

Home Base Weekly Update



January 9, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- **Preview of Topics Announced for Feb. 17-19 Home Base Symposium**
- **January 3-6 Home Base Maintenance Weekend Featured PMR, SAR Updates**
- **New Teacher Role Available for Creating Shared Classroom Assessments**
- **Schoolnet Quality Assurance Testing Going Well with LEAs**
- **New Content Added in Schoolnet**
- **Webinars On Tap to Cover Various Instructional Improvement Topics**
- **'Exploring the 4Cs of 21st Century Learning on the Web' Offered Again Jan. 24**
- **OpenClass Update: Continuing Integrations with Home Base**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Webinar on PowerTeacher Gradebook Now Online**

NEW THIS WEEK

Preview of Topics Announced for Feb. 17-19 Home Base Symposium

As planning kicks into full gear for the 2014 Home Base Symposium Feb. 17-19 at Greensboro's Sheraton Four Seasons, Koury Convention Center, we thought you'd like a sneak peek at some of the session topics.

This year's theme is "All Roads Lead to Home Base," which describes our ultimate goal of integrating Student Information, Standards and Curriculum, Instructional Design, Practice and Resources, Assessments, Data Analysis and Reporting, and Professional Development and Educator Evaluation into one system with single sign-on capability.

So, here's a partial line-up of session topics so far: Attendance Set-up and Management, Scheduling Tips, Reporting, Gradebook, PowerSchool Tips and Tricks, NC Educator Effectiveness System, Schoolnet and OpenClass. There will also be a general session with the latest on where we've come from, where we are and where we're heading with Home Base rollout in this second half of the initial year.

Symposium registration is \$115 if postmarked by Jan. 31, or \$250 if postmarked on or after Feb. 1. On-site registration will be \$250 as well. So take advantage of early registration now.

REGISTRATION INFO: Online registration is available at <http://www.nc-sis.org/symposium14.html>. Remember, registration is not complete until payment and a copy of the completed registration form are received at NCDPI. When completing registrations, please ensure your email address is correct. Certificates of Attendance will be sent to the email addresses entered on the registration form. More details on the conference and instructions on when and where to send payments can be found here:

http://www.nc-sis.org/documents/symp_2014/Home_Base_Symposium_Letter_2014.pdf.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Several rooms have been reserved at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel for Home Base Symposium guests. Find the hotel reservation form here:

http://www.nc-sis.org/documents/symp_2014/Home_Base_Hotel_2014.doc. Please complete the form and mail or fax it to the Sheraton Hotel address/phone number listed on the form. Do NOT submit the hotel reservation form to NCDPI. Please remember to state that you are with the Home Base Symposium when making reservations.

MORE INFO: Please contact Terra Dominguez at terra.dominguez@dpi.nc.gov.

January 3-6 Home Base Maintenance Weekend Featured PMR, SAR Updates

Pearson and the NCDPI successfully completed another Home Base maintenance weekend Jan. 3-6 that include work on PMR and SAR data collection and validation along with other miscellaneous enhancements. Several updates pertaining to the PMR are listed below.

To view a listing of all updates, visit

http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/2013_North_Carolina_Release_Notes_sr131213.pdf.

Principal Monthly Report (PMR) updates included:

- The report now uses [Students]SchoolID instead of [Students]Enrollment_SchoolID to determine the school the student is attending. Prior to this change some students were being erroneously omitted from the report output.
- A new validation, PMR-26, is added to flag R2 and R3 enrollment records that do not have a preceding E1 or E2 enrollment record as the first enrollment of the school year.
- The PMR-11 validation is updated to look for an E1 enrollment at any school during the school year instead of just the currently enrolled school.
- Filters have been disabled on all columns in the PMR and GRS Summary views.
- Students who have an erroneous Track designation on their student record when attending a non-track school are no longer excluded from the report.
- The PMR-2 validation no longer flags students who were attending the school, transferred to a different school and then returned to the original school.
- The PMR-3 validation is corrected to no longer flag students with multiple enrollment records who do not actually meet the criteria for the exception.

- A new validation, PMR-28, is added to identify students who are not included on the PMR because their student record has an exit date that is prior to their entry date.
- The PMR-5 and PMR-6 validation now applies to both track and non-track schools. Previously these validations were only being called for track schools.

MORE INFO: The next scheduled maintenance weekend is Feb. 7-10. You can see the list of all scheduled maintenance weekends here:

http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf.

New Teacher Role Available for Creating Shared Classroom Assessments

Do you have teachers who need access to build shared or schoolwide assessments? The basic teacher role only allows a teacher to build “My Classroom” assessments within the Schoolnet component of Home Base. If your teachers need access to build “Shared Classroom Assessments” or “School Assessments,” they will need an additional role.

The new role for teachers is called “Access for Teachers to Share Assessments.” A new document has been posted to the User Roles and Access page of the Home Base website that provides the details you need to set up this role for a teacher (remember that the roles and permission for Schoolnet access are set up within PowerSchool, so please work with your school and district data managers to ensure you have the right roles set up).

Please note this role is only something that would need to be added for someone with the default role of “teacher,” and that the shared and school assessments are only available to teachers within the same school.

You’ll find the new document “More on Roles and Permissions – Access for Teachers to Share Assessments” at

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/getting-ready/implementation/category?category=User%20Roles%20and%20Access>. There you’ll also find general information about roles and permissions as well as a document on how to set up a teacher with access to build benchmark assessments.

MORE INFO: For questions, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

Schoolnet Quality Assurance Testing Going Well with LEAs

In the weeks before the holidays, NCDPI staff conducted quality assurance testing in the field with several LEAs already using Schoolnet. The purpose of this testing is to determine whether the functionality of the instructional improvement system is working as intended in real environments out in your LEAs. While there are known system response-time issues, LEAs were very pleased with the actual functionality of the system. Please note that Pearson staff are aware of the performance issues and that there is work happening now to resolve those issues.

Teachers as well as school and district administrators involved in testing were able to see comprehensive student profiles, use the lesson planner with ease, and search for instructional materials. Participants also were able to create their own instructional

resources and assign them to students. Student groups were created and analysis spreadsheets were generated based on the data associated with these groups. Teachers were also able to create manual assessments, express tests and assessment items although performance issues became more evident when the assessment features of Home Base were in use.

LEAs were excited to see the ScanIt feature functioning as intended and were very impressed with the manipulatives for use on online assessments. They were also impressed by the ability to share instructional materials they have created at the school, district and even the state level, and look forward to exploring this functionality more in the future. We greatly appreciate everyone in Henderson, Hoke, Montgomery and Perquimans counties who worked through this testing with us.

New Content Added in Schoolnet

Speaking of Schoolnet, even more content — 2,496 additional instructional materials — was added to the state item bank over the holiday break. The instructional materials are primarily lesson plans and individual resources, but they also include some unit plans as well as resources that could be used in the classroom during the formative assessment process. While materials have been added in a majority of subject areas, look for an exceptional amount of additional resources for high school Social Studies as well as Arts Education and English Language Arts.

Webinars On Tap to Cover Various Instructional Improvement Topics

The following webinars are all held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the dates indicated:

- An *Introduction to OpenClass*, the collaboration tool in Home Base, is offered to teachers and administrators Wednesday, Jan. 15. Presenters will cover how to use this platform and social learning in OpenClass to present course content and assignments. They will show you how OpenClass can be used for project collaboration and active online discussions for students. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/684048161>
- Teachers, if you miss today's webinar (Jan. 9) on *Building Your Instructional Materials* in Schoolnet, it will be posted later online. A similar session aimed at school administrators is slated for Thursday, Jan. 16: *Instructional Materials Review Process*. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/463404936>.
- District administrators are the target audience for the Thursday, Jan. 23, webinar *Introduction to Curriculum Manager Dashboard*. Topics include the function of the curriculum manager, and sharing district materials including pacing guides and curriculum documents. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/335948889>.
- *ScanIt* is the topic Thursday, Jan. 30, for teachers on how to scan tests and access the results in Schoolnet. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/180149609>.

MORE INFO: Several February and March webinars are scheduled as well. Please check the Home Base website's training schedule page for more on other IIS and OpenClass

webinars, evaluation process webinars and a list, by region, of Educator Effectiveness Face-to-Face Home Base Refreshers:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/training/schedule/>. Also, for a quick reference, there's the Home Base calendar found here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/calendar/>.

'Exploring the 4Cs of 21st Century Learning on the Web' Offered Again Jan. 24

Exploring the 4 Cs of Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity on the web will provide educators the opportunity to maximize the interactivity of the internet to enhance teaching and learning. The next webinar in this series focuses on Communication and will be held Friday, Jan. 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It's especially targeted to K-12 classroom teachers, but enrollment is open to all interested.

Examine a variety of resources with the potential for growing students' 21st-century learning skills. Participants will collaboratively explore resources and have the chance to share experiences and additional activities related to the 4 Cs, including:

- Using a web 2.0 tool to enhance students' communication skills,
- Brainstorming ways the tool can be used in the classroom,
- Elaborating, refining, analyzing and evaluating your own ideas in order to improve and maximize communication skills, plus
- Exploring ways to nurture the home/school connection.

Registration link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/692544889>

MORE INFO: Donna Albaugh, Donna.albaugh@dpi.nc.gov.

OpenClass Update: Continuing Integrations with Home Base

Forty-five LEAs participated in OpenClass training in December and into January. The attendees learned how to create courses in a blended/online environment, explore subjects using social learning, set up online collaboration projects, and develop threaded discussions. During the weeks of Jan. 13, 20 and 27, our Pearson partners will integrate each OpenClass campus with Home Base by syncing the course and roster information from PowerSchool so all of the 45 can begin piloting OpenClass in the schools/sections of their choice.

Planning for integrations with additional LEAs is underway. District superintendents and charter leadership will be sent information shortly on how to sign up for future "waves."

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Webinar on PowerTeacher Gradebook Now Online

The NCDPI hosted a well-received webinar Dec. 12 on using the PowerTeacher Gradebook. Co-presenters were Lynn Bullock, implementation training manager from Pearson, and Rosalyn Galloway, Student Information System (SIS) program manager. In case you missed it, a recording of the webinar can be found at www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html.

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.**