

The **OnCourse Lesson Planner** has new features, within its redesigned interface that enhances its ability to effectively maintain lesson planner and teacher website content.

New Paint Job

The new Lesson Planner functions similar to previous versions; with some key improvements. The icons and colors of the interface may have undergone minor changes, but each of the text-editor buttons and drop-down menus remain unchanged.

Other New Features:

(1) Rotating Lesson Plan Page

The new Planner features the ability to rotate the Lesson Plan grid to allow the days of the week to appear across the top of the screen, while the classes appear down the left side. To try this feature, change the drop-down box above the Lesson Plan grid from either Weekly or Daily View to **Weekly Rotated View**.

(2) Default Template

Teachers can designate a “default template” that will be applied when a blank planner page is opened. Teachers simply fill the **Default Template** checkbox at the top right of the template toolbar.

(3) Class Linking through the Class Maintenance feature (Enabled by request via your sales representative. Call 1-800-899-7204 X 100 if you don't have their contact info.)

This new version of the Lesson Planner will support the identification of lesson plans with an actual class. This will dramatically enhance the ability to run relevant reports on standards taught to any specific class. It will also enhance the way that OnCourse collects and distributes homework via the OnCourse Teacher Websites and Homework Portal.

(4) Print Preview

With more options to export to Word and EXCEL, the Print Preview is more robust than ever! Now you can export in Weekly View and not just a daily view.

(5) Increased Speed

The various elements within the lesson planner have been optimized to run faster on Internet Explorer and Firefox.

(6) Newly updated Data Sets

The current Accommodations and Modifications data set has been revised to meet the newly approved Spring 2010 Louisiana Department of Education IEP form, specifically page 4. The Resources & Technology data set has been updated to include interactive whiteboards and other resources. Your district's data sets can be edited by your System Administrator to meet your specific data tracking and reporting needs.

(7) District or School-wide Templates

Templates can be distributed easily to all teachers within the district or a specific school by your System Administrator.

(8) Enhancing Standards with Power Standards & Resources (Optional for district-wide implementation)

As you create plans and link standards, you may notice some new icons in your standards library. If you see a little flag or star next to a standard, this signifies that your administrators have flagged this as an area of focus. **Power Standards** are designated for various reasons. It may be that students, as a whole, have been performing poorly on that concept. Alternatively, districts may want to identify weaknesses revealed by State or Benchmark assessment tests. The use of Power Standards is strictly up to your school or district administrators. Individual schools can simultaneously maintain their own power set to stand alone or compliment the district's set.

Another icon that you may see in the standards library is the **Resource icon**, which will appear as a file/page next to one of the standards. If your school or district is using the *Curriculum Portal*, this icon alerts users that someone has uploaded a resource that relates to a specific standard that you plan to teach. This resource can be any digital file such as a word document, video, web link, or picture. Once you've determined that resources are available for a particular standard, click the icon to open a list of associated files and then double-click the specific file to access it.

(9) Dashboard for teachers and administrators

Upon logging in, the Home tab presents a dashboard of menus and widgets for customization. This content can be edited to provide users with dynamic information such as weather, To-Do lists, sticky notes, and major education industry news articles. District and school administrators enjoy using the Announcements widget to quickly inform their staff of upcoming events, awards, and other relevant information.

FUTURE UPDATE (coming soon)...Homework Portal for Parents

Parents will be able to create an account and set up profiles for their children providing access to their children's homework from all their teachers at one website with just a few clicks of the mouse. (Beta testing is now occurring in one LA district.)

