



South Carolina Public Charter School District Guidance for the True Grade Field

August 2014

Purpose

- The true grade is only for students with an IEP.
- The true grade reflects the grade level standards on which the student's instruction is based or aligned.
- The true grade is important when a student's grade is not included in the school's grade range in PowerSchool. This may occur when students are served at a location for administrative reasons rather than academic reasons.

Procedures

- The true grade should be included in the student's IEP.
- The true grade should be populated in PowerSchool (see screenshot below):
 - For 2012-13, enter true grade for ALL students with an IEP.
 - For 2013-14 and beyond, enter true grade ONLY if it is different than the grade level.
- If the true grade equals 09 through 12, the student must be assigned a **9GR**.

Start Page > Student Selection > South Carolina State Information > South Carolina Additional Student Information

Instructional
Setting

SE - Special Ed - Full Yr

True Grade

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Examples

- A 7th grade student is attending an elementary (K-5) school because it is the only school in the district with the special education services the student needs.
 - Grade level = 5 (because the school's PowerSchool is only set up for K-5)
 - True grade = 7
- The True Grade reflects age-level progression on grade level standards unless the student was retained. For example, a student retained in the 7th grade will repeat standards based on or aligned to the 7th grade. In this case, the true grade will remain 7th grade for an additional year, and should be blank in PowerSchool.
- In the Charter School District, it is highly unlikely any student's true grade would be different than the actual grade. Most, if not all, of the true grade values should be blank.

Effect on Accountability

- Students should be tested based on their true grade. In the example above, the student would be expected to take the 7th grade PASS.
- There are consequences for incorrectly coding this field, including reduced participation rates or incorrect performance rates if students take the incorrect grade-level assessment, or reduced graduation rates if a high school student's 9GR conflicts with the true grade.