

Add Color to Your Fields

F - Female	Eng - English
M - Male	Eng - English
F - Female	Vie - Vietnamese
M - Male	Eng - English
M - Male	Eng - English
M - Male	Har - Harari
M - Male	Eng - English

Are there some values that are stored on the student table (or any table) that you would like to stand out? You can add color to your field backgrounds or text. To accomplish this, you create a Data Dictionary Extension that can be assigned to the reference tables to which you want to add color.

Step 1: Create a Data Dictionary Extension

The screenshot shows a software interface for configuring a Data Dictionary Extension. The top navigation bar includes tabs for Pages, District, Student, Staff, Attendance, Conduct, Grades, Assessment, Schedule, Extracurriculars, Global, Tools, and Admin. The main title is "Extensions :: REF-CODE-COLOR - Reference Table - Color Codes".

On the left, there is a sidebar menu with categories: Users, Licenses, Security, Data Dictionary, Tables, Extensions (with sub-items Details and Tables), Reference, Comments, Calculated Fields, Forms, Workflows, and Widget Definitions. The "Extensions" category is currently selected.

The main content area contains a form with the following fields and options:

- Buttons: Options, Reports, Help, Save, Cancel
- ID: REF-CODE-COLOR
- Name: Reference Table - Color Codes
- Description: Dictionary for the Data Field Color Codes
- Category: Core
- Parent dictionary > Name: [Searchable text input]
- Health?:
- Special education:
- Professional development:
- General education plan:
- Icon: [Dropdown menu]
- Dictionary audit type: None
- Buttons: Save, Cancel

A. Create a Data Dictionary Extension to store a field for the color codes you want to associate with a reference code.

Admin > Data Dictionary > Extensions and select “Add” from the Options menu. I used the following convention for my extension:

ID: REF-CODE-COLOR

Name: Reference Table – Color Codes

Description: Dictionary for the Data Field Color Codes

Category: Core

Save the Extension and add a table to the extension. Then add a field to that table. That field is the one we will use to store the list of colors.

B. Add a Table to the Extension.

Click the Tables link on the side-tab and select “Add” from the Options menu.

The screenshot shows the configuration page for a Data Dictionary Extension. The breadcrumb trail is: Extensions :: REF-CODE-COLOR - Reference Table - Color Codes :: Reference Table - Color Codes. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Users, Licenses, Security, Data Dictionary, Tables, Extensions (with sub-links for Details, Tables, Fields, and Validations), Reference, Comments, Calculated Fields, and Forms. The main content area has tabs for 'General' and 'Translate'. Under the 'General' tab, there are input fields for 'Name' (containing 'Reference Table - Color Codes'), 'Data Table Config > Name *' (containing 'Reference Code - Common'), and 'Table audit type' (set to 'None'). There are 'Options', 'Reports', and 'Help' dropdown menus at the top, and 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom of the form.

Name: Reference Table – Color Codes

Data Table Config > Name: Reference Code Common

The Data Table Config > Name is the table that we are extending. We are extending the Reference Code – Common data table with a new field, Color. Then any reference table, that has not already been extended, can be extended using this Extension.

C. Add the Field to your extension.

Click the fields link and then click the Add button in the lower right. This field must have an alias (*All aliases in Aspen need to be unique*) and have a length of 25. In this case, we’re going to use an alias of ‘ref-code-color’ for our field. Set this field to use the Reference Table of “HTML Color Codes” and enable “List Edit”. Save and Reload the Data Dictionary.

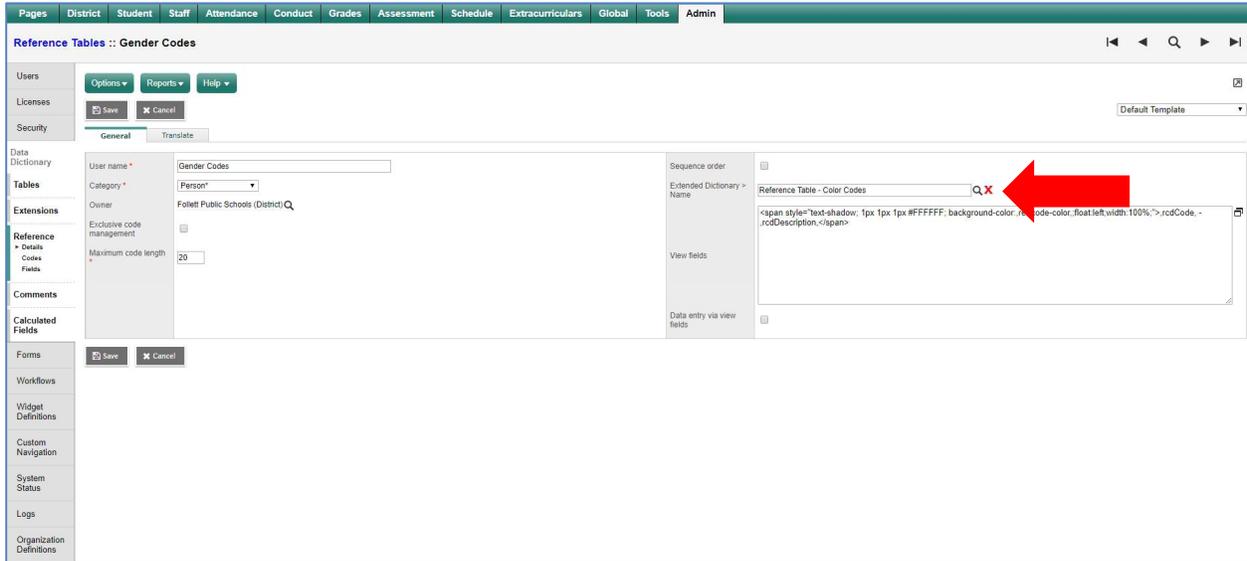
The screenshot shows the 'Data Table Config' interface for a field named 'Color'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Users:** Options, Reports, Help.
- Licenses:** Save, Cancel, Default Template.
- Security:** General, Translate.
- Data Dictionary:**
 - Sequence number: 0
 - Long name: Color
 - Short name: Color
 - Alias name: ref-code-color
 - User data type: Character
 - User field length: 25
 - User decimal: 0
- Reference:**
 - Data Field Config > Long name: FieldB001
 - Data Field Config > Object Identifier: rcdFieldB001
 - Data Field Config > Java bean name: fieldB001
 - Data Field Config > Database field name: RCD_FIELDB_001
 - Data Field Config > Database field type: V
 - Data Field Config > Database field length: 25
 - Data Field Config > Database field decimals: 0
- Forms:**
 - Enabled:
 - Required:
 - Read only:
 - Mass update:
 - List edit:
 - Localized:
 - Field audit type: Off
- Default value:** [Empty field]
- Reference Table > User name:** HTML Color Codes
- Bank name:** [Empty field]
- Dependency:** [Empty field]
- Detail control:** [Dropdown menu]
- Picklist fields:** [Empty field]
- List control:** [Dropdown menu]
- Valid reference code required:**
- Check spelling:**

At the bottom, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Step 2: Apply Color to a Reference Table

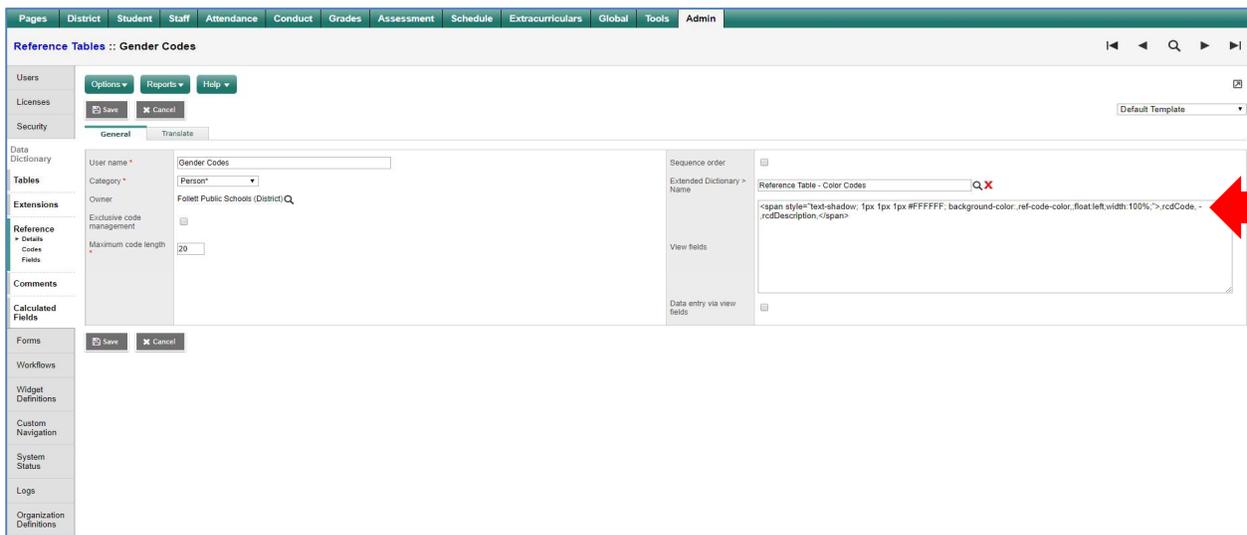
A. Go to the reference table you would like to 'colorize'.



The screenshot shows the 'Reference Tables :: Gender Codes' configuration page. The 'Extended Dictionary > Name' field is set to 'Reference Table - Color Codes', which is highlighted by a red arrow. The 'View fields' section contains the following HTML code: `:rcdCode, -rcdDescription `. The 'User name' is 'Gender Codes', 'Category' is 'Person', and 'Owner' is 'Follett Public Schools (District) Q'.

In the first example that colors the background, I'll use the Gender Codes table. Set the Extended Dictionary > Name of the Gender Codes reference table to the extended dictionary you just created: Reference Table – Color Codes.

B. Use the View Fields field to determine how to colorize your field.



This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the 'Reference Tables :: Gender Codes' configuration page. A red arrow points to the 'View fields' section, which contains the HTML code: `:rcdCode, -rcdDescription `. The 'User name' is 'Gender Codes', 'Category' is 'Person', and 'Owner' is 'Follett Public Schools (District) Q'.

View Fields is a comma-delimited list of text to display next to the reference code. In this example, we're creating a span with a white text shadow, using the color code via the alias we used for the background Color field in the Extended Data Dictionary, then outputting the Code Description. So, it's HTML with commas separating the HTML code from the fields we want to display.

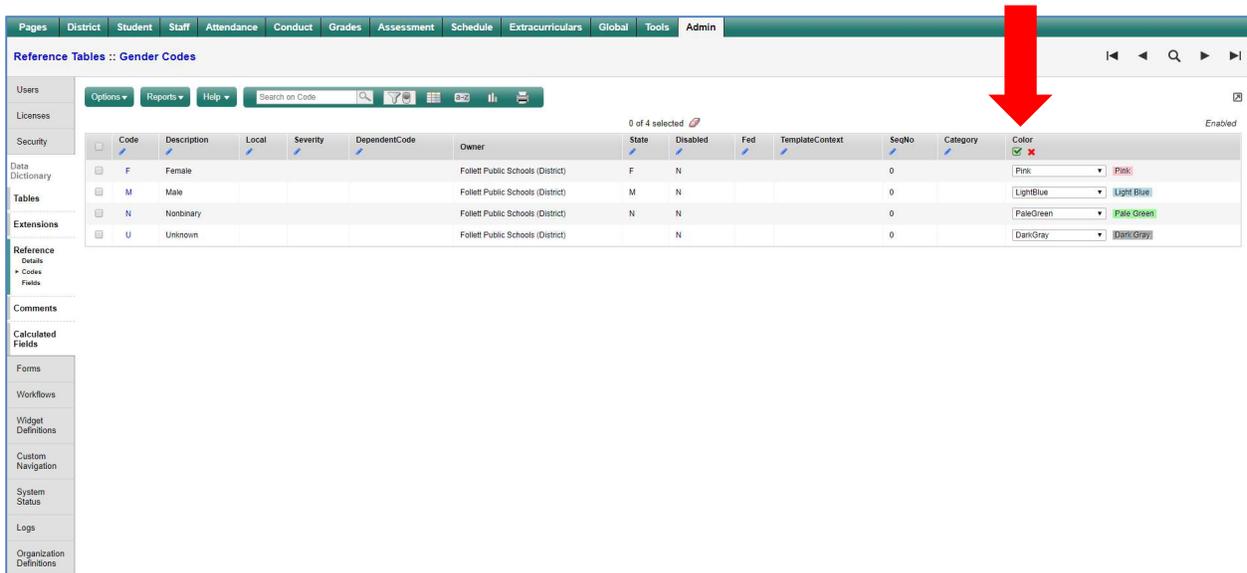
To colorize the background of your field:

```
<span style="text-shadow: 1px 1px 1px #FFFFFF; background-color: ,ref-code-color, ;float:left;width:100%;">,rcdCode, - ,rcdDescription,</span>
```

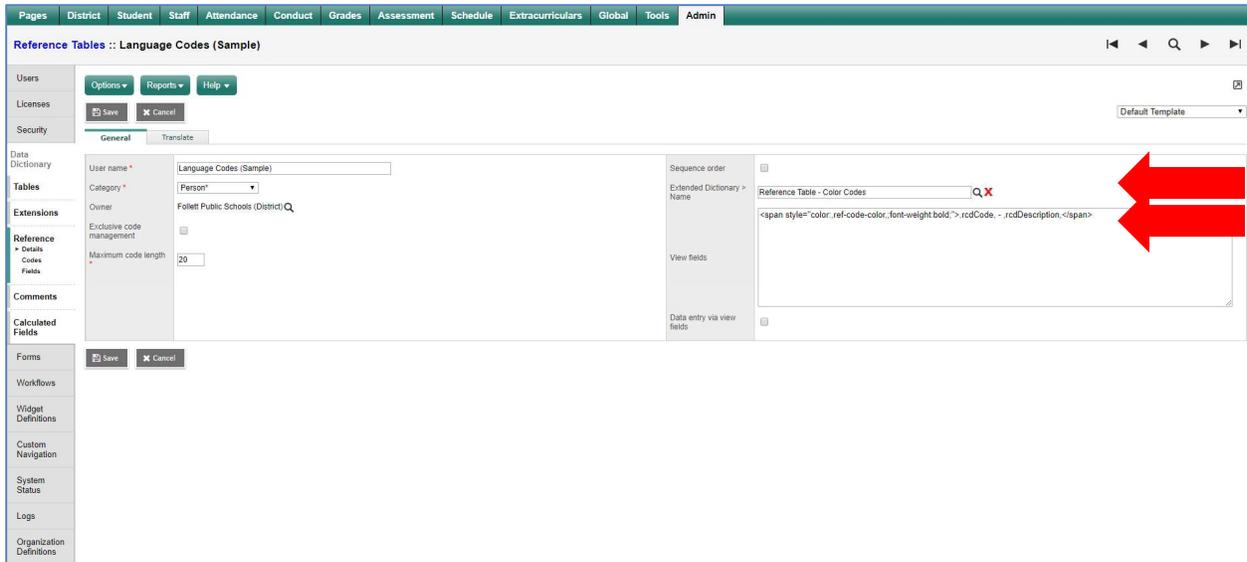
The “rcdCode, - ,rcdDescription” section will display F – Female (Code – Description).

C. Assign colors to your reference codes.

Add the Color column to your Default field set for codes, or add a new field set for just those reference tables. Use the dropdown list to choose colors for each of your fields. Save your column.



The second example is to colorize the text and not the background. You will use the same three steps, but the code you enter in B will be different. I'm using a Language Codes reference table for this example.



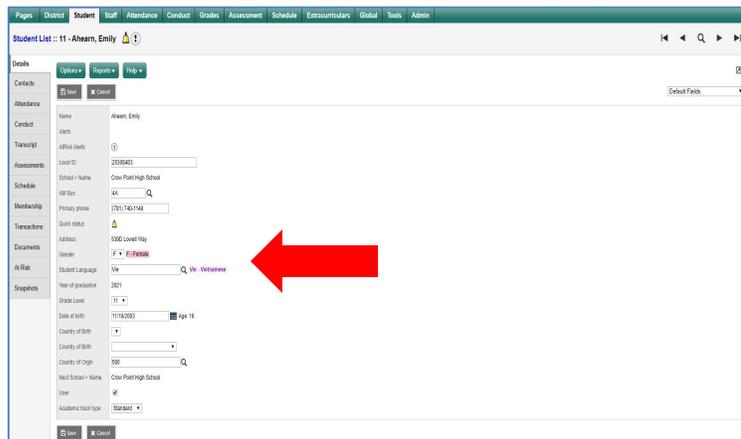
Use the same Extended Dictionary > Name, but use the following coding in View Fields:

To colorize the text in the field:

`,rcdCode, -,rcdDescription,`

Step 3: View Your Data

F - Female	Eng - English
M - Male	Eng - English
F - Female	Vie - Vietnamese
M - Male	Eng - English
M - Male	Eng - English
M - Male	Har - Harari
M - Male	Eng - English



You will see the colors in both List Screens and Details templates. Don't overuse or you will lose the effectiveness of using colors!