

Instructional Data Warehouse News

September 15, 2026

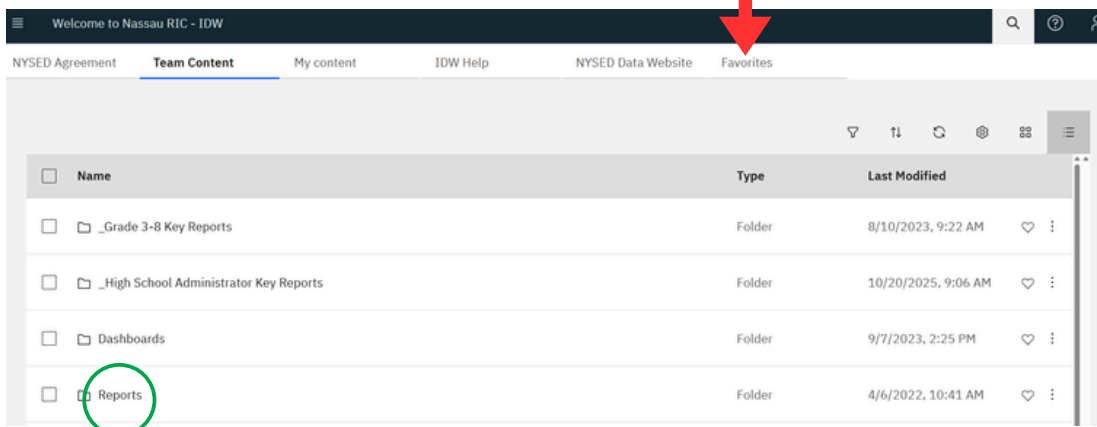
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A Great New Feature in the IDW (Instructional Data Warehouse)

*Streamlined Solutions to Make Navigation Easier
by Fred Cohen*

Every so often, the IDW must incorporate a newer version of Cognos, the IBM software that supports the IDW. Our very capable programmers take advantage of this new version to upgrade features for IDW users. One suggestion our users have made in the past is to have some way to simplify our very complete menu. We all know that, sometimes, whether in a restaurant or using software, you know exactly what you want. Other times, you seek a more exotic or specialized selection, and you need the full and very elaborate menu. The 2026-27 version of the IDW now offers both.

This has been achieved with a new “Favorites” tab as shown below. The first five tabs remain the same, but the sixth tab (red arrow) is now called “Favorites.” Note the screenshot below from our opening “Team Content” screen.



For example, many users first want to look at “Gap Reports” when exam results are first published. By clicking on the “Reports” listing above (green circle), the full menu of reports appears.

But if you include the folders that begin the list of reports, there are over 100 choices. To some, this may make the menu deliciously appetizing, making the data gourmand’s mouth water. But the meat and potatoes user just may want a quick way to find his or her favorite Gap Report without viewing the competing and perhaps confusing other reports.

Some have suggested allowing a standard symbol to mark just those reports each user prefers. As shown on page 2, the symbol we use is the heart printed at the end of each report listing. Clicking on the heart turns it black as shown here.



Upcoming IDW Events

IDW Trainings:

HS Admin: 10/7/26

**3-8 Admin 10/14/26
and 10/28/26**

**Power User
10/21/26**

**Teacher Interface
10/21/26**

**ELL Navigation
10/28/26**

**Training time is
included in each
district’s IDW
subscription.**

**To book an
in-district
training, please
call Stephanie
Witt 516-608-6623.**

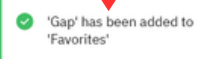
Below is a small segment of the long list of reports in the “Reports” menu. Shown is the segment where the Gap Reports are located. **Note the heart symbol at the end of each line.**



☐ Name	Type	Last Modified	
☐  Constructed Response Point Distribution - ELA and Math 2026-03-24 TF 01-27-2026 - PS	Report	3/24/2026, 2:50 PM	♡ ⋮
☐  Gap 2026-05-15 JD 2026-03-18 TF	Report	9/1/2026, 12:21 PM	♡ ⋮
☐  Gap: Multi-Year Standards TF - 03/23/26 JD - 08/27/25	Report	3/23/2026, 2:44 PM	♡ ⋮
☐  Gap: Multi-Year Standards by Teacher 4/28/26 TF 8/27/25 JD	Report	5/14/2026, 2:01 PM	♡ ⋮
☐  Gap: Multi-Year Standards Download 05/18/2026 TF 08/27/2025 JD	Report	5/18/2026, 10:16 AM	♡ ⋮
☐  Individual Student Item Analysis Report 7/7/26 JD 5/1/26 JD	Report	7/24/2026, 12:22 PM	♡ ⋮

Click on the heart symbol and the screen will change as **shown below.**

Team content / Reports





☐ Name	Type	Last Modified	
☐  Constructed Response Point Distribution - ELA and Math 2026-03-24 TF 01-27-2026 - PS	Report	3/24/2026, 2:50 PM	♡ ⋮
☐  Gap 2026-05-15 JD 2026-03-18 TF	Report	9/1/2026, 12:21 PM	♡ ⋮

Favorite

Two things will occur as the result of clicking on the heart. First, every time you log on to the IDW and search the reports menu, the darkened heart icon will appear next to any report you had chosen as a favorite. So now, as you scroll the full list, simply look for the darkened hearts, and you will quickly be able to identify your favorite reports. If you change your mind, or you discover that you identified the wrong report, just click the heart again, and the darkened heart will revert to a clear icon.

But there is an even simpler pathway to locate your favorites after you have identified them. Let's assume that, as a regular user, you want to view these reports. And, as instructed above, you have dutifully selected the heart icon at the end of the row. Assume these are the reports you chose:

- Gap
- Item Analysis
- Snapshot
- Trends Analysis
- WASA

Imagine that it's now a few months since your last visit to the IDW. You have two choices to view your favorites. Either you can scroll through the whole listing of 100 reports and look for the darkened hearts at the end of the rows or simply click the “Favorites” tab at the top of the screen.

As shown on the next page, the following will appear.

NYSED Agreement	Team Content	My content	IDW Help	NYSED Data Website	Favorites
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☐	Name	Location	Type	Last Modified	
☐	Gap 2026-05-15 3D 2026-03-18 TF	Team content > Reports	Report	9/1/2026, 12:21 PM	♥ ⋮
☐	Item Analysis 3/18/2026 TF 1/30/2026 3D	Team content > Reports	Report	3/18/2026, 3:37 PM	♥ ⋮
☐	Snapshot MH 04/10/26 PS - 01-23-2026	Team content > Reports	Report	8/26/2026, 10:52 AM	♥ ⋮
☐	Trends Analysis MH 8/10/26 MH 5/15/26 1/30/2026 3D MH	Team content > Reports	Report	8/11/2026, 2:59 PM	♥ ⋮
☐	Wrong Answer Summary Analysis (WASA) 03-26-2026 TF 08-27-2025-TF	Team content > Reports	Report	8/27/2026, 8:50 AM	♥ ⋮

Note that the “Favorites” tab is highlighted (arrow), and the user now has a simple menu to operate from. Clicking on any of the five reports will get you to the prompt page for that report. Essentially, you have removed the other hundred options from distracting you to get to your chosen reports. Of course, you can still go back to the “Team Content” tab and find the full “Reports” menu that still offer the hundred choices you might want to use in the future.

Remember that you can always add to or subtract from your “Favorites” selections. As you grow to be a more experienced user, you might say that the “Item Analysis” Report is no longer of interest to you. Just click the heart on the “Favorites” menu or on the “Team Content” menu, and the heart will disappear causing the report not to appear as a favorite the next time you log on. Your choices remain as dynamic as your tastes. Note the new “Favorites” tab result after we “de-heartened” the Item Analysis report and added the “Comparison of Graduation Rates by District Reports.

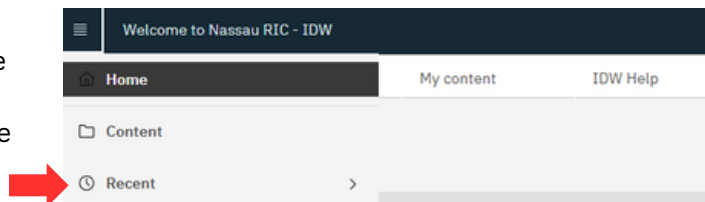
NYSED Agreement	Team Content	My content	IDW Help	NYSED Data Website	Favorites
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☐	Name	Location	Type	Last Modified	
☐	Comparison of Graduation Rates by District 2022-7-8 bym 2022-6-22 bym	Team content > Reports > District Comparison Reports > Reports based on the NYS Report Card Dat...	Report	10/17/2025, 8:11 AM	♥ ⋮
☐	Gap 2026-05-15 3D 2026-03-18 TF	Team content > Reports	Report	9/1/2026, 12:21 PM	♥ ⋮
☐	Snapshot MH 04/10/26 PS - 01-23-2026	Team content > Reports	Report	8/26/2026, 10:52 AM	♥ ⋮
☐	Trends Analysis MH 8/10/26 MH 5/15/26 1/30/2026 3D MH	Team content > Reports	Report	8/11/2026, 2:59 PM	♥ ⋮
☐	Wrong Answer Summary Analysis (WASA) 03-26-2026 TF 08-27-2025-TF	Team content > Reports	Report	8/27/2026, 8:50 AM	♥ ⋮

What is most important is that you now have an option, as a user, that you did not have before. You can use this new feature to simplify your visits to the IDW or completely ignore the feature and use the IDW, in all its complexity, as you did before. The option is yours.

And just in case you are wondering what the “Favorites” tab replaced, it was the “Recent” tab, a similar tool that listed reports you visited the last few times you were in the IDW—including those reports you might have visited mistakenly. But just in case you want to use the “Recent” tool, simply click on the wavy lines to the left of the “Welcome to Nassau RIC - IDW” icon shown here. 

This pop-up box will appear and allow you to see recent selections from your previous visits to the IDW. This is a rare instance (continuing the menu metaphor) where you actually can have your cake and eat it too.



As always, IDW personnel are available to provide telephone assistance as well as virtual and in-district training for any district seeking to learn more about this newsletter, or about other best data practices. To schedule a training session or ask any IDW-related questions, please call Stephanie Witt at (516) 608-6623, Fred Cohen at (516) 608-6640, Barbara Dwyer at (516) 608-6695, or Dr. Wanda Toledo at (516) 608-6648.

**What's
New in the
IDW?**

Remember these new features:

- Check out the new “Favorites” tab as featured in this issue.
- This is the ideal time to use the IDW to review results from all Grade 3 through 8 assessments and the June Regents exams as well.
- The full suite of reports are available for all 2025-26 assessments