

Home Base/RttT Biweekly Update



February 6, 2015

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- **Benchmarking Soon? Let Us Know When**
- **High Quality Online PD Modules: Available Now!**

NEW THIS WEEK

Teacher Spotlight

This week's [Teacher Spotlight](#) features 4th grade teachers Sarah Wood and Kristin Kennedy, teachers at Liberty Elementary School in Thomasville, NC. Sarah and Kristin offer their ideas on using Home Base for Standards Mastery and Item Analysis reports as well as the conveniences of accessing data and using it to help guide their students toward academic success.

The NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is collaborating with teachers across the state to share ways our state's teachers are using Home Base's instructional improvement system, Schoolnet, in their daily instructional practices. This new feature, called [Teacher Spotlight](#), will provide you with the opportunity to read stories and watch videos and learn tips from teachers in the field from what types of tools and resources they're using in their classrooms. Classroom teachers, if you want us to feature your video, please send an email to [Home Base Ready](#).

2015 Home Base Symposium Registration Extended to Feb 6!

Registration – Register now for the 2015 Home Base Symposium scheduled for Feb 23 – 25 at the Sheraton/Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/1tNS4i5>. Register now and save. **Registration has been extended to Feb 6, so be sure to take advantage of the \$115 registration fee!** Fees for late registrations postmarked after Feb 6 and onsite registrations are \$250. Please note that we can only accept checks – credit cards and cash are not accepted. Please make every effort to register online and print your registration form from the website, and then send along with your check to the NCDPI Cash Collections, 6336 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6336. If you experience any problems while registering, please contact Yolanda Wilson at yolanda.wilson@dpi.nc.gov. Remember, processing of payments once received at the NCDPI can take up to 10 working days. You can access the 2015 Home Base Symposium Registrant List on the NC SIS website at <http://bit.ly/1CmoyqN>. Please review this list weekly for registrant and payment statuses.

Courses – You can access the 2015 Home Base Symposium Course List on the NC SIS website's Symposium [page](#). This list provides titles and descriptions of all sessions that will be presented at the Symposium. Additional sessions may be added, so please review this list periodically. Once the schedule is finalized with dates and times of classes, a copy will be posted to the NC SIS website as well. Please use these resources to assist in planning your schedule prior to attending the symposium. If you have questions or need clarification about any sessions, please contact Yolanda Wilson at yolanda.wilson@dpi.nc.gov.

Accommodations – A block of rooms for symposium guests has been reserved at the Sheraton Hotel. You can call the Sheraton at (336) 292-9161 and ask them to add you to the symposium block. Or you can locate hotel forms at <http://bit.ly/1tNS4i5> and send to the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons, 3121 High Point Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407 or fax to 336-323-4876.

The Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement

Online registration is now open for the Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement (CCSA) “Champions Engaging North Carolina in 21st Century Teaching and Learning”

March 30 - April 1

Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, NC.

Be sure to visit the website where you may:

- > Check out Keynote speakers
- > Pick out sessions in advance
- > Qualify as a conference intern if you are an undergraduate education major
- > Find many exciting new updates coming soon!

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/academic/services/conference/>

Sponsored by the NC Department of Public Instruction

Schoolnet Updates – New District-to-District Sharing Feature Coming Soon!

The NCDPI is pleased to report that the improvements and enhancements made to Schoolnet have allowed a record number of users to access and use the system. During these new record-highs for system use over the past couple of months, teachers could find and create lessons, educators could run and review reports, students could log in and do classwork or take tests and more without experiencing the time out issues previously encountered during heavy system use. The NCDPI recognizes and appreciates your patience as the NCDPI and Pearson have worked to improve your Instructional Improvement System, and the teams remain committed to making continual improvements as usage

grows.

New Share Statewide Feature in Schoolnet Coming Soon!

Soon, you will be able to designate resources in Schoolnet at the district level as “All Districts” materials and share them among all districts in NC. As schools submit teacher work through Schoolnet for district approval, districts will now have the option to make those resources available to all other districts in the state. Resources that are created at the school or district level can also be shared among districts. This means you will be able to showcase and share your teachers’ and curriculum leaders’ work not only within your own district but across all districts in North Carolina. This option will be available soon and will be in addition to the “Submit to State” option as another way NC teachers and leaders can share instructional resources statewide. We hope that you will take advantage of the ability to showcase the work being done in your district and the opportunity to share with your peers.

To learn more, please join us for a webinar on Feb 19 or view the archived video afterwards at <http://bit.ly/1zU8uO3>. For information on how to register, please see the article below about upcoming webinars.

Home Base Weekly Webinar Series

The NCDPI invites you to take advantage of the weekly Home Base Webinar Series which invites system users to discuss timely topics. Webinars are designed to assist users with PowerSchool, Educator Evaluation/PD System and Schoolnet and OpenClass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These webinars are always free and offer attendees the opportunity to learn about best practices, tips for success and new aspects of the system. Participants are also given a chance to ask questions and connect with experts. Upcoming topics include:

- Mid-Year Graduates in PowerSchool
- North Carolina Educator Evaluation System
- What does Quality Online PD look like?
- Creating Classroom Assessments in Schoolnet
- KPIs and Pre-Formatted Reports in Schoolnet

For a full list of upcoming topics, webinar start times and registration links, please visit <http://bit.ly/1E7iqV1> and click *Webinars* on the left navigation bar. The calendar is being updated daily with new training sessions so check back often.

Specific upcoming webinars on Schoolnet, OpenClass and PowerSchool/PowerTeacher are also listed below:

Weekly Webinars on Schoolnet and OpenClass for February

The Schoolnet and OpenClass webinar series continues on Thursdays throughout the school year and features weekly sessions on each of the components within Schoolnet (Classrooms, Assessment Admin, and School and District Data) and on OpenClass. Webinar details are posted on the Home Base website at <http://bit.ly/1KplNZ2> and <http://bit.ly/1Dq1RU1>.

Please visit our [online calendar](#) for future webinars.

Please note the following schedule changes for the upcoming Schoolnet webinars:

There have been two adjustments to the Schoolnet webinar series. The topics for the Feb 12 and 19 webinars have changed, and we will cover the previously advertised topics at a later date. Below you will find the new topics for the upcoming February Schoolnet webinars.

The topics for the Feb 12 and 19 webinars have been changed to:
Feb 12 - Using Scan-It to Upload Answer Sheets (see description below)

Feb 19 - Instructional Materials Banks and How Materials Are Shared. (see description below)

February webinars are listed below:

Date	Time	Topic	Description	Registration
2/12/2015	3:30-4:30	Using Scan-It to Upload Answer Sheets	Using the Scan-it software tool to scan bubble/answer sheets and capture assessment data into Schoolnet. Best practices discussed by school and district educators experienced with Scan-it.	Webinar Registration
2/19/2015	3:30-4:30	Instructional Materials Banks and How Materials Are Shared.	Attendees will understand the different materials banks and their hierarchy within Schoolnet. Includes a discussion of how instructional materials are shared in schools, districts and across the state, and includes information on new sharing options.	Webinar Registration
2/26/2015	3:30-4:30	Schoolnet – User Management: Roles & Permissions	This webinar provides a how-to for managing user access in Schoolnet. You can expect a review of specific roles and permissions plus specific examples and issues pertaining to roles and permissions if not assigned properly, plus user access and exercising best practices.	Webinar Registration

North Carolina Educator Evaluation System (NCEES) February Webinars

Please join us on Tuesdays in February from 1:00 to 3:00 as we explore different topics about the NCEES' tools located within Home Base.

Topics include:

Feb 17: NC Educator Evaluation System Process: Professional Development Plan End-of-Year Review

Feb 17: Home Base PD System: Creating an Instructor-led Course

Feb 24: Home Base PD System: Creating a Self-Paced Course

Please visit <http://bit.ly/1AOp4hy> to register.

PD MOOClet: Effective Digital Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the K-12 Classroom

Due to the continuing popularity of this course, the Educator Effectiveness Division of the NC Department

of Public Instruction is offering another session of *Effective Digital Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the K-12 Classroom: A PD MOOClet*, starting Feb 9. This course is available at no cost to North Carolina educators and will be facilitated by the NCDPI professionals.

Monday, Feb 9. Register now
Duration: 6 Weeks (20 hours)

Credits: 2 CEUs
Maximum registration: 300

This course is intended for K-12 classroom teachers and other instructional personnel. It focuses on using digital tools and strategies to support teaching and learning, and enriching individuals' knowledge through developing communities of practice across the state. In this course, we will look at the 4Cs - Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration: keystones for the 21st Century Classroom. This MOOClet:

- Learner-centered, focusing on participants' professional needs in different disciplines and grade levels
- Focuses on participants as creators of content as much as they are "consumers" of content
- Involves extensive peer-to-peer communication
- Includes a larger number of students than a typical facilitator-led course

Who should participate? Active, collaborative learners who are self-driven, motivated, flexible and enjoy sharing information and resources.

To register, follow the instructions below:

- > Log in to the NCEES system using your PowerSchool log in or the alternate log in <http://bit.ly/1zX2bmU>
- > Click the Professional Development tab.
- > Perform a search by entering the title and populating the course list.
- > Click on the course title; then click on the section.
- > Click on the register button.

Contact Dr. Geetanjali Soni at Geetanjali.soni@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions.

Cross-District Strategic Solutions and a New Webinar Series

Looking for feedback from your peers? Districts or individuals may participate in *Cross-district Strategic Solutions*, state-wide topic based forums (typically 1 hour). The purpose of *Cross-district Strategic Solutions* sessions is to build a problem-solving, solution-generating Professional Learning Network of educators open to district leaders, administrators, teachers, counselors and coaches across the state.

During the forum sessions, district teams, individual teachers, administrators and other educators may introduce or acquaint others with a challenging issue and receive feedback from other participants across the state by asking clarifying questions and sharing strategies for success. Each forum session will be facilitated by Professional Development Consultants from the NCDPI using a consultancy protocol, and you may join in any webinar or topic.

Comments from Region 6:

"We will definitely use this with our building administrators to help them identify problems of practice in their schools."

"This will work well with our Beginning Teacher Induction Program as we work to support and retain new teachers."

"We can ask our mentors to use this protocol at their schools to help identify needed support for BTs."

"Using this protocol will be most helpful as we look at addressing the needs of our subgroups."

To view an example of a Cross-District Strategic Solutions forum, go to <http://bit.ly/virtualmodeling1030>

To download the protocol, go to: <http://bit.ly/cdssprotocol>

Schedule of Webinar Topics

Registration Date/Link	Time	Topic
2/17/2015 Registration Link	3:30-4:30	Differentiation for All Learners
2/18/2015 Registration Link	3:30-4:30	Instructional Diversity for Differentiation in Grades 3-8

Should you have any questions, please email Educator Effectiveness team member, Heather Stewart, heather.stewart@dpi.nc.gov.

Spring 2015: Instructor-Facilitated and CEU Credited Online Courses

Looking for high-quality professional development and the opportunity to interact with peers? Now you can participate in a series of instructor-facilitated online courses that are being offered for Session 1, Spring 2015. These courses will start Monday, Feb 9. Registration is now open. Our second spring session will be offered starting Mar 30.

Course name
Digital Literacies in the Classroom (6 weeks)
Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects: Part 1 (5 weeks)
Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects: Part 2 (6 weeks)
Introduction to Data Literacy (5 weeks)
Data Literacy in Action (6 weeks)
Introduction to Universal Design for Learning (4 weeks)
Universal Design for Learning: Part 2 (4 weeks)
Connecting with our 21st Century Learners (6 weeks)
North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards (6 weeks)
Building and Sustaining PD (6 weeks)

For a description of the courses and associated CEUs, visit <https://rt3nc.org/>.

Complete registration online is at no cost to North Carolina educators. Courses will be facilitated by the NCDPI professionals. Participants are expected to meet all weekly deadlines in order to receive CEUs. Partial credit will not be given.

Registration is limited to 35 participants per section. To register, follow these instructions:

Log in to the NCEES system using your usual PowerSchool log in or the alternate log in <http://bit.ly/1zX2bmU>

- Click the Professional Development tab.
- You can search for the course by name and populate the list to select it.
- Click on the course title; then click on the section.
- Click on the register button.

Directions on how to register are available here: <http://bit.ly/1AwHYtb>. Contact Dr. Geetanjali Soni at Geetanjali.soni@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions.

PowerSchool Scheduling – Q & A Forum Webinars

These webinars are facilitated forums and won't offer any presentations. They will be an open forum for attendees to ask their scheduling questions to a panel of the NCDPI staff members.

Dates, Times and Registration Links

- Monday, Feb 9, 9:00 a.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/851952321>
- Monday, Feb 9, 1:00 p.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/881559112>
- Wednesday, Feb 11, 1:00 p.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/569847217>
- Friday, Feb 13, 9:00 a.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/771960641>
- Friday, Feb 13, 1:00 p.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/621959601>
- Wednesday, Mar 4, 1:00 p.m.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/810025944>
- Wednesday, Mar 11, 1:00 p.m.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/829296344>

- Wednesday, Mar 18, 1:00 p.m.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/843805984>

- Wednesday, Mar 25, 1:00 p.m.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/866556920>

****Please note all registration information is subject to NC Public Records Law.**

For more information about NC SIS training and documentation, please visit our website at

<http://www.nc-sis.org>.

Coming in July 2015! Logging into Home Base with the IAM Service

You may know by now that the IAM Service will be replacing the "PowerSchool Single Sign-on" solution after the 2014-2015 End-of-Year processing, July 6. With this change, all North Carolina K-12 students and employees will login to Home Base applications using their NCEdCloud username and password. The accounts are currently available and LEAs and Charter Schools can begin providing students and employees their accounts at any time. Employees can follow the "Claim Account" process described in [For Teachers and Staff](#) on the [NCEdCloud IAM Website](http://ncedcloud.mcnc.org) (ncedcloud.mcnc.org). Students' accounts will be issued by their teachers, who have access to their students' usernames and initial passwords. Parents will continue to use the PowerSchool Parent Portal for access to their student's information.

More information on the IAM Service, including Getting Started, FAQ, Resources and background information is available on the [NCEdCloud IAM website](http://bit.ly/1KpkLfH). <http://bit.ly/1KpkLfH>

Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend is Feb 6-9

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, Feb 6, through Monday, Feb 9. The system will shut down Friday at 5 p.m. Once maintenance is completed, a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use.

Home Base will be returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday morning. If a delay in bringing up the system should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email and the new [Home Base Alert on Twitter](#): <http://bit.ly/1zVb561>

This maintenance weekend will comprise a major upgrade to the PowerSchool application. Pearson will deploy PowerSchool 8.1.1 software into all NC PowerSchool instances. This upgrade will entail updates and remedies to the currently used PowerSchool application. Pages and functions impacted will include NC Customizations, NC Student Pages, New Course Creation, School Settings, Scheduling and State Reporting. Please read the change details below for more details.

1) NC Student Pages

- a. All NC custom created student pages will be removed from the *Custom Screens and Information* area to the new *NC Information* section in the left navigation menu when viewing student records.

2) New Course Creation

- a. Updating interface for *New Course Creation* to combine filter and dropdown for State Courses and improve performance.

3) School Setting Updates

- a. Adding new page for managing CRDC Grade Level updates for current and previous years that were initially populated from EDDIE.
- b. Organizing all NC Specific School Settings for State Reporting together at the bottom of the page.

4) Scheduling Resolutions from 8.0, 8.01 and 8.1

- a. Resolving the PowerScheduler error that occurs when committing a schedule with more than 1,000 sections.
- b. Resolving the *HTTP Status 500 Error* when accessing the Visual Scheduler page with a maintenance user account.
- c. Resolving the issue that causes the Non-scheduled Course Requests report to display duplicate student names and course requests when only a single request exists, and in some cases includes students who are fully scheduled.
- d. Resolving the issue that causes the Select a Teacher pop-up menu to display staff with a school ID of '0' (District Office) when using the Mass Enroll function in PowerScheduler.
- e. Resolving the issue with the PowerScheduler link on the PowerSchool Start page which causes the Scheduling Year to default to 2400 vs. 2014-2015, and causes the Year ID to incorrectly default to -3.
- f. Resolving the issue where multiple users signing into PowerScheduler may not see their Build (Q) results in the expected order on the page.
- g. Resolving the error message that appears on the Master Schedule when a teacher record has been removed from PowerSchool.
- h. Resolving the *HTTP Status 500 Error* that occurs when you attempt to copy a scenario in PowerScheduler if more than 1000 sections were created in the Schedule Sections table.
- i. Resolving the *HTTP Status 500 Error* that appears when you click the Visual Scheduler link.

5) State Reporting Updates

- a) All State Reporting updates are listed in the 2015 NC Release Notes located on the NC SIS website at http://www.nc-sis.org/release_highlights.html.

PowerSchool 8.0 – 8.1.1 release notes may be viewed at http://www.nc-sis.org/release_highlights.html. Please refer to these notes for additional changes.

Important Additional Notes:

- 1) LEAs and charters should check their exports and auto-sends with other vendors to make sure they are functioning properly after the upgrade is complete.
- 2) Please do not transfer students until notified by the NCDPI that the ODS sync has completed. We anticipate this work will be completed by COB Tuesday, Feb 10.
- 3) Please do not run any State Compliance Reports until notified by the NCDPI that the ODS sync has completed.

You can view the entire upcoming schedule of maintenance weekends [here](#) or at <http://bit.ly/1HEB335>

Message from the NCDPI Home Base Support Center Concerning PS 8.1.1 Upgrade

As you are aware, the NCDPI and Pearson will be upgrading to PowerSchool 8.1.1 during February maintenance weekend, beginning today, Feb 6 at 5:00 p.m. In order for the Home Base Support Center (HBSC) to better prioritize issues that may arise post-upgrade, please adhere to the following guidelines:

CALL the HBSC at (919) 807-HELP

1) If your issue is critical (i.e., system is not available, many users cannot login or slow performance).

EMAIL the HBSC at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov

1) If your issue **is not** critical and is related to the upgrade, include "UPGRADE" with an appropriate subject line.

2) If your issue is not critical and is NOT related to the upgrade, enter an appropriate subject.

As a reminder, please do not perform functions in which the ODS is referenced until you hear from the NCDPI that the ODS is fully synchronized. These functions are:

- Enroll new students

- Re-enroll previous NC students
- Transfer students
- Transfer student record (Start > Student Selection > Transfer Student Record)
- Run any state reports {Start Page > Reports > Reports (State Reports)}

HBSC will be tracking issues and communicating with Pearson throughout the launch.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Schoolnet Training Site

In January, the NCDPI and Pearson updated and refreshed the Schoolnet training site.

What this means to you and your institution:

The training site has more meaningful data/reports to explore and review in your training efforts. The training site still has tens of thousands of assessment items and instructional materials to support your training efforts. Additionally:

- Each LEA and Charter School will have their own new unique set of teacher login accounts to use for training purposes and can access students and school leadership connected with their teacher.
- LEAs / Charter Schools will share district leadership accounts.
- You will now also have logins for additional role-specific users. LEAs/Charter School will share a pool of logins for scenario based login accounts, e.g. School Library Media Coordinators, ITFs, Coaches, Teachers who have permission to create benchmarks, staff or any teacher who has ability to approve assessment items, or approve instructional materials and more.

The training site will continue to be accessed at <http://bit.ly/Wb2yNC>. Then select Home Base Training District from the dropdown tab next to the “sign in with” prompt. Next, log in with your user/password.

If you are a trainer in your district or charter school, please look for an email with your new login credentials. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov

Benchmarking Soon? Let Us Know When

The NCDPI and Pearson teams are continuing to improve and monitor Schoolnet, especially during peak usage times including those times when many districts administer their benchmark tests. In order for us to have the most up-to-date information in one place and to be able to anticipate peak testing time, we ask that you fill out a quick and simple form at <http://goo.gl/MB5oax> to let us know about your plans for benchmarking.

We look forward to hearing from you about your benchmark plans.

High Quality Online PD Modules: Available Now!

Please take advantage of our self-paced, facilitated modules and mini-modules available to teachers and principals at no charge! You may click here to access a printable version of current modules: <http://bit.ly/1BDKgam>. All modules may be accessed through the Educator Effectiveness PD System through Home Base. In addition, you may get ideas for staff and PLCs using the implementation guide, found here: www.rt3nc.org. Over 50 professional development opportunities are listed here for your

educators.

Please contact Dr. Geetanjali Soni, Geetanjali.soni@dpi.nc.gov or any member of the *Educator Effectiveness Division* with any questions.

We encourage you to share this Update, and for past issues of Home Base Weekly and Biweekly Updates, please visit [Biweekly Updates](#). To visit updates from 2014 go [here](#).

*****LINKS: PC users might need to press the CTRL button when clicking on a hyperlink in this document. Please contact Patricia Hickman at patty.hickman@dpi.nc.gov if you experience issues with newsletter links.**

To direct new users of Home Base to join our lists to receive the Biweekly Newsletter, go here: <http://listsncdpi.weebly.com/homebase-list.html>

To follow Home Base Alerts on Twitter, sign up [here](#).