

# Home Base Weekly Update



January 30, 2014

## NEW THIS WEEK

- **Weekly Project Status Webinars to Begin for Superintendents, Charter School Directors**
- **It's Getting Exciting: A Whopping 59 Sessions Set for Feb. 17 Symposium**
- **Symposium Planners Highly Recommend These Two Symposium Sessions**
- **English Development Standards, Newly Tagged ESL Instructional Materials Now in Schoolnet**
- **What a Difference Checking or Unchecking a Single Box Can Make**
- **New Information Available with Assessment Items**
- ***New on the Web*: Webinar Posted on Reviewing, Managing Instructional Materials**
- **Upcoming Webinar Aimed at Administrators**

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Next Maintenance Weekend is Feb. 7-10**
- **Teachers and Curriculum Staff: Please Complete Our Schoolnet Survey**

## **Weekly Project Status Webinars to Begin for Superintendents, Charter School Directors**

Near the end of 2013, State Superintendent June Atkinson outlined several steps to ensure both direct and frequent communications with local school districts and charter schools in this second half of the Home Base rollout year. One such action item is a new weekly Project Status Webinar that begins on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Superintendents and charter school directors have been invited to tune in along with anyone they'd like to include from their Home Base teams. The one-hour webinar begins at 11 a.m.

Presenters, including Dr. Atkinson, will unveil several new reporting areas including Successes and Recent Accomplishments, Major Attention Areas, plus a calendar identifying when new updates and releases are coming within the project component areas, like SchoolNet and PowerSchool. These reports will be shared live for the first two webinars, and starting Feb. 14 will additionally be available online with a weekly update cycle to match the next coming webinar.

A second action item was a request that each district identify its Home Base team members to Dr. Atkinson so she can be certain communications around Home Base are reaching the proper recipients — those responsible for program success at the local level. That list is nearing completion; we thank all those who have participated.

### **It's Getting Exciting: A Whopping 59 Sessions Set for Feb. 17 Symposium**

From a PowerSchool Cafe to wireless for \$5 a day, you won't want to miss a minute of the first-ever Home Base Symposium set for Feb. 17-19 in Greensboro. Fun fact: Did you know our host site, the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Four Seasons, is the largest convention hotel between Atlanta and Washington, D.C.?

Here's what's on tap when you arrive: 59 distinct sessions with more than 100 presenters and guest speakers from LEAs, the NCDPI, Pearson and other vendors who support the Home Base implementation.

Roughly 20 percent of the sessions offered support the PowerSchool SIS foundational sessions (meaning they tie in, but are focused on data, policy, integrated applications and IIS). There are 21 sessions on PowerSchool functions plus eight hands-on sessions.

There's a special session for Tech Directors and for Superintendents on the last day of the conference, Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The PowerSchool Cafe premieres this year, where LEAs are invited to join forces and create a report to share at conference closing with all attendees. The "cafe" room will be available four times during the conference to these LEA/school staff to work in groups for about eight total hours. Then — ta-dah — during the last session, these cafe-goers will share/demonstrate their report to what we hope will be huge applause and what we know will be huge thanks from the NCDPI. The goal of these collaborative work sessions is to create reports that can be shared throughout the state.

Also new: The host hotel is offering wireless to those not staying at the hotel for \$5 a day. We are encouraging users to take advantage of this offer in order to minimize cell phone "hot spots" that negatively impact everyone's wireless experience in the hotel. Please see hotel staff for information.

**MORE INFO:** For the full course list and descriptions and more about registration, visit <http://www.nc-sis.org/symposium14.html>. Once the booklet is complete, it will be posted online to allow attendees to download and pre-plan their sessions. We anticipate this is the last year we will provide hard copies at the conference. Next year we plan to 'go green.'

### **Symposium Planners Highly Recommend These Two Symposium Sessions**

Like a mom of several children, of course we cannot single out a favorite; yet, when we asked the hard working Symposium team to pretty please give us a couple of sessions to highlight, here's what they came up with. Hope to see you there, in Greensboro Feb. 17-19:

#### ❖ *Home Base Data Flow*

This session will provide participants with an overview of how data flows through the various components of Home Base, including

1. Data integration between PowerSchool, the PS ODS and Schoolnet,
2. Data integration between PowerSchool, the EdCloud and OpenClass (ECollege),
3. Data integration between LEA source systems, UID Staff, the NCDPI ODS, and the Educator Evaluation Systems.

❖ *Best Practices for Implementing Home Base Suite of Applications*

Representatives from Bladen, Hoke and Montgomery counties will share how they have successfully rolled out the Home Base suite of applications. Participants will leave this session with strategies for communication, ideas on how they might be funding Home Base opt-in, real-life examples of how they rolled out the parent portal, training plans, and use of the instruction and assessment components that apply to a district's specific needs, and "role-alike" professional contacts who may be useful for future inquiries.

### **English Development Standards, Newly Tagged ESL Instructional Materials Now in Schoolnet**

The instructional improvement portion of Home Base (Schoolnet) now has English Language Development (ELD) content standards and close to 200 instructional materials aligned to those standards. Materials include lesson plans, unit plans and other resources. The best way to find the materials in Schoolnet is by filtering on "ESL" as a subject or searching by the ELD standards.

Special thanks to two contributors: First, Angel Mills, District ESL Lead Teacher and Program Specialist for Lee County Schools, who helped develop the dot notation for the English Development Standards so that they could be included in Home Base (<http://center.ncsu.edu/standards/NCES/ESL/nceld.pdf>). This work was part of Angel's project as a 2013-14 Home Base Kenan Fellow with the Learning Systems Division at the NCDPI. Secondly, we want to thank Joni Allison, a Secondary Instructional Coach for Henderson County Public Schools, who also serves as a 2013-14 Home Base Kenan Fellow. She worked with Angel in tagging the ESL resources.

To learn more about the work of the Home Base Kenan Fellows, please attend the Collaborative Conference on Student Achievement (CCSA) March 3-5 at the Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, and attend the session, "Hitting a Home Run with Home Base."

### **What a Difference Checking or Unchecking a Single Box Can Make**

If we had a Tips and Tricks section, this would be in it: a real-life scenario that could help others out there avoid needless frustration.

A Carteret teacher reported that when trying to take attendance, PowerTeacher Gradebook appeared to be working, but when she navigated away and later returned to Gradebook, it appeared that nothing was saved. She even tried to complete the attendance task from the seating chart; sometimes if she clicked it enough times, it appeared to save. Furthermore, it did not appear to save on the admin side of PowerSchool.

Turns out the school's version of PowerSchool was set to "process attendance in the background" under District/Attendance. Under Recording Options, the box was checked beside "Process teacher/sub attendance in the background?" If that box is checked, then PowerSchool will not immediately post attendance.

Pearson recommends this box should remain UNCHECKED. Once this box was unchecked, and the page was submitted, the Carteret teacher experienced no more issues.

### **New Information Available with Assessment Items**

When the first assessment items were loaded into Home Base, some item metadata (information) was not included such as "degree of difficulty." This information has now been added to the system and is available with the assessment items (for Publishers NCDPI\_Classroom and NCDPI\_Benchmark) in Home Base. (This information is available only for those items provided by the NCDPI that were formerly in the ClassScape System.)

The information added includes difficulty (found in Authored Difficulty), Webb's Depth of Knowledge (found in Webb) and passage type. These options can also be used to search for items, too. For example, you can now search passages for only "poetry" or you can search for only items with a "medium" difficulty.

Additional information about the assessment items and assessment tools in Home Base will continue to be available on the website at

[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)).

### ***New on the Web: Webinar Posted on Reviewing, Managing Instructional Materials***

The Jan. 23 webinar Home Base IIS - Instructional Materials Review Process & Managing Curriculum Materials for District Administrators is now archived on the Home Base website.

Learn ways administrators can use Schoolnet to search for existing instructional resources and create additional resources such as lesson plans. Understand the review/vetting process NCDPI follows to approve quality instructional resources for use in Schoolnet. See the Curriculum Manager tool inside Schoolnet where district administrators can create and upload curriculum, curricular units and related district materials such as pacing guides, unpacking documents and the like.

Access the webinar at <http://vimeo.com/84903141>.

### **Upcoming Webinar Aimed at Administrators**

District Administrators are the target audience for the Thursday, Feb. 6, webinar *Advanced Curriculum Manager Dashboard*. Topics include instruction on entering curriculum documents and uploading district resources and instructional units. The webinar is from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/385377793>

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

### **Next Maintenance Weekend is Feb. 7-10**

The next scheduled maintenance weekend is Feb. 7-10. View the list of all scheduled maintenance weekends here:

[http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home\\_Base\\_Maintenance\\_Sched.pdf](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf)

### **Teachers and Curriculum Staff: Please Complete Our Schoolnet Survey**

First: A huge thank you to the 200+ teachers who have taken this survey. If you've not had the opportunity yet, please take a few minutes to give us your feedback. We hope to gauge teachers' knowledge and use of the instructional materials and classroom assessments in the Home Base Instructional Improvement System, Schoolnet.

Throughout the state, Schoolnet use presently ranges from "not at all" to "daily." Whether you have used the materials or not, the information you provide will help us communicate with other teachers and staffers about the system, and will provide some baseline data.

The survey should take only five to 15 minutes to complete depending on your use of Schoolnet. We appreciate your taking the time to respond. All responses are confidential. Access the survey now through Feb. 7 at <https://survey.sedl.org/efm/wsb.dll/s/1g187>.

## **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=2014>

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