

Home Base Biweekly Update



March 13, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- **Next Maintenance Weekend Is March 14-17**
- **New Professional Development Tool Goes Live April 1**
- **Deadline for Dropout Reporting Extended to March 19**
- **NWEA Item Bank Refreshed**
- **NC Cultural Resources Materials Available in Schoolnet**
- **Testimony About Home Base Part of READY IV Meetings**
- **Home Base Resource Consortium Meeting**
- **New PMR Due Dates**

NEW THIS WEEK

Next Maintenance Weekend Is March 14-17

Home Base maintenance weekend takes place starting with the 5 p.m. shutdown to the system on Friday, March 14. Once maintenance is completed, a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use. Please remember that during maintenance, you cannot access Home Base.

Home Base will be returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday, March 17. If a delay should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email.

This maintenance weekend will include updates to the PMR Data Collection and Validation, SAR Data Collection and Validation, Dropout Data Collection and Validation, AIG Data Collection and Validation, ALP Collection (New), Extended Schema Definitions and other miscellaneous enhancements.

A few of the PMR updates are highlighted below:

- ❖ The PMR and GRS views are enhanced to include any student with an E1 or E2 status originating in the current school in all reports including and following the month they enroll. Students who transferred out of a school will not have any days of membership noted in ADA or ADM in the months after they withdrew; however, they do count in the E1 counts going forward.
- ❖ PMR-27 Validation updates now will:
 - Include only students in grades kindergarten through grade 13,
 - Include students with less than 50 percent of a school's instructional minutes rather than less than or equal to 50 percent of the minutes,

- Account for students taking classes in other schools within the same LEA and/or other LEAs.
- ❖ The PMR Detail and the PMR Enrollment views are updated to include the ADA and ADM columns to help the user identify records counted in membership and funding.
- ❖ The GRS detail and summary views are updated to reflect only those students who are in membership on the last day non-violation (NVIO) for the PMR month.
- ❖ The descriptions of all the views on the PMR/GRS collection are added or updated.

MORE INFO: Please review the 2014 North Carolina Reporting Release Notes (Feb. 28) located on the NC SIS website at http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/2014_North_Carolina_Release_Notes.pdf for more detailed updates.

You may also view the PowerSchool 7.10.2 Release Notes that contain documentation on PowerSchool System Requirements, PowerSchool Components and resolved issues at this link: http://www.nc-sis.org/documents/email_bulletins/docs/ps7_10_2_release_notes.pdf.

After this, the next scheduled Home Base maintenance weekend is April 25-28. View the list of all scheduled maintenance weekends here: http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf.

New Professional Development Tool Goes Live April 1

The new Home Base Professional Development Tool will be live for all district/charter educators to enroll in state-provided courses beginning April 1. All of our NC Education online modules, including facilitator-led sessions, are included in this system.

Our NCDPI module developers are currently creating additional modules based on district requests for release this summer and fall.

This spring, we will pilot the opt-in functionality of the system with a small group of districts. 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. This is a great opportunity to use one portal for state and local educator PD transcripts.

To learn more about this exciting new component and available options, please view the archived webinar held Feb. 27: <http://vimeo.com/87813848>. In addition, regional face-to-face sessions will be held in all eight regions starting March 20. Human resource and professional development directors, and PD coordinators and leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

MORE INFO: Please see our NCDPI/RESA partnership schedule for more information, <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/profdev/calendar/>.

Deadline for Dropout Reporting Extended to March 19

Attention Dropout Coordinators: The deadline for dropout reporting has been extended to Wednesday, March 19. Why? The Verified Dropout checkbox and dropdown box of Dropout Reason Codes are not currently on the Previous Enrollment screen in PowerSchool. These functions will be added during the Maintenance Weekend (March 14-17).

MORE INFO: For information concerning the Dropout Data Collection process, contact Ken Gattis, Kenneth.Gattis@dpi.nc.gov, or the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

NWEA Item Bank Refreshed

As part of the contract for the Instructional Improvement System (IIS) portion of Home Base, Science and Social Studies items were purchased from NWEA and added to the system for classroom level use. Recently, the NWEA item banks have been refreshed for NC use in Schoolnet (you may have noticed the item counts changing over the last two weeks). The publisher name for the item banks was also changed. If you are looking for the items that were previously loaded with the publisher name of NWEA, they will now be found under the publisher name FAIB from NWEA, which stands for Formative Assessment Item Bank from Northwest Evaluation Association.

The refresh also resulted in adjustments to alignments (grade and standard) as well as some changes in the total number of items from the publisher FAIB from NWEA. The revised item counts will be available soon. Please note that the FAIB from NWEA items are purchased content, and the vendor uses these same items with multiple states. To make the items specific to NC, the standards alignments are adjusted to align to the NC Essential Standards for Science and Social Studies. It is important to note that the grade level will not always align with the grade level indicated in the standards alignment. So, when searching for the FAIB from NWEA items, it is important to search by standards (which are specific to NC), rather than by grade level (which is not specific to NC and will not always be a 1:1 match with the standards).

MORE INFO: If you have any questions about the items, or if you are unable to access the new FAIB from NWEA items, please contact the Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

NC Cultural Resources Materials Available in Schoolnet

Materials from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources are now available in Schoolnet. A new collection of 2,100 cultural resources from Pre-K-12 has been added as Instructional Materials under a new tab called "More...". These new materials include photos, blueprints, lesson and research guides, online activities and exhibits, field trip planners, articles and multimedia produced by North Carolina's 27 historic sites, seven museums of history and two museums of art in addition to contributions from the NC Arts Council, NC Symphony, State Archives, State Library and state offices of archaeology and historic preservation.

Testimony About Home Base Part of READY IV Meetings

A new video, "Tailoring Home Base for a Perfect Fit," is making the rounds at the statewide READY IV meetings. It highlights input from some local educators about how they are using Home Base, especially the instructional resources and tools found in Schoolnet.

Angel Mills, ESL lead teacher for Lee County Schools, said: "I think the feature most people are really excited about is Schoolnet which allows you to search for resources. It's always nice to have one place to go to to find things you need as opposed to going out to Google or having a million passwords to ... help you plan your instruction. The resources piece inside Schoolnet has been the most helpful. Everybody's implementing at different levels and working at their own pace, which is a good thing, but everyone agrees that the resources are amazing."

According to Davie County Schools Curriculum Technology Specialist John J. Marshall: "Features teachers are excited about is the data they receive from benchmark tests to help them guide instruction and support their students. Our PLCs (professional learning communities) are really enjoying having good data now.

"Our big thing is to make sure our pacing guides match our benchmarks. Our benchmarks give us the data that we need that can then help drive instruction, which then brings them back to the instructional materials they need to help those students get to where they need to be to be proficient, which then ties right back into the pacing guides. That's our circle."

Regarding Home Base overall, Raleigh Charter High School Principal Thomas Humble said, "We believe that PowerSchool is a potent resource for us in terms of managing and disseminating information. We have had to make adjustments and be patient, but we are learning how to manage the information about our students and our school — to meet state requirements and to benefit our students.

"The folks at Pearson and at NCDPI have been very helpful as we try to use PowerSchool's resources to manage our report cards and transcripts."

MORE INFO: The remaining READY IV meetings, where you can hear the latest on Home Base, are planned as follows:

Region 1 – Friday, March 21, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Washington Civic Center,

Region 2 – Monday, April 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Wilmington Convention Center,

Region 3 – Wednesday, March 26, 9 a.m.-noon at the Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center,

Region 5 – Wednesday, April 9, 9 a.m.-noon at The Event Center at Summit Square, Winston-Salem,

Region 6 – Thursday, March 20, 9 a.m.-noon at the North Carolina Research Center, Kannapolis, and

Regions 7 and 8 - Thursday, April 10, 9 a.m.-noon at the DoubleTree Asheville.

Superintendents are asked to notify the NCDPI their intent to attend and bring colleagues. Please RSVP to Joyce Myers, joyce.myers@dpi.nc.gov.

Home Base Resource Consortium Meeting

The Home Base Resource Consortium meets Tuesday, March 25, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to discuss sharing resources in Schoolnet from districts and schools.

While the usual attendees of the Resource Consortium are district-level members, this meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about how to share resources within schools and districts. We will discuss the processes for sharing and talk about how educators can potentially share their resources across the state.

Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/863112568>.

New PMR Due Dates

PMR Months 1 and 2 have been finalized with data as of Feb. 24 included. We will be publishing this data on the student accounting page soon, <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/data/>

If you made changes and then ran your PMR for Month 1 and/or 2 after the morning of Feb. 24, that data will not be reflected in the published ADM reports for Month 1 and 2. The changes will be picked up when we process Month 9 for Final ADM.

The NCDPI will be locking down Month 1 and 2 PMRs, and you will no longer be able to run the PMR for these two months. For the remaining PMR months, after each due date listed below, NCDPI will lock down that specific month and you will no longer be able to run PMR for that specific month after the due date.

All PMRs for Month 3 and beyond that have already been run and approved prior to the March 14 maintenance weekend will need to be re-run after the maintenance weekend is complete. The NCDPI will un-approve all these PMRs (Months 3 and beyond) as part of the maintenance weekend so you can run them after completion of the maintenance weekend.

The following are the new revised due dates for PMR:

- PMR 3 – March 21
- PMR 4 – March 28
- PMR 5 – April 9
- PMR 6 – April 16
- PMR 7 – April 23
- PMR 8 – 7 days after your month 8 PMR interval ending date has passed
- PMR 9 – 7 days after your month 9 PMR interval ending date has passed.

MORE INFO: If you have any questions related to PMR, please contact Ozella Wiggins at Ozella.Wiggins@dpi.nc.gov.

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.