

Periods are replaced with terms in the assessment record

Periods are replaced with terms in the assessment record (previously known as "grade book") in itslearning during 2011. This will improve the assessment record, but some things will also change. This document explains the changes and why it is changed.

What is changed?

When terms are introduced it will no longer be possible to use periods in the assessment record. Instead, the periods are replaced with the terms that are connected to the course. Terms are managed from **Administration >> Terms**. And the teacher adds terms to the course from **Course settings >> Properties >> Course terms**.

Why these changes?

There are several reasons why we discontinue the periods. Most importantly, the new system is a major improvement. Terms are now the core in the periodization of the workflow of the course – including attendance, behaviour and assessments. It's now possible to aggregate these data across courses, or for a whole school – which wasn't possible with periods that were defined on course level.

Another advantage of a term-based assessment record is that final assessments are included in the school workflow connected to visibility and approval.

The possibility for exporting data to third-party systems will also be improved with a term-based assessment record.

Consequences

What can I do now that I couldn't do before?

Now you must connect a term to the course in order to periodise the assessment record. The terms must be defined by an administrator before teachers can start adding them to courses.

When activities are added to the assessment record from the **Add to assessment record** link, the following happens (depending on whether the course is connected to a term or not):

- If a term is connected to the course the element is connected to this term.
- If no term is connected to the course a message will say "Not connected to term".

Teachers are allowed to filter data based on term. If a final assessment is defined for a term it must be used as "Final assessment" if "Final assessment" is selected in a manual column.

When terms are used:

- They become part of the school's workflow and become visible for mentor and headteacher
- You can "complete" a term
- You can set visibility policies for students, parents and third-party systems based on status
- You can export final assessments

Schools are not recommended to create long terms – for example for the whole school year. Instead, create two terms such as Autumn 2011 and Spring 2012. On sites with several schools it may be practical for administrators if the term names contain the school names. However, we recommend that schools within the same site use the same terms.