

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS  
AND FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal for School Year 2007-2008

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) and the Federal Education Association (FEA) hereby agree to the following in implementing the “Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal” for School Year 2007-2008 in DoDDS in accordance with the attached guidance.

1. Management-directed training associated with the “Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal” initiative will be held during the duty day. If training cannot be accomplished during the duty day, the parties agree that management and the FRS will consult about the time, place and length of the training at the local level. If conducted away from the duty site, educators will be compensated for the time spent at training in accordance with established practice.
2. The method for providing training related to the “Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal” initiative will be determined at DoDEA headquarters. The FEA will be provided information about the training and other issues related to the implementation of the “Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal” initiative.
3. Upon completion of SY 07/08, the parties agree that, the FEA will be provided a summary of the feedback, including any problems identified, from the implementation of the “Gradespeed: Grade Book Web Portal”.
4. The parties agree that, if any changes are made to the process as agreed, FEA will be notified and may then request additional bargaining on modifications.
5. In attempting to resolve any disputes that arise, the parties agree to make every effort to resolve such disputes at the organizational level where they arise prior to forwarding the matter to the next level.
6. FEA will be given the opportunity to designate a representative on committees, task forces, work groups, etc. that involves bargaining unit members in accordance with currently established practices. It is understood that this representation does not constitute bargaining.



Lenoir Graham  
Human Resources Director, DoDEA  
June 25, 2007



Sheridan R. Pearce  
FEA President  
June 25, 2007

## Priority Union Issues

**Topic: GradeSpeed: Grade Book/Web Portal for School Year 2007-2008**

**Date Decision Needed:** 1 July 2007

**Background:** With the adoption of the new Student Information System ((SIS) Chancery SMS) two years ago, it has been determined that the teacher grade book included with the product does not meet the needs of DoDEA teachers. In addition, there was a loss of functionality from the previous teacher grade book. There is no communication facility in the grade book to allow communications between the teacher and the parent.

**Purpose:** A different teacher electronic grade book is being tested for use throughout DoDEA. The test implementation is a phased approach. The test product includes a parent communication piece through a web portal and the ability to email progress reports to parents. This product would better meet the needs of the teachers, schools and communities.

**Process:**

DoDEA-HQ has procured a replacement electronic grade book and parent portal product that best meets identified school needs. During SY 2007-08 teachers may volunteer to participate in a test of the product. Teachers can volunteer anytime during the school year at the beginning of each quarter.

Teachers who volunteer will have secure access to the product using an Internet web browser. They will use the grade book portion of the product to enter assignments and grades and maintain grade calculations. The teacher will also be able to email progress reports to parents. The grade book database will be connected with SMS and will exchange data nightly. Although the teacher will still record attendance in SMS, attendance data will be available to them in their grade book.

The product also provides secure parent access via a portal. After logging in, parents will be able to view grade and attendance data for their children only. They will also be able to view school announcements and calendar events.

Teachers who choose not to participate in this test program will be able to use an alternate grade book. These could include SMS Gradebook, another electronic grade book, or a paper grade book. However, training/support will be provided for GradeSpeed and SMS Gradebook

Upon completion of this SY 2007/08 implementation, an evaluation process will be conducted and findings shared. Implementation of this component is pending the results of the test in SY 2007-2008.

**Training:** Training would be required at the start of the school year for all personnel who are volunteering to use the new version of the electronic grade book and parent portal. The



training component will be 1.5 to 2 hours in length for the volunteer teachers during the orientation period at the beginning of the school year. This will allow teachers to prepare for the return of students. Training will be provided at the school level by a trained school ET.

**Materials:** Training materials will be provided by the vendor and modified for use in DoDEA.

**Scope:**

Volunteer teachers of grades 4-12 in all DoDEA schools have the opportunity to participate in this testing phase (SY 2007-2008).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SRP' with a flourish underneath.