

Home Base Biweekly Update



April 12, 2013

Looks like this week's edition of Home Base Biweekly Update has a training theme.

THIS WEEK

- **What's Happening with Home Base — the Roll-Out**
- **Home Base Train-the-Trainer Begins in June**
- **You Don't Have to Wait — Jump on PowerSource Now for Self-Guided Learning**
- **Power in Numbers: Yes, PowerSchool Training Is Happening**
- **Three PowerSchool Project Update Webinars Remain**
- **Hats Off to Home Base Helpers**

What's Happening with Home Base — the Roll-Out

Home Base, the exciting suite of technology tools to support learning and teaching across North Carolina, is inching closer to reality each day. As a statewide effort, yes, there are a lot of pieces — from PowerSchool, which replaces NC WISE as the student information system, to the instructional information system providing thousands of resources at teachers' fingertips with a single log-in (from shared lesson plans to standards-aligned resources to lots more). Even the professional development piece that will help educators hone in on key growth opportunities in the teaching profession and educational leadership arenas will be in Home Base. Then, there are also the student and parent portals being developed. Yes, a lot is happening. And quickly.

Such a large project with so many components is a lot to take in. And, quite simply, it's too much to roll out at once. That's good for soon-to-be users who might be feeling a bit overwhelmed. Home Base begins its kick-off year July 1 for year-round schools and, for traditional schools, the roll-out begins with the start of School Year 2013-14. More is coming, but everyone starts with PowerSchool, which includes the online Gradebook, for instance.

In webinars, we've been sharing specific details of what's coming when. Another great opportunity to hear the latest update in more detail is at a READY III Home Base webinar viewing party at your school. We encourage you to watch in groups, in order to accommodate the most people possible.

MORE INFO: Many of you have registered already for our “READY Outreach, Round 3.” If so, you do not need to register again. If not, and you want to attend the Home Base session and demo virtually, the same session is repeated three times: April 18, 22 and 29; each is 3:30-5 p.m.

Principals and superintendents have received the registration links and been asked to set up group viewing events so the widest majority may attend under minimum log-ins. Therefore, if you are at a school or LEA, please participate through your principal or central office group log-in that’s planned. If you are not school-based and would like to attend, please send an email to Michael.Yarbrough@dpi.nc.gov with subject line: *Please send READY III registration details*. You’ll then be asked to choose one of the Home Base session dates as well as a date to view “Accountability/Assessments – Setting New Expectations.” Your choices are either April 23 or May 6, 3:30-5 p.m.

Home Base Train-the-Trainer Begins in June

Reading about all the great possibilities in Home Base might also have you asking ‘When and how am I going to learn all this?’ Great question. The short answer is soon and sooner.

That’s because there’s a two-pronged approach: First, we’re employing a train-the-trainer model where school systems will be given allotted spaces for specific personnel to undergo training. They, in turn, will conduct training in their schools. Second, you can undertake some self-guided training now, an approach that puts you in the driver seat for early learning at your pace, online, to help you become familiar with some of the exciting features in Home Base. (See the next article.)

Train-the Trainer Session registration information will be shared with LEAs/charter schools no later than April 24 and will include training allotment info for LEAs (numbers of slots). Sessions will include Home Base: Educator Evaluation (Half Day) Training and Home Base: Classroom Instruction/Assessment (Full day) Training. Sessions will be offered multiple times within each of the eight education regions and over multiple days.

Training date timelines are as follows. Note: These are revised from a previously shared “save-the-date” document:

- Region 1 — June 24 and 25,
- Region 2 — June 24 and 25,
- Region 3 — June 25, 26 and 27,
- Region 4 — June 26, 27 and July 2,
- Region 5 — June 26 and 27,
- Region 6 — July 1 and 2
- Region 7 — June 24, 25, 26,
- Region 8 — June 27, July 1 and 2.

Training spaces are limited so each LEA/charter school will be provided an allotment based on size. LEA/charter school participants will be expected to use the knowledge and skills they acquire to provide training to local staff within their LEAs/charter schools.

MORE INFO: More information about registration and LEA/charter school allotments will be shared with school district Human Resource Directors and Curriculum & Instruction Directors no later than April 24, so please watch for that.

You Don't Have to Wait — Jump on PowerSource Now for Self-Guided Learning

Calling all self-starters: Get a jump on learning about features in Home Base now. That's right, you don't have to wait for face-to-face training or even for training to come to you.

You can start learning now on your own schedule using PowerSource, an excellent resource made available to school staff using Pearson School System products. Pearson, of course, is one of the main vendors for the NCDPI Home Base project.

PowerSource includes training modules for teachers, administrators and information technology staff. "Distance Learning" features training modules approximately 30 minutes to three hours long, and "Mastery in Minutes" features quick, three- to five-minute how-to's. View at your leisure, and start and stop as you'd like.

Teachers can use their PowerSource accounts to find these videos for Schoolnet, the tool that will provide the classroom instruction and assessment components of Home Base:

Classroom Instruction Modules - Creating a Lesson Plan, Finding and Scheduling an Existing Lesson Plan, Linking a Resource to an existing Unit, Approving Instructional Materials, Creating a Student Group

Classroom Assessment Modules - Assessment Certification, Creating an Express Test, Creating an Assessment Question, Finding an Assessment Item, Finding a Passage, Reusing a Saved Test.

MORE INFO: PowerSource requires an approved log-in provided by your LEA PowerSchool contact lead. If you do not currently have access to PowerSource and do not know your LEA PowerSchool contact lead, please contact your current NC WISE coordinator.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some training modules within PowerSource may incur a cost. NCDPI will not be responsible for any fees incurred. Free modules are located under the Distance Learning and Mastery in Minutes tabs.

Power in Numbers: Yes, PowerSchool Training Is Happening

PowerSchool training for LEAs and charters is continuing statewide. As of April 12, 584 people have received training at 32 training events. Among the total, 230 people in LEAs/charters have received the three-day Instant Productivity Training (IPT) at 14 sessions, while 354 people in 18 sessions received the five-day IPT Certification Training.

FOR MORE: NCDPI Trainer Wendy Hinson shared practical tips during a recent PowerSchool webinar on how to incorporate PowerSchool training now through the end of the school year into early summer and after the opening days of the new school year. Listen to her on the archived PowerSchool Update webinar from March 28 archived here:

http://www.ncwise.org/powerschool_updates.html.

Three PowerSchool Project Update Webinars Remain

You can still sign up for the PowerSchool Project Update webinars scheduled biweekly through June 6. These information-packed webinars provide the latest happenings with the NC WISE-to-PowerSchool conversion project.

The March 28 PowerSchool Project Update webinar featured a demonstration of PowerSource (discussed in the article above) along with conversion updates. The fourth webinar, held April 11, featured scenarios for scheduling elementary students and Daily Attendance set-up. There was also discussion about handling Exceptional Children data flow.

Recordings of all previous PowerSchool webinars are online at

http://www.ncwise.org/powerschool_updates.html.

An updated copy of the NC Data Conversion Issue Tracker – a summary of all known issues and their statuses – is also located on this page.

MORE INFO: The next three PowerSchool webinars are May 9, May 23 and June 6 from 1-3 p.m. each date. To register, visit: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/315714961>. Your registration is good for all webinars held through June 6. Send any questions or comments about the webinars to homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Hats Off to Home Base Helpers

All that great Home Base content you read about doesn't just happen. It's organized, identified, vetted and tagged by qualified educators. For example, last month 22 teachers gathered in Raleigh to work with the NCDPI Learning Systems Division to locate high quality resources for

Home Base in their content areas — English as a Second Language (ESL), World Languages, Healthful Living and Arts.

The teachers were recommended by NCDPI Curriculum and Instruction consultants as being proficient in understanding and teaching in these content areas based on the North Carolina Essential Standards. During the workshop, teachers were trained on the Open Educational Resources/Achieve rubrics, the tagging schema and process currently used to identify instructional resources that will be available for all teachers in Home Base.

Special thanks to these teachers for their careful contribution to Home Base:

English as a Second Language – Angel Mills, Guadalupe Trabold, Anita Crowley from Lee County, and Ambar Alcala de Mejia and Maritza Rosado from Johnson County;

World Languages — Katya Decker, North Carolina Virtual Public Schools; Donna Podgorny from Union County; and Bernd Nuss and Alice Yoder from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools;

Healthful Living — Burt Jenkins, Pitt County; Keith Cannon, Craven County; Trey Robinson, Wake County; Ashley Jimenez, Cumberland County; Kelly Norris Blackney, Union County; and Kristie Stephens, Burke County;

Arts — Wake County Schools' Courtney Greer, Beth McCollum and Jean Moh; Cumberland County's Sian Panter; Dawn Wilson from Beaufort County; Ashley Brooke Fulton of Charlotte-Mecklenburg; and Debra Pylypiw from Onslow County.

HOME BASE BIWEEKLY UPDATE INFO

We encourage you to share this Update, and for past issues of Home Base Biweekly Updates, please visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/updates/>

*****LINKS: PC users might need to press the CTRL button when clicking on a hyperlink in this document.**