

Home Base Weekly Update



October 17, 2013

NEW THIS WEEK

- Home Base Maintenance Weekend Rescheduled for October 25
- Update on Transcripts Work In Home Base
- OpenClass: Getting into the Collaboration and Course Management Tool in Home Base
- SAS® Curriculum Pathways® Resources Now Available in Home Base
- Getting Started with IIS (Schoolnet) Dashboard
- Team Working with Partnership LEAs Go Through Training of Their Own
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- 4 Cs of 21st Century Learning on the Web (Interactive Tools) – Critical Thinking
- Glad You Asked

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- Google in Education Summit to Highlight OpenClass October 19-20

NEW THIS WEEK

Home Base Maintenance Weekend Rescheduled for October 25

The maintenance weekend has been moved to Oct. 25. Please note: This is the final decision, replacing previous announcements of Oct. 18 and Nov. 1 as maintenance weekend dates.

The good news is that many of the fixes expected to go into production during this maintenance weekend will help address a variety of known Principal Monthly Report (PMR) issues in PowerSchool.

If you have questions concerning the rescheduling of this maintenance weekend — October 25 — please contact the Home Base Support Center (HBSC) at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Update on Transcripts Work In Home Base

As mentioned in the NC Student Information System (SIS) Weekly Bulletin, our vendor partner Pearson is finalizing testing data imports and, barring no major issues, expects to begin loading data within the week. Please begin reviewing your transcripts and report any anomalies to the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

A note: You will no longer be able to view the immunizations or previous school data on the NC Standard Transcript, which is the official transcript. This is in compliance with HIPPA and FERPA laws. To view this information users will need to run the unofficial student transcript.

Remember: Until this work is completed, districts/schools can still print transcripts from eSiS for any courses completed prior to this fall and attach a notarized copy of the current schedule for submission to colleges and universities. So, yes, transcripts are available; it will be helpful, however, to allow a few extra days of preparation time.

OpenClass: Getting into the Collaboration and Course Management Tool in Home Base

Imagine teachers being able to do this online:

Upload a video recitation of the MLK's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and require students to write and upload a textual analysis of the letter, share with other students, engage in a threaded discussion or get comments and encouragement back from their teacher.

OpenClass, the collaboration and course management tool in Home Base, will allow teachers to create flexible, online spaces for students and teachers to collaborate and learn. OpenClass courses are a blank canvas for delivering multi-media assignments, creating collaborative spaces, uploading and downloading documents and giving descriptive feedback on student work.

Starting this month, the NCDPI and Pearson will work with interested districts to set up OpenClass. Set-up means ensuring roster syncing between PowerSchool and OpenClass, and that students and teachers can access OpenClass through the Home Base single sign-on (the PowerSchool portal).

The Sign-Up Process: Because we are supporting set-up at a district-level based on interest, we will be sending all superintendents and charter school principals a sign-up at the beginning of next week. After a district expresses interest, we'll work with each to set up OpenClass. We recognize that a lot is happening in Home Base right now which is why we want districts to be able to choose when set-up happens. That said, we think the tools in OpenClass are exciting and many teachers will be interested in being able to set up classes and use OpenClass in their instruction in the second semester. Watch for the sign-up information in the superintendent listserv next week!

MORE INFO: For those who have already received training on OpenClass, a Q&A session will be offered via webinar Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/849187105>. Webinars, including the recent OpenClass webinar held Oct. 15, will be archived for future access and may be found here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/webinars/>
For additional information about Home Base webinars, please visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/schedule/>

SAS® Curriculum Pathways® Resources Now Available in Home Base

Yes, there's more great news on content: SAS Curriculum Pathways resources are now available in Home Base with no additional login required! This means that there are an additional 1,377 instructional resources available to North Carolina educators within our One Place, One Login environment. When searching for materials, you will see two tabs appear with search results. The Schoolnet tab contains all the state vetted resources and any resources created locally. The SAS tab contains materials from SAS Curriculum Pathways. Please note that you may have to upgrade your Java and disable your pop-up blocker before you can access the resources.

Check out these and other Home Base materials and let us know what you think by sending an email to Home_Base_Ready@dpi.nc.gov. All feedback will be used to ensure Home Base meets your instructional needs.

Stay tuned for additional materials in the coming months. A special thanks to North Carolina teachers, the Home Base User Groups, and Home Base Resource Consortium for identifying these resources to include in Home Base.

Getting Started with IIS (Schoolnet) Dashboard

Another quick reference guide has been posted online: *Using the IIS Dashboard to Enhance Instruction*.

This set of screenshots is intended for the teacher user. You can view the dashboard data highlighted in the guide only if you are using current 2013-14 classroom and benchmark assessments. These IIS dashboard screenshots show how to locate functions like student data, the teacher dashboard (with tabs including classroom tests, skills analysis and standards mastery), student groups for differentiation and more, plus key performance indicators.

Access it here:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/general-training/iis-dashboard.pdf>.

Team Working with Partnership LEAs Go Through Training of Their Own

As the functionality of Home Base continues to grow and more elements become available, the partnership team has focused on participation in professional development in order to best serve partnership sites.

Recently, all regional coordinators completed level 1 certification in Powerschool, and attended an all-day, hands-on introduction to OpenClass. Representatives from a number of LEAs attended this session as well, including those from partnership LEAs Lee County and Hertford County. In addition, site coordinators have had the opportunity to participate in regional refreshers along with their partnership sites. The results have provided increased experience with both the Educator Evaluation system and the instructional and assessment components of Schoolnet.

Moving forward, the entire partnership team is excited to continue working with participating charters and districts as they progress with their Home Base implementation plans. Communication at the school and district level has remained steady as application of the instructional components of Home Base becomes more of a focus. The site coordinators will continue to prepare for the challenges and questions that will arise throughout the year as educators continue with the use of Home Base.

Partnership Site Reps and Early Schoolnet Users Attend Certification Training

Schoolnet certification training throughout October has included Home Base partner sites (as noted in the article above) and districts and charter schools that have identified themselves as early adopters of Home Base. Participating LEAs are Avery, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Hoke, Hertford, Lee, Mt. Airy, Onslow, Perquimans, Rutherford, Sampson and Surry counties and KIPP Charter. Those now certified in Schoolnet, the instructional improvement system within Home Base, are excited about training their LEAs to use Schoolnet.

Rob Dietrich, director of accountability testing and records for Lee County Schools, said, "The last two days have been great! We are very excited about the secure test browser for taking assessments. I came back and talked right away with our technology director about plans for training in our district. Thank you."

As your LEAs decide to opt in to take advantage of the robust instructional tools available in Home Base, district staff will be offered a one-time comprehensive certification training in Schoolnet. Spread out over five days, topics include: Classroom Resources, Assessment Admin, School & District Data and Advanced Reporting. Future certification sessions are being scheduled so stay tuned for your opportunity.

To indicate that your LEA has decided to opt-in, please update your Detailed Scope of Work (DSW) if you are using RttT funds, if you plan to use other federal funds, state funds, and/or local funds. In addition, please let us know via email at Home_Base_Ready@dpi.nc.gov of your intent to opt-in. While this is not the official opt-in process, this will provide the NCDPI with an indication of your intent if you want to schedule your Schoolnet certification training. More information about the official opt-in process will be available in late fall.

Remember that all districts and charter schools already had a first round of Schoolnet training back in the late spring/early summer and have access to the Schoolnet training site.

MORE INFO: Please visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/>

Training Materials Reorganized Online

When you visit the Home Base website page Training, you'll see the category Training Materials has now been grouped to help you, the Home Base user, more quickly find what you need: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/materials>.

Here are the categories and the documents within each as of this writing:

- *Classroom Instruction (Schoolnet)*
 - Locating Materials to Support Instruction ([pdf, 676kb](#))
 - Creating Lesson Plans ([pdf, 1010kb](#))

- *Classroom and Benchmark Assessment (Schoolnet)*
 - Creating Assessment Items ([pdf, 1.2mb](#))
 - Sharing Assessments with Gradebook ([pdf, 437kb](#))
 - Using Home Base to Support Formative Assessment ([pdf, 4.3mb](#))
 - A Balanced Assessment System Visual: Integrating Assessment Into Instruction Visual ([pdf, 63kb](#))
 - How to Build ClassScape Assessments in Home Base ([pdf, 739kb](#))

- *Educator Evaluation (NCEES)*
 - Educator Evaluation System User Interface Upgrades ([pdf, 2.9mb](#))
 - [NCEES Training Materials](#)
 - Home Base Educator Evaluation Training Script ([ppt, 13.4mb](#))
 - Home Base Educator Evaluation Training Presentation ([ppt, 5.9mb](#))

- *Student Information (PowerSchool)*
 - Taking Attendance ([pdf, 547kb](#))
 - [Academic Progress](#)
 - [Admit/Withdraw](#)
 - [Attendance](#)
 - [Scheduling](#)
 - [School Information](#)
 - [Student Information](#)

➤ *General Training*

- Finding Quick Training Materials ([pdf, 356kb](#))
- Accessing Schoolnet Training Environment ([ppt, 4.1mb](#))
- Home Base Overview for Training ([ppt, 7.3mb](#))
- Home Base Training — IIS Components ([ppt, 3.9mb](#))
- Using the IIS Dashboard to Enhance Instruction ([pdf, 1.2mb](#))

Keep in mind that while this grouping is intended as a search aid, there's likelihood that some direct links from previously shared PowerPoint presentations or webinars won't work from an archive. It may be helpful to search the subpage listed in the URL immediately after the word "homebase."

Online Evaluation Tool: Principal/Assistant Principal Evaluation Process Webinar

The next Assistant Principal Evaluation Process webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22, from 1 to 3 pm. This webinar will provide you with an opportunity to review the process of completing the annual principal or assistant principal evaluation using the new online evaluation tool, from both the evaluator's perspective and the person being evaluated. All principals should attempt to attend one of these sessions.

MORE INFO: To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/571106129>. For questions, contact Cynthia Martin, Educator Effectiveness, cynthia.martin@dpi.nc.gov.

4 Cs of 21st Century Learning on the Web (Interactive Tools) – Critical Thinking

Exploring the 4 Cs of Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity on the web will provide educators with the opportunity to maximize the interactivity of the Internet to enhance teaching and learning. The webinar is Friday, Oct. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The target audience is classroom teachers in grades K-12. Participants will learn about and use a web 2.0 tool to enhance their students' critical thinking.

Teachers also will brainstorm ways the tool can be used in the classroom; elaborate, refine, analyze and evaluate their own ideas in order to improve and maximize critical thinking skills; and explore ways to nurture the home and school connection.

MORE INFO: Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/796434609>.

Glad You Asked: Select FAQs on Reading 3D and mCLASS

"Glad You Asked" is a Q&A feature where Home Base team members address questions from the field. This week, we devote the section to Reading 3D and mCLASS. If this 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: Will Reading 3D/mCLASS and Home Base be linked? If so, will I give my assessments in Home Base? What about historical data?

A: Reading 3D/mClass will be integrated. Student data from the previous school year will be uploaded and available in Home Base. Administration of assessments will still be through Reading 3D. Also, there is an mCLASS 'hot button' from Home Base/Schoolnet to access this external program.

Q: My LEA had issues getting mCLASS 'rosters' completed. Will we continue having these issues?

A: Because Reading 3D/mCLASS is now mandated statewide, the NCDPI and Amplify were working together to produce the required scripts to get data from PowerSchool to mCLASS. Unfortunately, that work did not complete before the start of school. Some LEAs began the process manually and others waited for the statewide solution. The NCDPI and Amplify did get LEAs rostered that had not started the process. We are now working on the final solution so LEAs/Charters can 're-roster' as they need during the year.

Q: Will DIBELS be a part of the Reading 3D/mCLASS?

A: Yes. Reading 3D has two components – DIBELS Next measures and Text Reading Comprehension measures. Both components are required for students in third grade being taught with the NCSCoS.

MORE INFO: Submit any questions you have about Home Base to homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Google in Education Summit to Highlight OpenClass October 19-20

The coming months will bring numerous informational and training opportunities for districts/schools to learn about the Home Base Learning Management System (OpenClass). Here is one that may be of interest: The NCDPI is excited to participate in the upcoming Google in Education Summit on Oct. 19-20 at Ravenscroft School, 7409 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh.

At the Summit, the NCDPI, Pearson and local educators will be highlighting how Google Apps can be integrated into the Home Base ecosystem through the OpenClass capabilities.

If you are attending the Summit, please stop by our sessions and/or booth. For questions about NCDPI's participation in this event, please email home_base_ready@dpi.nc.gov.

MORE INFO: The Google in Education Summit produced by EdTechTeam is a high intensity, two-day event that focuses on deploying, integrating and using Google Apps for Education and other Google Tools to promote student learning in K-12 and higher education. The program will feature Google Certified Teachers, Google Apps for Education Certified Trainers, practicing administrators, solution providers and representatives from the Google education teams.

[Register now](#) to send teachers, administrators, tech directors, library media specialists, tech support staff, CTOs and anyone who is interested in finding out more about leveraging Google Apps for Education to support student learning.

HOME BASE WEEKLY UPDATE INFO

We encourage you to share this Update, and for past issues of Home Base Weekly and 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.