

Home Base Weekly Update



November 22, 2013

NEW THIS WEEK

- **Get Breaking Home Base News by Following Us on Twitter @NCHomeBase**
- **Please Do Not Access IIS Training Site Until Dec. 9**
- **Fixes in 15.2 Release Available Soon in Schoolnet**
- **15.2 Release Updates ScanIt, Too**
- **Most Remaining PMR Issues Slated for Correction in December Release**
- **Home Base Resource Consortium Meets Nov. 26**
- **Home Base: OpenClass Overview Webinar Is Dec. 12**
- **No Update Next Week; Have a Happy Thanksgiving**

NEW THIS WEEK

Get Breaking Home Base News by Following Us on Twitter @NCHomeBase

The NCDPI has established a Twitter feed — @NCHomeBase — to provide you with instant outage and maintenance notifications, along with other time-sensitive announcements. This additional avenue of communication that has been requested from the field.

The Twitter feed will provide Support Center quick-turnaround announcements. Feel free to encourage your teams and staffs to follow us @NCHomeBase.

If you see too much, not enough or the wrong kind of info there, please let us know; if there's something you think we should have included, let us know that, as well. The goal is to meet your needs, so we appreciate your feedback.

The following item — unavailability of the IIS training environment — is exactly the kind of message that we're tweeting.

Please Do No Access IIS Training Site Until Dec. 9

As some of you are aware, the NCDPI has experienced some performance concerns with the Instructional Improvement System (IIS or Schoolnet) training environment over the last few weeks.

Pearson, the IIS vendor, will be bringing down the IIS training site (homebasetraining.schoolnet.com) at **6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22**. We are asking that LEAs and charters suspend IIS training activities involving the training site **until Monday, Dec. 9**.

Please keep in mind this only involves the training environment; this does not affect your actual district or charter school Schoolnet site.

We will work during this down time to move the training environment to a new data center with an upgraded hardware/software operating environment. The NCDPI and Pearson will sufficiently test the training environment to ensure that it is operating as designed with sufficient response time. We plan to bring the training environment back online starting Dec. 9, and we'll notify all LEAs and charter schools once the IIS training environment is available again.

Thank you for your patience as we make improvements to your Instructional Improvement System test environment.

Fixes in 15.2 Release Available Soon in Schoolnet

As noted in a previous Weekly Update, 15.2 will be available soon for Schoolnet. There are some new features that will be included, such as new item types for assessments and enhanced language support. There are also fixes that will be applied as a part of the new release.

Some of the issues NC has experienced that will be corrected include:

- Our Apologies message displays when user accesses Assessment Admin,
- Site slowness when generating answer sheets, and
- Server errors when creating tests.

We had anticipated the new release during the last maintenance weekend, but because there was some additional development needed to improve performance in that release, we needed to delay the installation. Once that development is completed, we will move to 15.2. We will notify you in advance so that you know when to anticipate seeing the new features and fixes.

15.2 Release Updates ScanIt, Too

As a part of the aforementioned update of the Schoolnet component of Home Base to version 15.2, there will be an update to the ScanIt software which will result in new scan sheets when printing to plain paper.

Changes after the 15.2 release will impact your ability to use the current answer sheets generated for use with ScanIt. We will provide you with advance notice so that you can plan the printing and scanning of answer sheets. Until then, you can continue to print answer sheets for scanning.

If you run into any problems using the ScanIt software, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov. Be sure to include ScanIt in the subject line and include the screen shots of any error messages or problems that are occurring when you use ScanIt. You can also reference the guide for using ScanIt at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroombenchmark/20131017-nc-scanit-guide.pdf>.

MORE INFO: Meanwhile, for more about using the ScanIt software, you can view the most recent webinar on the topic at <https://vimeo.com/79925044>. You can also download the

PowerPoint presentation from that Nov. 20 webinar. It's posted on the Home Base webpage in the Training Materials section. Use this link and scroll down to "ScanIt Webinar Presentation" at the bottom of the page:

[http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/materials/category?category=Classroom%20and%20Benchmark%20Assessment%20\(Schoolnet\).](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/materials/category?category=Classroom%20and%20Benchmark%20Assessment%20(Schoolnet).)

Most Remaining PMR Issues Slated for Correction in December Release

After the State Reporting Release 13.11.0.3.0 was implemented this past weekend, Quality Assurance (QA) performed regression testing to determine what issues remain with Principal Monthly Reports (PMRs).

Here are the findings. Unless otherwise noted, all are scheduled to be corrected in the December maintenance release:

- PMR 18 – PMR is not reporting the student's original entry code for this school year when enrollment code is R5 or R6. Pearson will add a view so LEAs can see the R5 and R6 students.
- Withdrawals are showing on all PMRs regardless of the month that the student withdraws. However, the ADM/ADA appears to be correct. This causes enrollment numbers to show an artificial increase in the withdrawals being reported here.
- PMR 5, 6, 7, 10 and 25 are reflecting track school information incorrectly.
- PMR 23 is incorrectly reporting 10-digit student numbers as invalid.
- R1 is not reporting the student's original grade level and code.
- Some totals are not correct on the PMR Summary report.
- Some sites are still unable to run a PMR because of incorrect data. This issue is related to one or more students with two or more enrollment records with the exact same entry and exit dates.
- The NCDPI is working with Pearson to develop scripts to help correct: a) LEAs' inability to correct a student's re-enrollment history after the student is transferred to another school due to school ID being lost upon transfer, and b) Bad Data generated by PowerSchool that causes RPG errors to show on the PMR exceptions. The bug has been corrected, but Pearson needs to run a script to correct the bad data.
- Pearson is researching a bug with the Core product that affects transferring students. Data gets dropped (e.g., school code, admission status).

Please keep in mind that the PMR Summary will be inaccurate until all FATALs are corrected.

Because of the continued issues with the PMR, if any LEA/charter has already run and approved their PMR for Month 1 and believe their information to be incorrect, they may un-approve the PMR, re-run it and re-approve their Month 1 PMR once the information is

correct. They may use the document PMR Validation Errors as a reference for all Exception Codes and their severity. Here's the link:

http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/email_bulletins/docs/PMR_Validation_Errors.xls.

MORE INFO: If you have questions or concerns pertaining to your PMR, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Home Base Resource Consortium Meets Nov. 26

The Home Base Resource Consortium meets next on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The topic is Sharing Assessment Items. This meeting is open to anyone interested in learning how to add assessment items to Home Base and the process of submitting these items so that they can be shared with schools, districts and the entire state.

Please register 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.

Home Base: OpenClass Overview Webinar Is Dec. 12

Plan now to attend the OpenClass Overview webinar on tap for Thursday, Dec. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/728404304>. The webinar is open to anyone interested, but would especially be of interest to teachers and principals.

OpenClass is a dynamic learning environment that helps teachers bring social learning and interactive experiences to their students. Participants will learn how OpenClass can be used to:

- Present course content,
- Explore subjects using social learning,
- Collaborate on projects,
- Hold active discussions, and more.

No Update Next Week; Have a Happy Thanksgiving

We are skipping publication of Home Base Weekly Update on Thursday, Nov. 28. Please enjoy your Thanksgiving with family and friends or in your own special way. Look for your next Update on Thursday, Dec. 5. Thanks!

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.