Replacing a Field Reference

The following tutorial demonstrates how to replace a field reference using Tableau Desktop. The need to replace a field reference occurs when a field in the data source has been renamed or removed.
When a data source field name is removed or renamed it will break a Tableau workbook. This field is misspelled and will be corrected in the data source.

Tableau gives you a warning that the field is no longer valid by coloring the field pill box red and placing an exclamation next to the field in the data window.
Begin making the correction by right clicking on the field name. From the popup menu select Replace References.

Another menu will popup listing all the available fields in the data source.

In this example you would select the correctly spelled field Primary Student College.
When a field is replaced, Tableau returns the field as it actually appears in the data source. In this example, the field is in all uppercase letters and underscores appear between each name in the field.

To change the field name to look like all the others, right click on the field and select Rename Field from the popup window.
Questions?

Contact the Advanced Analytics team via email:

analytics@uky.edu