

Home Base Weekly Update



December 5, 2013

NEW THIS WEEK

- **Decision Date Moved for Home Base Options**
- **New Webinar Just Announced on Gradebook Set-Up**
- **ScanIt Update: New Version and New Scan Sheets**
- **Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend Starts Dec. 13**
- **Many Hats Webinar Shines Light on Small Districts' Implementation Strategies**
- **'ScanIt' and 'Creating Student Groups Webinars' Recently Posted Online**
- **Setup Needed for Properly Running Honor Roll Calculations**
- **Spotlight on Partner LEAs**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Please Do Not Access IIS Training Site Until Dec. 9**
- **Get Breaking Home Base News by Following Us on Twitter @NCHomeBase**

NEW THIS WEEK

Decision Date Moved for Home Base Options

With the roll-out of Home Base in the fall of 2013, we know that local educators have been so busy dealing with PowerSchool and other "must-use" elements that it has been challenging to get to the optional parts of the system that can be so helpful and powerful for classroom teachers.

Those opt-in pieces include Schoolnet, the Professional Development system and its PD courses and transcript features for educators, and more. That's why the NCDPI has extended the window for local school districts to make a final "opt-in" decision for the non-required parts of the Home Base system to July 15, 2014.

By opting in, local districts agree to pay \$4 per student based on average daily membership (ADM) and will be able to fully use all parts of Home Base — not just PowerSchool, the NC Educator Evaluation System and state-required online assessments. More detail about options to show your opt-in decision are still to come, so stay tuned.

New Webinar Just Announced on Gradebook Set-Up

Due to popular demand, the topic for next week's Home Base webinar has changed from OpenClass to Setting up Gradebook.

“PowerTeacher Gradebook: Set-up and Operation” will be offered Thursday, Dec. 12, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and should be especially helpful to these audiences: teachers, data managers, LEA Home Base coordinators, and curriculum staff.

The session is designed to help teachers set up and understand how to use the PowerTeacher Gradebook and will include step-by-step instructions on how to setup your gradebook, using both the grade setup tab and other setup needed for the gradebook to calculate correctly.

Other topics:

- Using Total Points or Category Weights? N1, Q1, T1, etc.
- Setting up your Term Weights S1, S2, E1 and F1 grades,
- Do you round or truncate?
- When do I need to recalculate the final grades?
- What do I need to do when it is time to submit my grades for report cards?

Facilitators for the webinar are Lynn Bullock from Pearson and Rosalyn Galloway from NCDPI. Here's where to register: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/728404304>. For those who cannot attend, the webinar will be recorded and posted online later.

ScanIt Update: New Version and New Scan Sheets

As part of the upcoming 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. If you have paper answer sheets that students have completed or that you plan to use with assessments, it is very important to get those results scanned in before the close of business (5 p.m.) on **Friday, Dec. 6**.

If you have assessments scheduled after Dec. 6 and plan to administer them using paper-pencil, please hold off on printing answer sheets from within Home Base until Monday, Dec. 9. The answer sheets that you have been printing will not be compatible with the new version of ScanIt. The scanning process and the supported scanners will not change with this upgrade.

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.

MORE INFO: Access these documents for more help using ScanIt

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroom-benchmark/20131017-nc-scanit-guide.pdf>.

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/materials/schoolnet/classroom-benchmark/scanit-webinar.ppt>

Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend Starts Dec. 13

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is Dec. 13-16. The system will shut down on Friday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m. Once maintenance is completed a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use. **Please do not access Home Base during the maintenance period.**

Home Base will be returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday, Dec. 16. If a delay in bringing up the system should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email.

Ever wonder who sets the maintenance weekend dates? The dates are set by the Configuration Control Board (CCB) comprised of local public school representatives. It is challenging, to say the least, to select ideal dates.

Many Hats Webinar Shines Light on Small Districts' Implementation Strategies

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," according to Helen Keller.

We know educators, administrators and support personnel in smaller school districts often wear many hats, juggling many jobs. Having the opportunity to explore resources and solutions together was the rationale for the development of the "Many Hats and Home Base" webinar held recently.

Webinar participants had the opportunity to learn how some of our state's smaller LEAs are handling the implementation of Home Base. The presentation led by representatives from Hoke, Lee and Perquimans counties provided great insight into the management of Home Base. The common threads from their presentations focused on planning, collaboration and communication. Since key personnel in small districts often wear many hats, these concepts are even more critical to success.

MORE INFO: Got an implementation strategy that's worked well for you? Whether you're a charter school or an LEA that's big, small or medium-sized, we'd love to share your tips in an upcoming issue of *Home Base Weekly Update*. Email Kathy Newbern in the NCDPI communications office, knewbern@dpi.nc.gov.

'ScanIt' and 'Creating Student Groups' Webinars Recently Posted Online

In case you couldn't attend the webinars "Using ScanIt To Upload Scan Sheets Into Schoolnet" and "Creating Students Groups for Differentiated Instruction," held Nov. 20 and 21 respectively, each is now available online at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/videos/webinars/>.

The IIS webinar "Using ScanIt To Upload Scan Sheets Into Schoolnet" demonstrates how to download the Scanit software and use ScanIt to upload scan sheets into Schoolnet. It was presented by Kayla Siler, NCDPI assessment analyst.

Here's the direct link to the webinar and to the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar:

1. <http://vimeo.com/79925044>, and
2. The ScanIt PowerPoint used in the webinar: [ppt](#)

The IIS webinar “Creating Student Groups for Differentiated Instruction,” targeted to school administrators, demonstrates creating student groups in Schoolnet and covers facilitating differentiated/targeted instruction, special events organization such as a Robotics Club and projects. It was presented by Dan Urbanski and Ouida Meyers of the NCDPI Digital Teaching and Learning division.

Here’s the direct link to the webinar and to the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar:

1. <http://vimeo.com/80017961>, and
2. Creating Groups PowerPoint used in the webinar: [ppt](#)

Setup Needed for Properly Running Honor Roll Calculations

There is a certain setup that must be completed at the LEA and school levels in order to properly run Honor Roll calculations.

A new quick reference document has been created detailing this setup, which you can access online at:

http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/school_info/PS_QRD_Honor_Roll_Calculations_11122013.pdf.

Please use this document to ensure all setup is complete and accurate for Honor Roll calculations. If you have any questions pertaining to this process, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Spotlight on Partner LEAs

Here’s a quick peek at some activities related to implementing Home Base that are underway at the Partner LEAs and charter schools:

- Avery County is in the process of integrating Haiku (their LMS) into PowerSchool;
- KIPP Charter has trained their teachers on Schoolnet and have begun using it for assessments;
- Lee County has used Schoolnet for benchmark testing;
- The Point charter school has begun using PowerLunch for record keeping; and
- Some teachers at Franklin Academy have begun using Schoolnet for quick formative checks and remediation.

Keep up the good work out there.

MORE INFO: Is your school or district doing something noteworthy in Home Base you'd like to share? If so, email Kathy Newbern, knewbern@dpi.nc.gov. Share your good news with your fellow educators and Home Base users.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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, brought down the IIS training site (homebasetraining.schoolnet.com) 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.

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 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.

The goal is to meet your needs, so we appreciate any feedback.

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.**