

Home Base Weekly Update



February 13, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- **It's Almost Here: Home Base Symposium; New This Year is the Pearson Hub**
- **More Than 8,000 New Science, Social Studies Resources Added**
- **Feb. 11 Project Status Webinar Available for Viewing**
- **Weekly Update Newsletter Returning to Biweekly Distribution**
- **Kudos to These Problem Solvers and a Word About Weekend Make-Up Days**
- **Home Base's Collaboration and Course Management Tool Is OpenClass: Sign-Up Now!**
- **Home Base Among Topics at READY IV Meetings This Spring**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Feb. 20 Webinar Covers Test Item Review for Administrators**
- **Learn More about the New Home Base PD Tool Functionality Feb. 27**
- **ScanIt Webinar Now Available Online**
- **Curriculum Manager Webinar Now Available Online**

NEW THIS WEEK

It's Almost Here: Home Base Symposium; New This Year is the Pearson Hub

Participants planning to attend the Feb. 17-19 Home Base Symposium at Greensboro's Koury Convention Center may want to check out The Pearson Hub.

Offered in the Blue Ashe room, the Hub is the place where Pearson staff will meet with school district representatives. The room is available for Pearson team members to meet with you to problem solve and collaborate on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 17 and 18, from 8-11 a.m. to 1-4 p.m. both days, and on the final Symposium day, Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 8-11 a.m.

A note about this year's cyber cafe: The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons does provide a small cyber cafe on the main floor; however, the NCDPI cyber cafe on the third floor conference level, offered in the past, will not be available this year, so please plan accordingly.

The 2014 Home Base Symposium Program Booklet, which includes this year's speakers,

presenters, course list and master schedule, is also available. Please feel free to use this booklet to plan your schedule prior to attending the symposium. You may download the booklet here:

http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/symp_2014/14_HB_Sym_Program_1_31_14.pdf.

MORE INFO: If you have questions or need clarification about any sessions, please contact Terra Dominguez at terra.dominguez@dpi.nc.gov.

More Than 8,000 New Science, Social Studies Resources Added

On Friday, Feb. 14, Home Base will contain science and social studies resources from Pearson's Online Learning Exchange (OLE) to help students connect and experience science and social studies.

In Schoolnet, click on the OLE Sci/SS tab that displays with your search results and you will find a wide range of resources that can be used in your lesson plans. The entire collection includes videos, animations, and interactivities, as well as, maps, labs, worksheets, presentations, classroom activities, and pictures to support teaching science and social studies. There are more than 8,000 resources in the total OLE collection!

Note: Please adhere to the copyright restrictions that can be found at <http://www.onlinelearningexchange.com/userAgreement.html>.

Feb. 11 Project Status Webinar Available for Viewing

Winter weather prevented some superintendents and others from participating in the Feb. 11 Home Base Weekly Project Status webinar so we've provided this link for your viewing: <http://vimeo.com/86443597>.

Reminder: There will not be a project status webinar Feb. 18 because of the Home Base Symposium in Greensboro Feb. 17-19. Invitees will be receiving registration information via email for the next project status webinar, Tuesday, Feb. 25. We hope you'll tune in.

Weekly Update Newsletter Returning to Biweekly Distribution

Because of the new weekly project status webinars, we are returning to a biweekly publication schedule for this news publication, so please look for the next edition in your in-box on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Kudos to These Problem Solvers and a Word About Weekend Make-Up Days

Tammy Strupp, PowerSchool coordinator for Lincoln County Schools, faced a predicament one recent Saturday when school was in session for a weather make-up day. No one was able to take attendance in PowerSchool, but when she called the Home Base Support Center (HBSC), it was closed.

Luckily Walter Raif from the HBSC team saw her online query, but before he called she had already solved the issue on her own. Kudos to both Raif for taking weekend time to help and to Strupp (who, yes, was also working a Saturday), for getting her vital attendance

reports to run properly.

Says Raif, “When I called her she had already determined the cause of her issue so we verified all her settings and confirmed that all was working as it should be.”

Another success story involves Weldon City Schools’ Monica Smith-Woofterr, their director of accountability and secondary education.

Raif explains: “When I called, Monica, too, she was unable to take attendance. I changed her Attendance preferences, confirmed her other settings, and discussed how the FTE, Attendance Conversions, Attendance Preferences, and Bell Schedules work together.

Will your LEA be making up weather days on Saturdays soon? If so, be sure you mark your calendar accordingly and show the Saturday as in-session day in PowerSchool. Then, go to the school set-up page and choose preferences under Attendance. Make sure you have the views marked to show Saturdays and Sundays, and you will be good to go!

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

The NCDPI and Pearson started work with interested districts to set up and train on 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 (LMS).

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 sign-up link is included in an email that went to all superintendents. Additionally, the link has been posted on the Academic Services News Network. After a district expresses interest, we'll work with each district to set up and train on OpenClass.

FOR MORE: There’s more information about OpenClass in the Jan. 15 webinar archived at: <https://vimeo.com/84278294>.

Home Base Among Topics at READY IV Meetings This Spring

As we enter the homestretch of the Race to the Top (RttT) grant, the NCDPI leadership has invited superintendents and key local district leadership to a fourth round of READY Regional Outreach Meetings in March and April 2014. The purpose of these gatherings is to provide updates on the priority activities of the READY initiative work and look toward the future after the RttT grant is over.

Key topics for these meetings are:

- Home Base – where we are to date, what it means to opt-in to the non-required parts, and more;
- educator effectiveness; and

- the General Assembly’s A-F Accountability Model, which will be reported out for the first time in fall 2014.

Superintendents were notified this week of the central office personnel to accompany them to the meetings. They include:

- Curriculum and Instruction Director
- Human Resources Director
- Technology Director
- Finance Director
- Data Coordinator
- Parent Representative, such as a PTA President

Superintendents are notifying the NCDPI their intent to attend and bring colleagues.

MORE INFO: Michael Yarbrough, Communication and Information Services, michael.yarbrough@dpi.nc.gov.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Feb. 20 Webinar Covers Test Item Review for Administrators

Coming up is a webinar for school administrators on “Item Review Process” which covers item vetting at the school, district and state level as well as the item bank submission process. That airs Thursday, Feb. 20, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/328224489>.

Learn More about the New Home Base PD Tool Functionality Feb. 27

The new Home Base Professional Development Tool will be live for all district/charter teachers and administrators to enroll in state-provided courses beginning in April.

Likewise, district and charters that opt in to Home Base will benefit from additional local course/catalog creation and enrollment management functionality beginning in the fall.

To learn more about this exciting new component and options that will be available, please attend a webinar Thursday, Feb. 27, from 4-5 p.m. Human resource and professional development directors are especially encouraged to attend.

ScanIt Webinar Now Available Online

Teachers and school administrators who could not view the Jan. 30 webinar “Using the ScanIt Tool in Schoolnet” can now view it online at <https://vimeo.com/85480546>. The PowerPoint for the presentation also can be downloaded from the Home Base Webinars page: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/webinars/>.

Kayla Siler, NCDPI planning and policy analyst, demonstrates how to download the ScanIt software and how educators can use ScanIt to print tests and answer sheets; upload scan sheets into Schoolnet; and how to find data after scanning is completed.

Curriculum Manager Webinar Now Available Online

District Administrators who could not attend the Feb. 6 webinar "Using Curriculum Manager in Schoolnet" can now view it online at: <https://vimeo.com/86121222>.

Ashley Secor, LaVerne Weldon and Dan Urbanski, of NCDPI Learning Systems Division demonstrate how district curriculum managers can create curricula and curricular units in Schoolnet, and link them with instructional resources. Also discussed were ways district admins can bulk import curriculum materials such as pacing guides, crosswalks, standards documents and unpacking documents.

MORE INFO: Remember, all the recently recorded webinars can be accessed on the Home Base website under Resources/Videos/Home Base Webinars, located here, which you might bookmark for future reference:

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

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.