Implications of Removing Students From Grading Groups

Grading Groups is an efficient way to differentiate to differentiate the assignment of course materials for student view and access within a Schoology course and to view student submissions in the Schoology gradebook.

Please refer to the entire article about Schoology Grading Group usage at the Schoology website: [How to Use Grading Groups – Schoology Support].

Due to the nature of our current school year, there are sometimes up to three different cohorts of students in a single Schoology course. Teachers have been differentiating both content and gradebook view to make communication and content differentiation clearer and more efficient.

Some questions have arisen whether there were repercussions **when moving students between established grading groups** in Schoology (A-L, M-Z, eClassroom). The **gradebook sync** between the Schoology and eSchoolPLUS gradebook is also a concern. Through some testing and confirmation with Schoology documentation, here are the following findings to date.

1. If you remove a student from a grading group, **all previous Assignments and Test/Quizzes completed while a member of the group still applies to the student's grade in the Schoology gradebook**. For example, if you are using grading groups for differentiated learning, and students move to a different group in the middle of a grading period, all Assignments and Test/Quizzes they completed from the first group still apply to their final grades and display in all grade reports in Schoology. In actuality, the item is STILL assigned to that student because they once submitted to it or received a grade for that item. The **teacher can view the grade and manipulate it for that student in Schoology, even if they are no longer in the grading group** to which it is assigned. The *student can view these previous assignments by going to the Grades area of the Schoology course*.

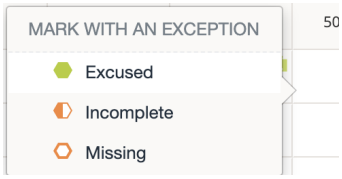
2. Unfortunately, **Discussions** and **External Tool (e.g. WeVideo Interactivity)** items that are assigned to a grading group are not functioning in the same way. Upon removal a student from the grading group, the student's scores that were earned for these items while in the former grading group are **no longer visible and nor manipulatable**. The scores are ***still on record***, but they no longer count toward the Schoology gradebook calculation. *Teachers may recover the grades by re-entering students into the grading group or re-adding them individually.*



3. Discussions and External tools that were assigned to the former grading group are **no longer available to the student**. The scores are **no longer available to the teacher in the gradebook** unless the teacher places them back in the grading group or adds them onto the assignment individually. The teacher sees grey boxes where scores had been previously. This issue has been reported to Schoology support.

4. Due to the above behavior, ***is recommended that students are not removed from grading groups when they have completed Discussion or External Tools while in that group***. If they must be removed, **teachers should assign the student individually to the item if possible**. This is not possible when the item is in a folder that was assigned to a grading group.

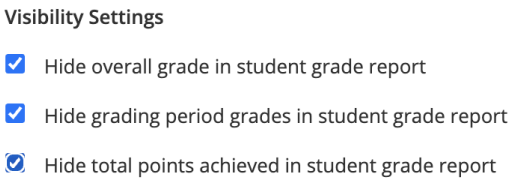
5. If the student is in more than one grading group, the teacher may exempt the student from assignments assigned to the group (assignments that occur when they are not a part of that group) from the gradebook area.



6. **Fortunately, the Schoology-eSchoolPLUS gradebook sync works normally**. Items that were previously assigned to students while in a grading group sync normally to eSchoolPLUS sync even after the student is removed from a grading group. This includes the Discussions and External tools!!

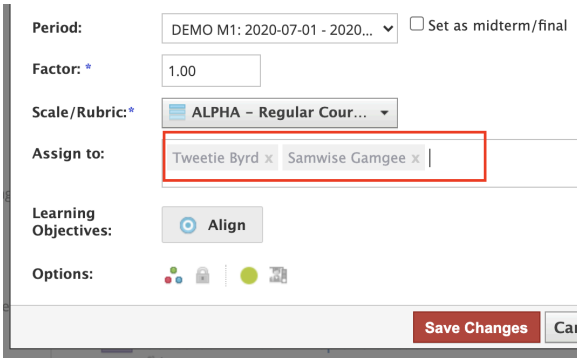
7. There are caveats when syncing to eSchoolPLUS when items are differentiated in your course. Please watch this video here to learn more about how differentiation looks in the eSchoolPLUS gradebook. Refer to this documentation about setting up the Schoology/eSchool Sync and best practices.

8. Since the student grade of record should be in eSchoolPLUS, it is highly recommended that students do not see the calculated grade in Schoology. The calculated grade can be hidden by going to Gradebook setup - Visibility Settings. Hide overall calculations in the Schoology grades area for the student. Instead, refer students to the grade in Home Access Center.



9. **GOOD NEWS:** Items ***individually assigned*** to students (not via a Grading Group but by typing in each student - see example below) for all material types function as they should. If a student receives a score for that item, but is no longer assigned to that item upon changing house teams, the scores still remain in the Schoology gradebook as they should.

Learn more about individually assigning in lieu of using grading groups.



10. You may have to reconsider how you set up your course with these factors in mind. You can leave things as they are and move forward with a new structure. Some ideas: not using grading groups to assign content, refrain from assigning a large folder to a grading group, individualizing assignments for students instead of using a grading group, etc. You may view a short video about some of the considerations **here**.