

# Home Base Biweekly Update



July 12, 2013

## NEW THIS WEEK

- Year-Round Schools Start New Year with Access to Home Base
- Home Base Sessions Included at Summer Institutes
- Using Quality Rubrics to Evaluate Resources
- Partner LEAs Will Be Announced Soon
- Home Base Security/Access Roles and Permissions
- Glad You Asked: A Few More FAQs

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- What's Happening This Summer with Home Base Rollout
- Roles & Permissions Document for District Coordinators and District Data Managers
- Next NCEES Training Webinar Is July 16

## NEW THIS WEEK

### **Year-Round Schools Start New Year with Access to Home Base**

PowerSchool implementation is going as planned. Fifty-two year-round schools in Wake County have started and are operating on the new student information system (SIS). Phase 2B imports are continuing for other schools. The NC SIS team is working feverishly producing NC specific training documentation for users throughout the state. These documents are housed on the new NC SIS website, <http://www.nc-sis.org>, as well as the PowerSource Online Community Forum.

The Home Base Support Center has added and trained additional staff in preparation for supporting this massive rollout.

We have received positive feedback from Craven County, which reports that the system is excellent. We look forward to hearing from others.

### **Home Base Sessions Included at Summer Institutes**

The Summer Institutes have begun with the first sessions July 8-9 and 10-11 held simultaneously, "east" and "west," in both Charlotte and Greenville. Next will be July 15-16

and 17-18 in Durham and Greensboro, then July 23-24 in Henderson and Cumberland counties. The theme this year is Building District and School-level Leadership Capacity to Change Teacher Practice and Student Outcomes.

Summer Institutes 2013 features two Home Base design studio sessions. One provides an overview of the Home Base project and then gives a more detailed look at the core instructional improvement system (IIS) components. Participants are being shown how to navigate through the reports, classroom and assessments dashboards and how to create assessment items and build assessments, create student groups, create and schedule lesson plans, run reports and much more.

In the other Home Base design studio session, participants see how they could use Home Base to build instructional capacity. For example, they are able to see how a student would take an assessment and then how a teacher would see and analyze those results to adjust or affirm instructional practice.

We apologize to the July 8-9 participants for the Internet connectivity issues and demo site sign-on issues. We are happy to report these issues were resolved in time for the July 10 sessions, and we do not anticipate any other technical issues. We'd also like to let LEAs/charters know the live production site for Home Base will be more robust than the demo site. Therefore, the performance of the demo site is not representative of the performance one can expect from the live site.

At the east and west sessions, presenters received good feedback on the system. Some participants noted Home Base is intuitive, making it easy to navigate and use. Others remarked on the benefits of the integrated student information system and instructional suite. Staff were glad to have the opportunity to address and answer a lot of great questions, and we look forward to the upcoming S.I. sessions across the state.

### **Using Quality Rubrics to Evaluate Resources**

How can a teacher be certain that a resource being used in the classroom is a quality resource? One way is to use state-vetted resources in Home Base; another is to use the same rubric the state is using to determine quality.

District and school leaders across the state are attending the three-hour design studio session Using Quality Rubrics to Evaluate Resources at the Summer Institutes to learn how to apply the rubrics the state has been using to identify resources for accessibility through Home Base. The state is using the NC Summary Rubric based on the Open Education Resources Achieve Rubrics. These rubrics provide a structure for evaluating an online resource in a systematic, purposeful, comprehensive way. Those attending the session are provided an opportunity to engage in the process used to select instructional resources for Home Base, review some of the Home Base resources and practice applying the rubrics.

Participants have been excited to apply the rubric in finding high quality resources in their own subject areas. The S.I. session ends with a collaborative sharing time where participants discuss their experience applying the rubrics and their ideas for resource sharing in Home Base.

Renee Collins of Rutherford County Schools says, "I'm pleased that the NC Summary Rubric is available for a quality review of our district resources that we are providing for our teachers, especially as we transition to Home Base."

Given the newness of the standards, participants like Ms. Collins felt strongly that the rubrics offered another way for teachers to continue to work together on creating and finding high quality resources and contributing them to Home Base.

**MORE INFO:** Access the NC Summary Rubric on the Home Base webpage at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/content/rubric/> or contact LaVerne Weldon in NCDPI Learning Systems at [laverne.weldon@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:laverne.weldon@dpi.nc.gov).

### **Partner LEAs Will Be Announced Soon**

You'll recall the news item that the NCDPI sought a few Partner LEAs and charters to volunteer to partner with the agency as Home Base Early Adopters. The final details are being worked out to make sure those that volunteered and have been tentatively selected are fully informed of what the expectations are, from hosting on-site visits from NCDPI and Pearson team members to helping with support documentation and more.

Stay tuned to upcoming newsletter issues for the announcement. We appreciate all those who took the time to apply.

### **Home Base Security/Access Roles and Permissions**

Are you wondering how the user rights and security restrictions in PowerSchool, Schoolnet, and Truenorthlogic (TNL) relate to each other and how a district manages the rights and security for each application?

The user rights and security restrictions will be managed separately for each application. Districts and schools will have the ability to manage each level of user security/access within the district/school.

**MORE INFO:** For details, refer to the Home Base Security/Access Roles and Permissions document at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/getting-ready/implementation/security-overview.doc>.

### **Glad You Asked: A Few More FAQs**

"Glad You Asked" is a Q&A feature where Home Base team members address questions from the field. If it leaves you yearning for more, we invite you to check out the full set of FAQs online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/faq/>.

**Q:** If we have existing lesson plans, will we be able to use them in Home Base?

**A:** Yes. There are several ways to do this, including these two primary ways: 1) A teacher or district could open the lesson plan template available in Home Base and upload the previously-created lesson plans in Word or PDF format to attach to the lesson plan template; 2) In addition, a teacher or district could use a previously created lesson plan as a guide and complete the template to create a new lesson plan by cutting and pasting information from the existing lesson plan. A school district has the capability to share lesson plans out to schools within the district as well.

**Q:** What role, as in role-specific access, do school counselors have in Home Base? Can they see student information for all students assigned to them? Can they create four-year plans, and will students be able to access their plans through Home Base?

**A:** Yes. School counselors do have a role in Home Base similar to the role they currently have in NC WISE. They will be provisioned as a user in that role so that when they log in to Home Base, they will have the same access to student information that they had previously in NC WISE. School counselors will primarily use the student information system (SIS) component within Home Base (PowerSchool), but there are also many functionalities in the instructional improvement system (IIS) that would benefit them as well. For example, a counselor could use any number of pre-formatted reports or create their own, create student groups, and review and use resources related to the Guidance Essential Standards, to name a few. School Counselors will be able to work with students to create four-year plans for students.

**MORE INFO:** Submit any questions you have about Home Base to [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov).

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

### **What's Happening This Summer with Home Base Rollout**

We distributed a special, brief, rollout edition of Home Base Biweekly Update July 3. In case you missed it with the holiday, it included two helpful documents you may want to check out.

**MORE INFO:** First, find out what's happening this summer with Home Base rollout, including a detailed timeline in the document "Home Base —The Basics, 2013-14 Kick-Off Year" found here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/getting-ready/implementation/up-running.pdf>

### **Roles & Permissions Document for District Coordinators and District Data Managers**

The second document we linked to in the Update July 3 contains important information for District Coordinators and School Data Managers: Guidelines for establishing roles and permissions in Schoolnet.

**MORE INFO:** View the roles/permissions document here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/getting-ready/implementation/roles-permissions.doc>.

## **Next NCEES Training Webinar Is July 16**

The next NC Educator Evaluation System (NCEES) weekly training webinar is 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 16. Two more are set for this month, on July 23 and 30, and continue weekly through August and September.

The webinar schedule is:

- ✓ 1-2 p.m. — Help Desk/Advanced Rights Training for System Administrators
- ✓ 2-3 p.m. — Refresher of Training Topics for LEA Trainers
- ✓ 3-4 p.m. — Q&A for LEA Trainers

Also, you can access the Home Base Overview and NCEES training PowerPoint presentations online: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/materials>. In addition, end-user materials (manuals, FAQs, etc.) and NCEES training materials for LEA trainers are on the 'Help Guides' tab in the NCEES Training Environment.

**MORE INFO:** Register for the webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/840446249>. Once registered you will receive login and call-in information. Information about the August and September webinars will be forthcoming. LEA trainers can log into the NCEES Training Environment (<https://ncdpitrain.truenorthlogic.com/ia/adminLogin.jsp>) with assigned training logins to train locally (ex. Train one lead trainer for each school in the district). Login information was sent June 26. Direct questions regarding those logins sent to districts to Tom Tomberlin at [thomas.tomberlin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:thomas.tomberlin@dpi.nc.gov).

## **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.**