

What's New for Choices Planner?

Every year Bridges enhances Choices Planner with great new features to reflect customer requests and the latest data updates. Here are the latest enhancements designed to empower you and your students with the best possible product experience.

Winter 2008

Customize Course Plans – Found in the Site Administration section of your Professional Tools, now you can adapt the standard course plans in Choices Planner to match your school courses. Create a template and then take advantage of the copy ability that allows you to easily build multiple recommended course plans for various career clusters and pathways. You may also add graduation requirements to help your students plan accordingly.

Fall 2007

Career Cluster Functionality

- **Browse by Career Clusters** – Replacing the current career zones, Career Clusters will become the primary structure for browsing careers and programs.
- **Search Using Career Clusters** – The Career Finder in Choices Planner will continue to include a search characteristic for Career Clusters that can be combined with other factors such as education and earnings to build lists of suggested careers.
- **Cluster Finder** – The Cluster Finder will allow students to find clusters that may be appropriate for them.
- **Career Cluster and Pathway Profiles** – All references to Career Clusters and Pathways in Choices Planner will be linked to new profiles for the Cluster or Pathway. Using the same format as Choices career and post-secondary profiles, the new Career Cluster and Pathways profiles will include a description of the cluster or pathways, lists of related careers, and lists of related programs.
- **Plan High School Courses** – The High School Course Plan Builder will be enhanced to offer a Career Cluster starting point for students. Course plan templates for each Career Cluster will be offered to students for use in constructing their own personal course plan.
- **Career Clusters in Portfolios** – Students will be able to store Career Clusters and Pathways of interest in their Choices portfolios. These could be Clusters and Pathways from the results of the Cluster Finder or identified through exploration. Saved Clusters can then be used in the High School Course Plan Builder and the Career Plan Builder.

Attach Documents to Your Portfolio – Now Choices Planner users will be able to attach documents into the Your Activities section of their portfolio. Enabling easy access online anytime, anywhere, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations or any other file type up to 5MB in size can be stored in Your Portfolio -- to a maximum total capacity of 30MB. Professionals have the power to review user's attachments and delete any content deemed inappropriate.

New Professional Reports – Empowering greater insight into your students' planning progress, four new reporting functions will be added to the Reporter section of your Professional Tools. Now professionals can review and report on: Saved Colleges, Saved Programs, and Colleges Applied To.

Portfolio Names Column – Easily assist students who have forgotten their portfolio name. When browsing class lists in the Reviewer section of your Professional Tools, professionals will have the ability to quickly identify a student’s portfolio name in the new Portfolio Name column.

Forgot Your Password Retrieval – Further enhancing portfolio security, a new password retrieval process is being put into effect. Now when a student forgets their password, they can either request that it be e-mailed to the address provided in their personal portfolio or to the holder of a Professional Account, who can then provide it to them. If they choose, professionals have the ability to opt-out from being e-mailed students’ passwords.

Interest Profiler Usability – Now students can move through the 180 question assessment faster and easier than before. Without sacrificing any of the validity, the Interest Profiler has been redesigned to include only three preference options – Like, Not Sure, Dislike – removing Love and No Way from the original five options.

Upgraded Post-Secondary Database – Bridges has expanded Choices Planner’s post-secondary database to include the various campuses available at multi-site institutions. Previously the post-secondary database only displayed the main campus.

Change Schools – Making it easier for graduating classes to be moved from middle school to high school, the Change Schools feature, found in the Reviewer section of your Professional Tools, allows educators to move students to another school by using the other school’s site id and password. This tool only allows educators to move a student OUT of their school. Educators cannot import students into their school. Additionally, Professionals can also choose to move their account to a different site. Simply go to the Edit Professional Account Information link in your Professional Tools, and Change Schools.

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