

What are the features of the enhanced system?

First, all of the existing abilities remain. Adding survey and tally details, running a variety of reports, updating school financing, grouping schools together for easier management – all of these features remain.

These features are new or have been redesigned:

- **Viewing information for any school that's already collecting data.**
People who log in can see when tallies and/or surveys have been collected for any school in our system, regardless of whether they have access to change any information about the school. This upgrade provides transparency for data collection efforts across the nation.
- **Adding pending tally/survey detail to any school in the system.**
Anyone can add pending tally/survey detail to a school once she or he has requested access to that school. The tally/survey detail will remain pending until access is granted. If access is denied, the tally/survey detail will not be applied to the school. Pending tally/survey details will not be included in reports. This change means fewer barriers to adding tally/survey data to a school – log in, request access, begin adding data, it's that simple.
- **Grouping schools together for easier management.**
The enhanced system allows practitioners to group schools together while keeping the emphasis on the schools themselves, not the groups. Previously this ability was called "Program." We've changed the name to "School Group" to be more intuitive, and the system now focuses primarily on the schools themselves, not on the groups of schools. School groups are still required, however, even if they contain one school.
- **Tagging schools within a group.**
A school "tag" is a way of marking a school with a particular notation. Tagging schools helps to sub-group them. For example, if a group contains all the schools in the Cincinnati school district, a school tag might be "Cincinnati East" to sub-group all of Cincinnati's eastside schools. Reports can be run on schools with particular school tags.
- **Tagging data collection time periods within a school.**
A time period "tag" is a way of marking a data collection time period with a particular notation. Tagging helps with institutional knowledge: now you don't have to track down the person who knows when the sidewalk was built, you can look at the data collection time periods and see the one marked "sidewalk construction." If tallies were collected before, during, and after sidewalk construction, you can run a comparison report to find statistically significant changes in walking/bicycling before and after the sidewalk was in place. The same type of tagging can be used to evaluate encouragement and enforcement programs.
- **Adding schools from the U.S. Department of Education's database.**
The U.S. Department of Education maintains a master list of schools and addresses. This list of schools has been incorporated into our database to make it easier to add schools that are just starting to collect SRTS data.