

The following is a transcript for the webinar **Home Base Instructional Improvement System Overview and Demonstration**. It originally aired April 18, 2013:

DAN GWALTNEY: Welcome. My name is Dan Gwaltney with Learning Systems and we are going to update you today on the instructional improvement portion of Home Base. To recall, Home Base is combination of the student information system and instructional improvement system, all being combined in one single technology platform that will allow for a single sign-on access.

Once you log in into Home Base you log in and see the landing page for whichever role is assigned to you on PowerSchool side. So I am currently logged in as a teacher and so what I am looking at is the portal for PowerTeacher. This is where as a teacher I come in and I do my attendance, I can take attendance over multiple days, I can schedule seating charts, administer meal counts, access student information and run reports. With one click I am going to tunnel directly into the instructional improvement side and from this screen I am seeing the classroom and the courses in which I have been scheduled to teach, I can run reports from here, I can access my visual lesson planner, I can do a materials search and build or schedule assessments. I also see the instruction that I have scheduled myself to teach that day or any assessments that I may have scheduled to be administered that day so I do not have to dive into the planner to look at it; it is going to present itself right here.

As I scroll further down, I will see associated resource links, these may be resources that are linked within Home Base but are not directly integrated, maybe like EVAAS or mCLASS until we can find how those can be integrated into the system or the NCDPI Wikispaces and websites for one click access. I can also see any announcements that have been made and any updated news about the development on the site.

I see my classroom assessment monitor which presents classroom performance data on the various different assessment types via the district benchmark, classroom tests or standardized tests like the EOC or EOG. When I look at this information I can visually see just how my students are performing based on certain proficiency criteria. I can see who is advanced, who is proficient, who is performing at a basic level and even those that are performing below basic level so I can really see who may need additional support. These are dynamic fields so if I click on each of these areas the data is going to change and so I can see who needs support in various different subjects based on these scores.

I can run standard mastery reports that I can choose to select certain standards across multiple different assessment types to really get a breakdown of how well students are performing on a specific set of skills or toward a specific set of standards. When I click on the student's name here in blue — anything in blue in the system is active and I can do more with it — I am taken to a more detailed learner profile. A learner profile is pulling over the same demographic information that's on the PowerSchool side and the same scheduling and grading information that resides within the PowerSchool gradebook.

I can look at disciplinary incidents; I can look at program areas, maybe ECAIGLEP504 type of information from here. I can see what their current academic record, what courses they are currently enrolled in and any historical grades from the year, and I can also look at academic performance and really see not only what the last test was but also do a detailed item analysis for that student, see their proficiency score and what proficiency group they are in.

But when I look down here, the year-to-date weaknesses, this is the aggregated performance information identifying what standards a student has performed very strongly in and which standards students may need additional support with. When I do that I am really able to target instruction specific to that student or that group of students' needs. So I can click on any of these standards, and I am going to be presented

with a standard summary page; and, so this the set of all the standards that are associated with the standard that the student is performing poorly in and it provides me with a list or a number of resources specific, either standards or objectives. So I can look at curricular resources, instructional units, lesson plans, assessments and other instructional resources.

And I can look here, since this is a demo site not everything has a resource, but I can see here that I have two lesson plans associated with this standard so I can click on it, and I can view those lesson plans and I can schedule them to be taught to the whole class or if I have created a student group, I can really target specific resources to a set of students to meet their needs and target different resources to other students if appropriate.

When I click on a lesson it is going to take me and show us a template. I can recommend this resource, I can save it to my materials if it is something that I use and know is high quality, I can copy this lesson plan, make some additions and then make it my own. I can view related materials, maybe I want to find a different resource along the same standards of targeting the same skills. I can create a PDF and print this document off if I need to leave it for a substitute, or I can schedule that to a lesson plan.

And if you look this is what the template that is embedded in the system currently has. We are going to be able to customize this lesson plan to better match the needs of North Carolina and better have representation of our formative assessment processes as well as the rigors of the Common Core and Essential Standards.

But the important thing here is you see related resources and linked materials, maybe this is the worksheet associated with it, that I can then assign to a student and they complete on their own through their own Schoolnet portal. And I see the standards in which that resource is aligned to so once I scheduled it the

system can keep track that I scheduled this standard to be instructed on and then can run the standards mastery report to see the effectiveness of the instruction compared to assessment.

I am going to go back and show you how not only can I find lessons like the one I just looked at through the material searches, but I can also schedule these lessons onto my visual planner and so from this planner I see exactly what I have scheduled myself to teach. And I can do searches for the prebuilt lessons and the resources that are included in the content repositories to schedule onto this, but I can also build my own resources and schedule them onto this planner that is dynamic and I can move around and copy so I do not have to do multiple searches; or, if a fire drill happens on one day and I end up moving that lesson to another day, I am able to keep better track of that.

When I build my own lesson, I am going to have to title it and I am going to have to select subject and grade levels. And this is going to be helpful when I go to aligned standards because the system works best when you align specific standards to your resources and what it is going to show me, it is going to present itself to 9th-grade English standards since that is what I indicated the focus of my lesson was. But, if I have a combined class, I have multiple grade levels in a class, I can select multiple grade levels for the standards. I can also select different subject areas if I am building an interdisciplinary unit and align them as necessary. I can then go in and fill out the template that the state will be populating.

We have a number of different stakeholder groups and user groups that have looked at what these fields should be for the statewide template for lesson plans. If you find, however, that is not effective for your districts, you can always upload premade lesson plans in the template that you choose to use directly here and it is just like attaching an email file. I can also attach a URL link here, maybe I am using a resource in PDFs and the lesson plan is right there and I think it's great. I don't want to have to type in all the fields of the lesson plan, I can just link directly to it, and the only things that I need to do is give it a title

and align it to standards.

When I am done, I will view the resource and I will see that what I have created looks exactly like what the resource is that I searched for earlier in the system looked like. I didn't fill out all the fields so you don't have everything but you have the abilities of embedding video, embedding images, embedding HP mail and really having a lot of flexibility within the template so that you can create as dynamic a lesson as you feel is appropriate.

I can then schedule my lesson plan to be taught but to show the integration between assessment and instruction, I can build an express test and what this is going to do is it is going to identify the same standards that were on my standards alignment, and it is going to show me a set of items that we have for each standard. Now again, this is a demo environment so there are not resources for every standard, but you get the idea that this is something that I am just going to quickly do, not a high stakes assessment. I just want to measure the effectiveness of my instruction so I can get a clear picture of how my students are performing and understanding the content that I taught that day.

From here I can view the assessments, I can edit the text, I can edit the items, the answer choices, I can add answer choices, I can turn the question into a constructed response, I can add items if I wish, I can remove items completely if it is not aligned with what exactly I want it to measure. I can download the tests in a Word or PDF form and download pre-coded answer sheets that I can scan into the system if I do not have the capabilities of administering the assessment online, and I can preview that test and what it looks like online, which also represents how the benchmarking tool, the district benchmarking tool will work.

Now once I have administered that test I can schedule it, and scheduling it allows me to open up a testing

window so maybe I only teach a student once a week or they are on an A/B schedule, I can create that testing window and it will default a week. I can verify that or I can shorten it, when the score is due; it gives me an opportunity to grade any constructed response items or keep the window and test available if there are students that need to make it up. I can choose to prevent the students from accessing the test results until the end of the test date, but most importantly teachers can click on one button and share those test results with the PowerTeacher gradebook, meaning a teacher does not have to go in and manually enter the grades in the PowerTeacher gradebook on these assessments, it will do it automatically if it is an objective multiple-choice-type assessment. If it is a blended type of assessment where there is multiple choice and constructed responses then the multiple choices will be scored and you will go in later and score the constructed response and then the scores will populate to the gradebook. But the key here is that teachers can focus less on that administrative data entry and focus more on seeing how to improve student performance.

It can open these windows in a secure browser or just open it in the system depending upon the level of stakes associated with the assessment, I can import test time, I can put a time on it, I can scramble the questions, scramble the answer choices and only assign it to particular groups of students. So if I build student groups and I am targeting, everybody is going to take the same assessment but I want to give a couple of additional assessment items to some students, maybe to see if my remediations have worked, I can assign that test to that set of students. And then they will take the test and once it is done I will then be able to view the academic information right here on my dashboard and again see what students need additional support and in what areas.

That is a real brief overview of the basic functionality of the instructional and assessment portions of Home Base. We have monthly webinars that you can sign up for to get even more information about Home Base. Feel free to visit our website — <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase> — and we look

forward to making and helping Home Base become a success in your district.