Eagle Software Newsletter

December 2011   **Volume 12, Issue 3**

Newsletter Links

Conference Registration

Eagle Information

Eagle Website

Regional Workshops

Holiday Greetings!

The Eagle Software staff would like to wish you a happy, peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Our office holiday schedule will be as follows:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Dec. 19 – Dec. 23	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Dec. 26 – Dec. 30	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan. 2 – 6, 2012	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open

Our office will resume normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

January/February 2012 Holidays:
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - Monday, January 16, 2012
- President's Day - Monday, February 20, 2012

Spring 2012 Users' Conference – March 12 – 13 at the Ontario Convention Center:

Don't forget to register for the **Eagle Software Users' Conference** to be held in Ontario, CA, at the Ontario Convention Center on March 12 & 13, 2012. The registration forms and materials will be mailed soon. You may also download registration materials at **Conference** after December 15, 2011. The *early registration fee* deadline is February 7, 2012. The regular registration deadline is on or before February 21, 2012. Final registration deadline is February 28, 2012 **or when capacity has been reached.** Check the registration materials for details. **Past conferences have sold out, so register early!** There will be **no walkup** registrations accepted at the Conference. Registration is not complete until you have received your confirmation.

If you are in need of overnight accommodations, a block of rooms with a group rate is available at the Doubletree Hotel Ontario, (909) 937-0900. To receive the special Eagle Software group rate, you must register with the Doubletree Hotel by February 24, 2012 and you must mention **Eagle Software** when you make your room reservation. These rooms also sell out early so don't wait!

For those who register to attend the Conference, a confirmation letter will be mailed with all the necessary details by February 24th. Early check in will be available on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel. Please check your confirmation letter for the location and time. Your registration is not complete until you receive your confirmation!

Regional Workshops:

Please check our website at **Aeries Regional Workshops** for a calendar of scheduled workshops and registration information. Workshops will be presented using a lecture format with a single computer and projection unit.

Eagle Software regional workshops are offered on a variety of topics throughout the year. Currently there are several workshops on *Student Scheduling* offered:

Student Scheduling – 2-Day Workshop

Location	Dates
Anaheim	January 18 & 19
Visalia	January 25 & 26
Ontario	February 1 & 2
Santa Rosa	February 6 & 7
Modesto	February 8 & 9
Sacramento	March 19 - 20

Please see the registration form for the specific information on the Scheduling Workshops.

Teacher/Student/Parent Web Portals:

Eagle Software is developing a new portal system for teachers, students, and parents. This new system is based on the Aeries.net code-base and will provide a more extensive and streamlined feature set for these users. More areas of the system will now be options so they may be visible to parents and teachers. Also, the teacher gradebook is being redesigned to handle BOTH elementary and secondary standards-based grade reporting. The new portal will also have full integration with Aeries Analytics and the Early Warning System, providing critical assessment and analysis information to teachers, parents, and students. It will also provide an end-to-end method for creating, printing, scanning, and scoring tests and integrating the results with standards in the gradebook. More details will be covered in the ABI What's New session at the Users Conference.

Leave Data Management to The Parents:

With the recent release of "AIR" (Aeries Internet Registration) for gathering information online for new students, and the upcoming New Aeries Parent Portal with advanced data management features for parents, Aeries can now offload a ton of data management tasks from school clerks and secretaries to parents. Data entry of new students is always an exhaustive task. AIR lets the parents do most of the data entry, leaving the school to need only verify the information. The New Aeries Parent Portal being released July 1, 2012 (earlier for current Aeries.net districts) allows parents to modify student demographics, contacts, medical conditions, and authorizations at any time during the year. This also takes care of the normal "Summer Re-Registration" of students where parents are normally required to fill out fresh emergency cards, sign various documents, and establish various authorizations. The New Aeries Parent Portal allows documents to be available to parents all year long and gathers authorizations all online. These New Aeries Parent Portal features will be detailed in the new session at the Users Conference in March: "Aeries Browser Interface – What's New in the New Parent, Student, and Teacher Portals".

Aeries Analytics™ - Bridging the Data Divide:

Aeries Analytics™, the new Testing and Assessment System from Eagle Software, is letting districts analyze data more easily than ever before. No longer do districts need to export student data and class lists to 3rd party assessment systems. Aeries Analytics™ is fully integrated with the Aeries SQL database and can analyze data ranging from test scores and attendance, to gradebook data and GPAs. And not only does the system provide powerful data analysis tools, it acts as an Early Warning System to help identify At-Risk Students at all grade levels. Student Watch Lists are integrated right into the new District Analysis Dashboard. To have your school or district added to our list of interested Aeries customers, please email **sales@aeries.com.**

AeriesCS (Client Server) Not Going Away:

Eagle Software would like to reassure our clients that as new development in Aeries.net and additional features like AIR and Aeries Analytics continue to be released, AeriesCS (Client Server) will remain a viable and fully supported option. Some customers may prefer a client server configuration, and Aeries.net customers may choose to implement a combination of Aeries.net and AeriesCS. Implementing Aeries.NET does not require discontinued use of AeriesCS. In fact a phased implementation of .NET is recommended. Both AeriesCS and Aeries.net utilize the same SQL back end database. They work quite well together, and will continue to do so moving forward.

We encourage Districts still using the Access back end database to consider switching to a SQL backend (AeriesCS and/or Aeries.NET) because many of our new features require you to be on SQL. Please remember, our hosting services are available to you as an option, and automatically include Aeries.NET. Please contact **sales@aeries.com** for more information.

ASP Data Hosting Gains Popularity:

Eagle Software is excited about the number of Aeries clients (over 50) who have already chosen the ASP hosting option for Aeries. If you prefer not to manage your database and hardware locally, consider having Eagle Software do it for you! Aeries can be configured as a fully hosted solution for private/charter schools and small to mid-sized districts that prefer not to manage these efforts locally. For more information please call Eagle Software Sales & Marketing at (888) 487-7555 or email **sales@aeries.com.**

Aeries Product Requirements:

If you would like a roadmap for how to implement all the advanced features of Aeries, the **Aeries Product Requirements** document is a great place to start. This document describes what needs to be implemented in your district in order to implement particular parts of Aeries.

Aeries System Compatibility Chart:

The Aeries System Compatibility Chart is available on our website: **System Compatibility Chart.** This chart describes the versions of Office supported, workstation operating systems, SQL versions, and server operating systems support. Please note that Eagle Software is no longer supporting the use of SQL 2000 as of August 1, 2011.

The New Aeries Online Help: http://help.aeries.com/

Recently we announced the implementation of Aeries Wiki as a new source for online help with additional support resources. As a long deserved update to our online help feature, we have established the Aeries Wiki for public use. The Aeries Wiki will be updated on a regular basis with our latest documentation and user resources. You can instruct your users to press F1 within the aeries program or share the above link to reach the wiki. Currently, the wiki consists of documentation covering the client version of Aeries (also known as traditional), the Client-Server version, ABI, AIR, and Aeries.net. We trust that you will find this a valuable tool that combines the helpfulness of the Online Help file with the functionality of a modern-day wiki. For more information please see **Wiki Overview.**

CALPADS Information:

The following changes have been implemented in Aeries for CALPADS reporting:

- Two new fields were added to the Master Schedule, Scheduling Master Schedule, and Teachers forms to accommodate the Instructional Strategy codes (INS) for Independent Study (ISI) and Distance Learning (DLI). Existing data in the Instructional Strategy code field will be converted to the new fields. The CALPADS Fall 2 extracts still support the Instructional Strategy (INS) field values of "IS" and "DL" in addition to the new Independent Student (ISI) and Distance Learning (DLI) fields.

- Staff Exit dates will now be extracted.

- The California Partnership Academy field (PGM.CPA) on the Special Programs form has been widened to 5 characters. This field is only used with the Program code (PGM.CD) of 113 – California Partnership Academy.

To prepare for the CALPADS End of Year Submissions, please refer to the documents posted on our website under the CALPADS category. The **CALPADS in Aeries.pdf** document details the Assertive Discipline form and lists the fields required for data population.

We suggest that districts check our website often for new or updated documentation, important CALPADS dates, and updates to the **CALPADS FAQ.** We also recommend districts join the **Aeries_Talk Listserv.** The Aeries_Talk Listserv is not run by Eagle Software. It is moderated by Aeries users and should not be viewed as a mechanism for contacting Eagle Software for Aeries Support.

Course Attendance (CAR) Modifications:

Course Attendance (CAR) records are now pre-populated for the entire year, therefore it is not necessary to manually update CAR at the term change. If you are using the Scheduling Cycle for midyear scheduling, when copying the results to the SEC and MST table, it will now ask for a date. When the date of the new term is entered, CAR records will be updated accordingly. Documentation is available at the following link:
Course Attendance (CAR) Modifications

Civil Rights Data Collection:

It has been announced that the 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection will be collecting data for the 2011-12 school year from all school districts. We have received the current Civil Rights Layout for Part 1 and we are currently reviewing it. Once we have determined the required changes we will begin updating the program. An INFO button is available from the Civil Rights form that will keep you updated with the latest details. There is also one new form that will also provide data for the Civil Rights Report which is the Victim and Witness form. This form will allow you to enter data that can be used for Civil Rights Part 2. The Victims tab can be used for students who have reported that they were harassed or bullied and the Witness tab can be used for a student that witnessed a student being harassed or bullied.

STAR PRE-ID:

The STAR Pre-ID has been updated according to the new 2011-12 layout. The English and Math Teacher SEID numbers are two new optional fields that can now be loaded into the PRE table. A new SEID Setup tab has been added that will allow you to select specific English and Math courses to determine the Teachers SEID numbers to be loaded which is completely optional. The R-FEP passed 3 times field will now be calculated using the CST ELA and CMA ELA test scores for three years. The Exit Date from Special Ed field will now only include dates within the valid data range from 01/01/2007 – 08/12/2012. The ASAM field is setup from the XRF but the heading has been changed for informational purposes to indicate that this field should be loaded for students enrolled less than 80 days prior to testing. The updated documentation is available at the following link: **STAR Pre-ID**

New Secure FTP Site ("Zip-it" before you "Ship-it")

We have instituted a new secure FTP site (**ftps.aeries.com**). While our previous FTP site was secure, this adds an additional layer of security for any data that is transferred. When sending large files to Eagle Software, we recommend using this site as it insures that your file transfers will be encrypted both on the server and during transmission.

It is important that all files that are transferred are in a ZIP format. Please "zip" them before trying to upload to the Secure FTP Server. We accept the following file types on our FTP server: .ZIP, .RAR, and .TGZ. Everything else is blocked and you will receive an error describing this restriction.

Regarding SQL databases, unless specifically requested to do so, **do not send us your log files**. To reduce transfer time, detach or truncate the log file prior to sending us your SQL database. In many cases, your log file is several times larger than the database itself! If you require instructions on how to truncate a SQL log, refer to this **FTP Article** on our website. On a final note, please include your District name in your 'zip' file, so that we can more easily identify the data we are receiving.

Aeries New Feature Highlights:

Please remember to check the **Major Revision Notes** and **Detailed Revision Notes** for updated information.

- **Create CASEMIS Student File Form:**
  The Create CASEMIS Student File form has been modified to process the new December 2011 CASEMIS extract format. There were two fields that were dropped from the file layout which were the MHS Eligibility (MEL) and MHS Lang (ML). These fields will still be available on the Special Ed form but will now display with parenthesis around the field name headings as an indication that they are no longer used in CASEMIS.

- **Physical Fitness:**
  The Physical Fitness Test Results - Summary tab has been enhanced to display data from the Physical Fitness Testing (PFT) table along with the Test Status that is now based on the new pass flags in the PFT table and the Testing Pass Status (TPS) table. Enhancements have also been made to the Physical Fitness Letters that includes a new letter format along with the test status for each category based on the Physical Fitness pass flags and Testing Pass Status table.