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Monday, December 5
Welcome, Dawn Walker ([Logout](#))

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Online Survey Creator

Exit Survey Maker | Survey Administration | MEA Survey on FOCUS - December 2011 | **Survey Results**

The survey has **496** entries.
Show all details

1. Please indicate your level.

260	52%	Elementary
103	21%	Middle
127	26%	High
1	0%	MTI
5	1%	Non-school site

2. How much time did you use DURING your duty day to enter and post grades in FOCUS to prepare for second quarter progress reports?

88	18%	None
279	57%	1 - 3 hours
83	17%	4 - 6 hours
16	3%	7 - 9 hours
21	4%	More than 10 hours

3. How much time did you use OUTSIDE your duty day to enter and post grades in FOCUS to prepare for second quarter progress reports?

68	14%	None
205	42%	1 - 3 hours
130	27%	4 - 6 hours
40	8%	7 - 9 hours
47	10%	More than 10 hours

4. Please identify any problem(s) you experienced using FOCUS to enter and post grades for progress reports.

327	23%	Spending too much time on FOCUS (at the expense of other responsibilities)
221	15%	Getting timed out
148	10%	Inability to log on
245	17%	Lost information
154	11%	Saving in gradebook
173	12%	Using backup system due to lack of trust in FOCUS
45	3%	N/A - I did not experience any problems.
121	8%	Other

If 'other' was checked, please explain. Show details

141 **28%**

- All of 1st qtr. grades kept showing up in 2nd Qtr. Eventually had to delete 1st Qtr. Grades to get proper average.
- E,S,N,U came up instead of 1 - 4. Had to reenter grades.
- It is so very slow- there are too many redundant clicks to make as you move through it
- minor problem - new student showed up and had a grade even with no grades entered.
- small things, like how many comment letters can be placed onto a students progress report before they are all kicked off....the answer is 4 (!) little things like this that are either unknown or untaught to those of us that will have to know them
- lines shifting, slow scrolling, need to be able to display one student at time
- After I had entered all my grades and comments and received the "Green Check mark" assuring me that my grades had been successfully posted, all the data I had entered totally disappeared by the end of the day!
- scrolling, scrolling is ALWAYS a problem.
- The printing process has student sheets all out of alignment, headings cut off and added to next student. We did not get trained on focus at all at our school and the system has wasted lots of paper first quarter and this quarter which we had to supply ourselves because of those funds being cut. Training on the system was lame.

- Lost...same day, and LOST...OK for several days, then LOST grades
- It is so cumbersome for ESE teachers who teach multiple grade levels with all the different course codes.
- Window ending before Wednesday work day, Rules changing in mid stream
- If you have one assignment that you want to enter in two different subjects you have to enter each grade twice. You cannot copy and paste. Cannot write in type in special comments for unique situations.
- Difficulty printing Progress Reports - have to save as PDF on desktop, and then print each report one by one, or parts cut off or transfer onto another student's report.
- The overall process of entering and posting grades takes a very long time.
- FOCUS is so inefficient that it takes much more time to do these tasks than before.
- printer repeatedly crashed due to bloated file size. no training, no help-forced to "guess, check, guess again and redo" to understand features and basic functions, such as how many screens had to be used to get progress reports out such as weighting options
- We could not edit any grades, or the progress reports, the day before they needed to go home.
- Support or response from help desk was non-existent
- Focus window was not open long enough. Why was it given to us over a holiday break? When we printed more than 1 progress report came out per page.
- if you used more than 4 comment codes none of the comments showed up
- Not printing
- *Definitely time consuming as we are grading, handwriting into paper gradebook, then entering into focus.....
- couldn't get progress reports to print in my classroom, absences and tardies were incorrect.
- It is not set up to be user friendly for ESE classrooms with multiple grade levels.
- I was not allowed to enter information to inform parents of students progress in art class.
- absences showed up in gradebook that were not marked in attendance
- Down for maintenance until 7:30 on 11/29 when I had arrived at 7 to enter grades. Server crashes.
- Waiting for the program to save before going to another student's grade.
- Kept a back up grade book not because of lack of trust, but because I had graded the papers and wanted to return them to the students and couldn't get into focus.
- I checked to see if everything was correct Tues. afternoon & only had my comment codes.Wed. morning I checked with our tech person & was told others had the same problem. The tech person stated she had e-mailed support. We do not have planning during the student day on Wed., so I couldn't check to see if she had an answer until after dismissal. After dismissal I asked the tech person who still didn't have a response. I then went to the VP & was told not to worry. I felt the problem was that I had entered my grades in the wrong column. I called tech support & that was the problem. I was told a lot of people had done this. I feel this would not have occurred had we been properly trained the first time around. This was very time consuming & frustrating.
- Grades in gradebook did not match those on final progress reports/report cards
- Printing
- I forgote to send my grades to the server to post
- I had two instances in the same class where a grade for a test lost the first number. ex/ 92% turned into 2% and 86% turned into 6%
- I have not had problems specifically with Progress Reports but throughout the FOCUS implementation.
- having to switch between browsers because program freezes and doesn't allow any more entries
- Planning takes about three hours a week so my planning periods are going towards this. I've got so many UPA's that are essay oriented that I'm having a hard time scoring and entering these. Planning time isn't sufficient to complete: lesson planning, essay scoring, and also data entry into Focus.
- The scroll bar STILL locks, eventhough I was told there was an update to fix it.
- Misinformation. Being told one thing, getting the record done and then told to go back because attendance did not show up, or they forgot to tell us exactly where something is placed, etc.
- I have double blocks - entered grades then suddenly all my grades changed! Spent much time trying to find out reason - never discovered, even with FOCUS personel.
- Other issues such as attendance, irrelevant data on progress report showing up, adding handwritten comments because comment choices were insufficient
- Needed to post grades after deadline and could not
- Focus is the ultimate time waster. It is so infuriating to stay late and type in grades only to have them lost and turned in to zeros.
- The window was not open long enough to put in comments and conduct during working hours.
- The information that was "lost" was because I apparently had too many "characters". Would have been good to know before so I didn't have to re-enter.

- Getting a new student on Monday and not having any grades for her, I was unable to post grades for her class until I "made up" a grade for her.
- kept logging me off
- The first choice "spending too much time on Focus" at the expense of my other responsibilities is over the top. I was hoping that second quarter would be easier but I am still doing double work - 1 grade papers and return to students asap - I have to write them down in my paper gradebook and then at some point enter them again into Focus! Double work!!!
- Almost all of time entering grades is done outside of "duty day"
- Comment codes didn't appear on the printed copies. The inability to add longer comments means I can't post an explanation of the grade.
- The scroll bar would not work. I am also experiencing issues with having to switch from firefox to internet explorer to do the webpage. My computer had to be replaced after telling the school many times that it had issues. I am very disappointed in the program because I cannot access grades easily and as I said when putting in grades, it does not scroll up and down and I have to either log out and back in or change a class period to make it work again.
- inability to log on to firefox and safari would not print
- As a special area teacher, I was told NOT to enter progress report grades. I have a HUGE issue with this because I want to communicate with parents regarding students' progress in my class. I'm also told that I CAN NOT send a paper progress report. The only way to notify parents of possible issues is to call them. I have over 40 students who are in danger of not meeting standards (new standards-based report card). I'm not going to have time to call that many parents. Why can't I post progress report grades????
- I am having a difficult time posting within the time frame
- I am often unable to scroll down to view or enter grades for students lower in the alphabetical order. A way around this problem is to get the cursor in a grade box and "arrow" down to the student I need to get to very frustrating AND time-consuming
- The program keeps taking out the points that I enter which causes an EC and the averages are really high. Ex. 179 % instead of 90%. This has happened twice to me and I know I put in the 100. I have to go and look for where it occurred and change it again.
- Too many steps to complete an operation that Pinnacle could do in less steps
- Not enough training so I needed to do a lot of trial and error. Training classes I had did not allow me to actually work with the system because the system was down at the time. Not enough time provided for me to practice on the system before i was required to use it.
- Scroll Bar sticks and I am not able to move up or down on the screen.
- The glitches in the program make its use very difficult and unpleasant, adding to my already considerable stress. As well, the odd insistence on a "window" for posting grades is unacceptable. I see no reason grades should not be updated every day up until printing, as it is a progress report.
- many alerts to post reports for classes I have not had during this quarter
- No clear directions given
- TOO RIGID - NOT USER FRIENDLY-HAVE TO SCROLL THROUGH ASSIGNMENTS
- Input grades of "0" were deleted from past saved sessions.
- No computer at home! So it has to get done at school even if I have to come in on a Saturday or stay late into the evening. As a veteran teacher who piloted the very first gradebook program years ago, I can easily say this is the worst program we have ever used. Whomever chose to not-pilot and put all this stress on us this year should be fired- what a bad decision!
- PreK teacher. Do not use FOCUS for grades
- screen will not always display properly...had trouble viewing all students in a class
- Scroll Bar freezes and I can't scroll down to enter grades. Takes A LOT of time.
- couldn't scroll down to add grades; have to go to "home" and click gradebk again - time-consuming; lets you scroll down but not back up
- names and grade lines shifting while entering grades
- I can't seem to print the grades for each class. Part of of print but not all assignments.
- inability to move around within program; inability to view full page of data
- unable to do things I used to do easily in Pinnacle like print out students' assignment reports WITH the total %
- calculation of averages was inaccurate when using points and percents
- Incomplete information printed after it was entered correctly. Missing information.
- Progress Reports won't print properly
- Tried to get on outside of duty day and FOCUS was down for maintenance;
- The program is ridiculously slow. Everything I have to do on Focus takes 3x as long.
- not able to post grades that should have been pre-populated
- I am an ESE teacher there are many issues with grading in FOCUS that are far more complex than the regular class and require significantly more time.
- Not user friendly. I'm having to spend time figuring out how to do things. Anxious about time constraints of posting and printing.
- Did not know where to put whatever we were supposed to put in "Homeroom" section. They only told us this after most of us had printed our reports.

- PE and other specials have a new scale 1, 2, 3, and 4. We have not been given any training or idea what would constitute each level. Example 3 is at grade level what would that mean especially when I only see classes about 5-6 times a quarter. Before we had S N and U etc. which made more sense for our type of classes.
- 1. Not being able to enter citizenship/comments ahead of time
- Only allow 10 names at a certain time, then have to log out and back in to scroll down on other students. Also would not allow me to go back to double check at 7:00 Wednesday.
- I support teachers using FOCUS and have found there to be less problems with posting grades this time over the last time.
- the format is not friendly to view and therefore I am always having to check that the grades are in the correct boxes, when entering grades the page moves so I can't see all of my students on one page, I sometimes have to go to another class period, then back to the period that I was entering, to get all of the students to show
- The time it takes to switch between class periods is ridiculously long.
- Written comments are not shown. This is important.
- My comments did themselves and I had to go back and delete.
- Unable to contact ALL parents to tell them WE had problems.
- Comments kept messing up in fact they did themselves for each child, and I had to go back and change each one.
- print correctly when we only get to make so many copies
- Saving posted grades properly and then having it say I hadn't posted.
- correcting grades when mis-recorded...it is an unbelievable pain!
- The horrible performance of FOCUS makes me also question the credibility of our leadership in making other decisions as bad as this one.
- Not enough time was given to prepare the progress reports.
- tried at home and focus collapsed my internet service
- Problems printing.
- The system is not user friendly for ESE and losing information happened VERY often!!!
- I tried to make a hard copy of the progress report grades. In 2 areas I had more grades than would show on one screen. Even when I scrolled to those additional grades & they were showing on the screen, it would only print the first screen. I don't recall having that problem when I printed first quarter report card grades.
- Extremely user unfriendly-too many steps to take to post grads.
- Time lost having FOCUS freeze, losing connection, losing grades entered, and waiting to get back into FOCUS
- Kdg teachers have to click too many times for each student: 1 for name, 1 for each subject, 1 for comment and then all the clicks to get the report printed--count it up, I'm spending a huge amount of time on this when I could be developing meaningful lesson plans Also the comment section is inadequate.
- scrolling issues, logged off unexpectedly, spent time making "long" comments and then found that they did not print on the progress report.
- Since I am a specials teacher, I don't have to post progress report grades. However, when I had to enter grades for first quarter, I spent 4 hours entering, waiting for them to upload, and changing the names of the class files.
- I understand why it times out
- forgot directions as to how to print them
- Spent time finding out that I could not post long comments
- The program as a hole is very counter intuitive!!!!!!
- Written comments do not post.
- More training would have been nice. I feel like we are fumbling though this and that takes time!
- ESE Elementary setup
- this is a secondary program and we are trying to adapt it to elementary. not good
- this is a secondary program and we are trying to adapt it to elementary. not good
- I was not able to view my students grades when focus was down, and could not properly assess for comments until the program was working again. Also, I can only view one subject area at a time and I like to review the whole picture when I write comments on the report card.
- We are over whelmed at school with so many new programs and requirements with RTI, Lessons, Observations, etc.. that they only real time to deal with our grades is our own time. Plus focus is so slow and keeps logging you out so you have to go back in. Sometimes grades are put in and then lost.
- Was unable to post on Tuesday, the first day of posting
- It is too much,too soon, too quickly without sufficient amount of training..
- could not print progress reports from my computer
- averages were not accurate in FOCUS
- Student averages changing for no apparent reason.

- I used a backup system not because I didn't trust it, but because I couldn't always get in and I had to go into other teachers classes to enter my grades. I didn't always have their passwords since we have to change them.
- I was blocked out of the system at 7:15 on the last posting day so I could not make a correction to a grade that I had entered incorrectly.
- use of my own time because the planning during the day is not sufficient
- attendance not posting, comments not posting
- Our window fell "conveniently" during Thanksgiving break, making it almost necessary to do grade entering and posting on our own time.
- could not load firefox and safari would not print
- not a teacher - but am instructional staff
- We were told that the progress reports would be printed for us and then the day of progress reports going home, we were told to print them in our rooms which was then charged against our account.
- Would not let me add data when window was supposed to be open.
- Not able to use duty time to work on FOCUS at the expense of my family I have to do it at home
- Too many steps required to post, finalize, print grades.
- Student names just disappear
- grades become unaligned and difficult to tell which grades belong to the students
- There were times I had the same student showing up twice in a subject area. Also, I used the drop-down comments and saved them, but they did not print.
- I still log my grades separately in a paper binder, then I re enter the grades into Focus. My classes still all read the same title because Focus cannot read a 3 digit number. I'm a specialist teacher.
- Would help if students were alphabetized
- Shifting of student lines as grades are being entered! Additional comments needed (e.g. Pleasure to have in class).
- User interface - names on left column don't go straight across with grades

5. Have the identified problem(s) been solved?

50	10%	Yes
140	29%	No
232	48%	Some
61	13%	N/A

6. Did any of the problems cause you not to have second quarter progress reports completed by the district's deadline?

68	14%	Yes
369	77%	No
45	9%	Not applicable - I did not experience problems.

7. Please add any additional comments you may have regarding your experience with FOCUS. Show details

259 **52%**

- I am not sure why we switch to pinnacle from focus. We traded a Ferarri in for a Yugo. I do not understand why this county buys into all these programs that do not work. I can name a few.
- It is a slow program. If it works it takes 3-5 times longer to process than Pinnacle. This takes away from other things I could be doing in my classroom.
- To much time involved, have my old computer sys. that I get my grades from anyway.
- Now I am worried about doing my report cards!!!!!!
This isn't good for my health!
- Fewer useful reports and more quirks evident.
- It's getting better all the time.
- It bewilders me that FOCUS was taken down for maintenance on Monday, Nov. 28, which was during the window for posting grades. The system is ponderous and not user-friendly. The system allows one to continue working and entering data with no warning that the system is malfunctioning. The automatic time-out function creates repetitive work by forcing a teacher to log on if the warning prompt is not noticed. Given that much of a teacher's time is in front of the classroom and not in front of the computer, that warning is missed more than 90% of the time. Why is the automatic log-off function even necessary?
- HATE IT!!!!!!
- It wastes too much time! I can have my progress reports and report cards done in a fraction of the time using the gradebook and simple electronic reports! Use the money paid for this program for needed classroom materials! Do not appreciate being expected to complete these at home!!!
- This system is subpar at best. It was hardly able to handle TEACHERS being on it and now it has to support parent usage as well. This should make for a very interesting end of second quarter. I expect many more delays and down system notifications in the future.
- a pilot program first might have eliminated many issues being faced now