

Regional education coordinators,

Until recently, ConEdLink had the ability to log into the state's EMS Registry System (EMSRS) on a region's behalf, the same way that you do. It was therefore possible for ConEdLink to see and do everything you could see and do in EMSRS.

The PA DOH Bureau of Information Technology (BIT) has required us to change that arrangement. BIT built separate and distinct ways (called "web services") for ConEdLink to see and do just what it needs. This change seems to be working fine and should have been invisible to you.

Although ConEdLink can still ***see*** all the data it needs in EMSRS, and it can still submit class rosters to the registry for credit, BIT did not build a way for ConEdLink to make any other ***status changes*** in EMSRS. Since June of 2012, ConEdLink was giving sponsors a way to mark a class CANCELED if there were no attendees listed for that class. Under the new arrangement with BIT, ConEdLink can no longer give sponsors that option since BIT did not create a web service to support that feature. As a result, we have removed the "Mark class CANCELED" button from the sponsors' interface altogether.

Fortunately, the "Mark class CANCELED" feature was not used frequently. If the regions want that feature returned to ConEdLink, we and the regions can ask BIT to create an additional web service that will enable this feature again.

If you feel strongly that this feature should return to ConEdLink, or that ConEdLink should be able to make other specific status changes in EMSRS, let me know. I can coordinate developing a group endorsement for a feature request and I can translate the request into the technical language that BIT understands.

Thanks for your continued use of ConEdLink!

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-- Kevin Andrew Lipscomb

-- <http://kal.webhop.net>