in the heading and footer areas is omitted to increase the brevity of the message. When a Notification contains more than one notification message, each individual notification message is sent as a separate text message. Messages longer than 160 characters are typically broken into two or more messages by the recipient's carrier automatically. Messages longer than 160 characters are typically treated (and billed) as separate / multiple messages.
40. [PARENT ACCESS] Attendance Totals in Red Font: eSembler has been modified so that within the Parent Access tool, when a student has reached a district-defined number of absences, then their total will be displayed in a red font.

41. [REPORTS] New Reports – Based on Attendance (Daily) Report: The Attendance (Daily) report has been split into multiple reports. The current Attendance (Daily) report has been renamed to Attendance (This Week). The following new reports were created with the only difference from the Attendance (This Week) report being the Preferences that are selected: Attendance (This Week); Attendance (All Weeks). Each of these reports have the same report heading as the report link.
42. [REPORTS – SUMMARY] Assignment Grade Trending: eSembler has been modified to include two new graphs on the Summary report. These two new graphs display assignment grade trends. The first new graph displays grade trends in a line graph for the current grading period. The second new graph displays grade trends in a spline graph for all grading periods. Hovering the cursor over the data points provides pop-up assignment information.
43. [REPORTS – SUMMARY] Bar Chart Revision & Pie Chart Addition: eSembler has been modified to update the bar chart format. As an additional enhancement, a pie chart has also been added. Both charts display assignment grade distribution.
44. [REPORTS – SUMMARY] Notifications Log: eSembler has been modified so that the Summary report now includes a table detailing the Notifications sent about specific students. The report table displays the following information: Generated On; Generated By; To; and Message. The Generated On field displays the date and time the message was generated (MM/DD, HH:MM). The Generated By field displays either "Teacher(s)" or "Parent/Student." The To: field shows the e-mail address where the Notification was sent. The e-mail address features a "mailto" hypertext link. The Message field displays a "View" hypertext link. When the hypertext link is selected, a pop-up window is displayed showing the text of the sent message. This table displays information about all notifications sent by all teachers and all users. This information only presents information about e-mails that were generated. The report is not able to display whether or not the e-mail was delivered by the mail server. This option has been added to the appropriate Summary templates and set to OFF by default for Parents/Students and ON by default for Teachers.
45. [REPORTS – SUMMARY] Retake Score Display Modification: eSembler has been modified so that if a Max Retake Score exists for an assignment and the student's retake score value exceeds that Max Retake Score, the Assignments table of the Summary report will display the student's retake score struck out with the Max Retake Score displayed as the student's score. The legend for the struck out retake score that is replaced by the Max Retake Score states: "This assignment score was recorded as ["retake #1" or "retake #2"]. This score is struck because grading policy for this assignment limits the maximum value of a retake score." For the actual Max Retake

Score, the following legend should be displayed: "This score represents the maximum retake value allowed for this assignment."

7.01.0 – TBD

1. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE (BY STUDENT)] Display Cell Information: eSembler has been modified so that the Attendance (By Student) tool shows the date and class information (as defined via Preferences) when a mouse cursor hovers over specific data and data entry cells.
2. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE (BY STUDENT)] Display Roster Preferences: eSembler has been modified to include all roster-related Preferences on the Attendance (By Student) tool.
3. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE (DATE)] Modifying All Students, All Classes: eSembler has been modified so that the Attendance (Date) and Attendance (Group) tools now allow administrators to select attendance values for All Students, All Classes. When this option is selected, the drop down lists for all visible students are set to the selected values.
4. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE] Attendance (By Group): eSembler has been modified to create a new tool that allows administrators to manage attendance overrides by Group. Upon selecting a school, group, and date, the administrator is presented with a list of all students in the group in an interface similar to the current Attendance (By Date) tool including all relevant Preferences.
5. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE] Filter by Letter Range: eSembler has been modified to include two new Preference options in the Attendance (By Date) and Attendance (By Student) tools. These two tools now allow administrators to filter by last names by letter ranges. For example, an administrator may now select a Starting Letter (ALL – A - Z) and an Ending Letter (ALL – A - Z). Students with last names that fall within that letter range only are displayed.
6. [ADMIN – ATTENDANCE] Inactive Students Preference: eSembler has been modified to include an Inactive Students Preference on the Attendance (Student) & Attendance (Date) tools. Selected by default, when this option is disabled, classes where a student is currently withdrawn are not displayed.
7. [ADMIN - EDIT USER] Delete Button: eSembler has been modified to include a Delete button in the Edit Users interface. Some users may not be deleted with this feature if data (i.e. assignments, classes, etc.) is present. In those instances, the following message is displayed: "This user cannot be deleted; data associated with the user cannot be removed from eSembler."