

# Home Base Weekly Update



October 24, 2013

## NEW THIS WEEK

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## NEW THIS WEEK

### **Home Base Maintenance Weekend Coming Up**

The Home Base application will be brought down for maintenance this weekend. The system will shut down at 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 25. Please do not access Home Base during the maintenance period. 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, Oct. 28. If a delay in bringing up the system should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email.

### **PMRs: You've Got Questions — We've Got Answers**

Need answers to your questions related to running Principal Monthly Reports (PMRs) in PowerSchool?

The Home Base Training Team will present a PMR webinar on Monday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m., demonstrating how to run the PMR in PowerSchool as well as how to clean up data problems from the Exception Reports. Recently added Exceptions will be discussed, and

Ozella Wiggins, Student Account Consultant, Financial Business Services, will be on hand to answer policy/business questions.

To register, please go to the NC SIS Course List page ([http://www.nc-sis.org/course\\_list.html](http://www.nc-sis.org/course_list.html)) and locate the PMR (Principal Monthly Report) Webinar. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the NC SIS website's Recordings page ([www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html](http://www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html)) for those who are unable to attend.

### **ScanIt Instructions Now Online**

Many of you have asked us for guidance related to setting up and using ScanIt with Schoolnet, the instructional component of Home Base. We have recently created and posted a document with instructions and troubleshooting tips. You can find that document under "Training Materials" on the Home Base website or click the following link: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroom-benchmark/20131017-nc-scanit-guide.pdf>

**Note:** Currently, ScanIt is set up for use by users with a leadership or staff role. If you experience any issue using ScanIt, please contact [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov).

### **Clickers and Their Compatibility with Schoolnet**

Schoolnet is compatible with a number of clicker types for student test-taking purposes. Refer to the link below to view a document designed to provide steps to prepare compatible clickers for Schoolnet use, as well as how to activate the clickers for student testing using the Schoolnet application. You'll need your sign-in info to access this PowerSource article: <https://powersource.pearsonschools.com/article/70196?from=search>

### **Quick Guide to Online Testing in Home Base**

Check out the latest quick guide in our online Training Materials section: Getting Started in Home Base — Online Testing. Access that document here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroom-benchmark/online-testing.pdf>.

*User Tip:* If you are receiving a blank screen when using the "help" button you should disable your pop-up blockers. Content may be blocked on Windows Chrome and Firefox but should be functional on Internet Explorer. On a Mac computer, this content is blocked on Chrome and Safari but functional on Firefox.

## **Java re Gradebook and SAS® Curriculum Pathways: Yes, Both Will Work**

Teachers, you may especially be interested: Here's the latest on Java as it relates to using both PowerTeacher Gradebook and SAS Curriculum Pathways in Home Base.

Please be advised that Pearson has identified an issue where PowerTeacher Gradebook and ReportWorks Developer do not successfully launch on computers running the latest version of Java 7 Version 45 on Mac and Windows. Pearson recommends that teachers and other staff avoid updating to this version of Java in order to continue using PowerTeacher Gradebook and ReportWorks Developer. SAS has assured us that the SAS Curriculum Pathways resources that were released Oct. 18 in Schoolnet will work on Java 6 Version 45 to Java 7 Version 40.

## **Home Base's Collaboration and Course Management Tool Is OpenClass: Sign-Up Now!**

The NCDPI and Pearson started work with interested districts this month 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). OpenClass is a powerful online tool that is primarily a teacher tool — a flexible environment for collaboration, content delivery, feedback and collection of student work — many of the features that are included in most Learning Management Systems.

*The Sign-Up Process:* Because we are supporting set-up at a district-level based on interest, superintendents or their designees need to sign up (the sooner districts express interest, the sooner they'll have access!). The link is included in an email that went to all superintendents. Additionally, the link has been posted on ASN. After a district expresses interest, we'll work with each district to set up OpenClass.

## **OpenClass Webinar Now Available Online; More Coming Up**

If you're eager to find out more about OpenClass, the Oct. 15 introductory webinar on OpenClass is now available for you to view online: <https://vimeo.com/77076236> View it to find out how OpenClass can present course content, promote social learning to explore subjects, enhance project collaboration and involve users in active discussions.

The next Introduction to OpenClass webinar, open to teachers, administrators and anyone interested, is 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, so mark your calendars. Here's the registration link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/253620104>

For those Wave 1 participants who already attended the introductory session, a webinar focused on Q&A and Feedback from Training, is planning 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. The same webinar will be repeated for Wave 2 participants who attended the introductory session. It's scheduled 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

All registration links are online at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/schedule/openclass>.

## **LEAs are Opting to Use the Optional Instructional Components of Home Base**

Seventeen LEAs have already opted to use the instructional components of Home Base. Those districts are Bladen, Currituck, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Chatham, Surry, Hertford, Columbus, Robeson, Vance, Franklin, Wilson, Caldwell, Rockingham, Clay, Pamlico, New Hanover and Yadkin counties. Many of these districts have already participated in additional certification training on Schoolnet and training on OpenClass, both of which are available after LEAs have indicated that they will be using the instructional components of Home Base.

If your LEA plans to opt in to Home Base for next year, you can amend your Detailed Scope of Work (DSW) to reflect that intent. Here is a wording sample: "Incorporate the state's Home Base resource items into instructional and assessment practices throughout our district. We plan to use X funds (RttT, state, local, other federal) to cover/subsidize our \$4 per student cost sharing for 2014-15. Our district has Y students. The cost will be around Z."

The DSW amendment is not a binding commitment, but it will give us a sense of who is interested in pursuing Home Base so that we may be able to target additional support for those LEAs/charters for the remainder of this year. We will need a formal commitment by the end of March 2014 per our contract terms with Pearson. More information about the formal process is coming. Please reference slides 6-13 available online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/getting-ready/detailed-homebase-slides-how.ppt> for the high-level of what's included in the opt-in.

**MORE INFO:** If you want to amend your DSW, please email Eric Thanos at [Eric.Thanos@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Eric.Thanos@dpi.nc.gov).

## **Partner LEAs: Spotlight on Hertford County**

Hertford County staff have made great progress with Home Base, and recently did an excellent job navigating the end-of-quarter process. On Oct. 14, Powerschool System Administrator Nicole Balance and Data Manager Judy Boone collaborated to run the district's first set of error-free report cards at HCPS Early College. Site Coordinator Dr. M. Shelly Hunter reports that Ms. Balance and Ms. Boone worked together to examine each faculty record for potential errors, and assisted faculty with correcting those that were identified. Once grades were stored, they successfully ran the first set of Powerschool report cards in HCPS. Ms. Balance and Ms. Boone are to be commended for their collaboration and determination. They each took care to read and re-read the support documentation and are now prepared to move forward with the process of student reports throughout the year. Plans are in place to begin the end-of-quarter process and print report cards in the district's remaining schools.

## **Home Base Resource Consortium Meets Oct. 29**

The next Home Base Resource Consortium meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., is open to anyone interested in learning more about new instructional resources added to Home Base and the process for submitting resources to be shared with schools, districts, and entire state.

Please register to attend at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/863112568>.

District-level personnel are invited to join the Home Base Resource Consortium to share your rich instructional and assessment resources with other educators across the state.

**MORE INFO:** LaVerne Weldon at [LaVerne.Weldon@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:LaVerne.Weldon@dpi.nc.gov).

## **Glad You Asked**

"Glad You Asked" is a Q&A feature where Home Base team members address questions from the field. 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:** Where do I go to view a past Home Base webinar?

**A:** Home Base webinars are archived and available for viewing on the NCDPI Home Base website, and can be accessed under the training/videos tab on the left navigation menu. These can be accessed directly at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/webinars/>.

You'll also find other informational videos here:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/>

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

## **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/biweekly/?year=2013>

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