

## Gradebook Case Study: Victoria ISD



eSembler™  
for education

gradebook software by

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With eSembler™ for Education by Premio Computer, Victoria Independent School District is reducing time and resource demands needed to acquire, process, archive, and distribute grades. Victoria is located in the transportation center of what is called the 'Golden Crescent' of Texas, and is bordered by the major cities of Houston, Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi. As a result, Victoria ISD sits at the center of a highly diverse and culturally rich area of Texas—providing premiere educational services to over 14,000 students on 23 campuses for more than 100 years. Today, the eSembler gradebook is used by all VISD teachers. And it's fully integrated with the district's Student Information System, SUNGARD® Pentamation.

## ***The Need***

One of the most frustrating problems facing Victoria ISD was related to the administrative demands of processing student grades and report cards. In past years, Victoria ISD teaches had submitted grades manually through the Pentamation interface. What Victoria ISD desired was a reliable software platform designed to make life easier for teachers by providing them a feature-rich daily gradebook that would integrate with the district Student Information System. The hope was that with the implementation of a new electronic system, Victoria ISD could reduce turnaround time for grade transmission, improve the accuracy of information sent to parents, and reclaim both administrative and teacher time that might then be used for other tasks.

## ***The Decision***

Victoria ISD began searching for a grade management system that would meet the district's pedagogical and technical goals and ultimately selected eSembler. Offered by Premio Computer, eSembler is Web-based software designed to manage grades and attendance in K-12 school districts. "We needed a solution to meet our unique needs," said Randy Williams, MIS Director for Victoria ISD. "eSembler offered us new capabilities that were not available in any other package we'd surveyed, like a wholly Web-based environment with an open database architecture and features galore. And of course it would integrate with Pentamation."

## ***Reinvention***

Victoria ISD uses Pentamation for their centralized Student Information System which manages report cards, attendance, student scheduling, and general student information. Now, daily gradebook functions are available for teachers through eSembler, facilitated by an automated integration with Pentamation using the Standard Interface. At the end of each day, Pentamation updates teacher and student information, course data, and student schedules within eSembler. These updates are reflected immediately for teachers in every school across the district.

At the end of a progress report or grading period, Victoria ISD teachers use a simple administrative application to submit their grades and related information. This information is then automatically transmitted to Pentamation for use on student report cards. "They were able to perform the integration with our Student Information System," continues Randy Williams. "Good communication between all parties helped us meet the aggressive needs of Victoria ISD."

In the past, Victoria ISD's grade submission process could take up to many hours and was sometimes prone to error. Today, the submission process takes only minutes and is error free. Additionally, elementary teachers are now able to submit their progress notices directly through eSembler—a task that was once too onerous to attempt. With the many other features and benefits made available through eSembler, Victoria's implementation has improved administrative productivity tenfold and has helped teachers by providing a system that saves time and effort while improving data accuracy.

### **Conclusion**

Ease-of-use, broad functionality, and application flexibility were the three factors that influenced the selection of eSembler by Victoria ISD. Today, the district's five primary goals are realized:

- Web-based Assignment and Grade Management
- Full Integration with Pentamation

- Remote Administration Capabilities
- Support for Parent Access
- LDAP / Active Directory Authentication

The implementation of eSembler for Victoria ISD was an unparalleled success. The Web-based gradebook system allows for extended capabilities and efficiencies never before dreamed possible.