

Home Base Biweekly Update



APRIL 10, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- **New Home Base Weekly Technical Update Webinar Starts April 16**
- **Official Launch of Home Base Professional Development Tool on Its Way**
- **From the Field: Gates County Touts Success of PowerScheduler**
- **Vote for a Schoolnet Enhancement Request: Ability for Teachers to Share Instructional Materials**
- **New Video Tutorials Available for Building Your ClassScape Assessments in Home Base**
- **New Classroom Assessment Items Available in Home Base**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Let Us Know When You're Planning to Administer Benchmark Assessments or Conduct Trainings**

NEW THIS WEEK

New Home Base Weekly Technical Update Webinar Starts April 16

The Home Base team will begin hosting a new weekly webinar next week — a Home Base Technical Update. The first one will start at noon on Wednesday, April 16, however, after that it will be available each Tuesday. The already established Home Base Weekly Project Status Webinar for superintendents and their invitees continues each Tuesday from 11 a.m. until noon, so this new webinar will follow it beginning Tuesday, April 22.

This webinar will provide more details to our users on technical issue resolutions, data imports, new page and functionality implementations, state reporting and timelines. Targeted audiences are NC SIS coordinators and data managers. More information on how to register for this webinar will be sent via NC SIS email.

Official Launch of Home Base Professional Development Tool On Its Way

The NCDPI staff are in the final stages of preparation for the official launch of the new Home Base Professional Development tool. You may have already noticed the addition of the professional development tab inside the Educator Effectiveness online tool. Many of you have taken advantage of the face-to-face overview training dates included on the Regional Education Services Alliances' partnership calendars.

The professional development catalog will go live April 15, enabling educators to sign up for available professional development modules. The catalog will continue to grow as new

learning opportunities are added. Additional information about navigating the professional development system will be available on the regional wikis managed by the professional development leads. These wikis may be accessed at <http://wikicentral.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>. Regional wikis are located on the bottom right portion of the menu page. You also may listen to a recording from the Professional Development System Overview webinar at <https://vimeo.com/87813848>.

MORE INFO: Questions about the professional development system may be directed to your regional professional development leads.

From the Field: Gates County Touts Success of PowerScheduler

Gates County has made history, proclaims Lola Rountree, the district's director of testing/accountability and student data management.

For the very first time, Gates County High School registered their students online for the 2014-15 school year. Gates County High School is using PowerScheduler to build the master schedule and for student registration. "No more paper, pencil and numerous hours of manual labor to key in course selections for students," Ms. Rountree reports. "After approximately 2 ½ weeks of setting up modules on the PowerScheduler, the first day of registration was held on April 1. The process went smoothly, swiftly, and the students seemed excited to be registering online. We are so excited about the many features and options that PowerScheduler offers. Parents now have the opportunity to sign in to the Parent Portal and view their student's course selections."

Michelle Gregory, PowerSchool data manager, said: "The set-up was tedious, but the pay-off of online registration is proving to be well worth the hard work. I look forward to the four-day Build (workshop) to see what kind of schedule is generated."

Kudos to Ms. Gregory, Ms. Rountree and Lauren Hargett, PowerSchool district assistant.

Quick note: Ms. Rountree reports that all Gates County schools are using the parent portal. "Parents really like being able to see the progress of their students," she adds.

MORE INFO: If you have good news like Gates County's or want to share a testimonial, how-to or tip on using Home Base, we want to hear from you. Contact Kathy Newbern, kathy.newbern@dpi.nc.gov.

Vote for a Schoolnet Enhancement Request: Ability for Teachers to Share Instructional Materials

North Carolina has submitted an enhancement request based on feedback we've heard from many of you. Teachers, principals and other educators across the state have requested the ability for teachers to share instructional materials, specifically with a select group of other teachers within their schools.

Currently, while teachers can share instructional resources, they must submit those resources to the school-level tier that can be shared with all teachers in the entire school versus a select teacher or group. While this process is great for creating school, district and even state banks of vetted, NC standards-aligned materials, it does not allow teachers

to directly share with small, self-selected groups or within school Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

While sharing among select groups of teachers is not a current feature of Schoolnet, there is always continued development occurring for the system. As the Schoolnet development team takes new functionality into consideration, they review lists of enhancement requests that users of Schoolnet submit through PowerSource. The more interest there is in the development of new functionality, the more likely it will be added into the development queue for new releases.

We have heard from many of you across the state that this is a feature you would like for teachers to have. If you would like to see this additional functionality, please sign into PowerSource. Once logged in, you can vote for this feature at <http://goo.gl/AyPlwE>.

New Video Tutorials Available for Building Your ClassScape Assessments in Home Base

Two new videos have been added to the Home Base website to help teachers and district testing coordinators with making the transition from ClassScape to Home Base (via Schoolnet).

One video is a step-by-step guide for how a teacher can go into ClassScape and generate a test blueprint for any existing ClassScape classroom tests and then use the blueprint to find the same items in Schoolnet, and rebuild the same test for delivery to students in Home Base. The other video is for district-level testing staff and provides the step-by-step walk-through for how to generate benchmark assessments blueprints from within ClassScape, and then use the blueprints to build the benchmark assessments in Schoolnet.

Both videos are available on the Home Base website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/>.

New Classroom Assessment Items Available in Home Base

Have you noticed more items in Item Central? Last week, new assessment items were added to item central within Schoolnet and have been made available for classroom assessment use. These new items are part of the Pearson Next Gen Items in Math and ELA (publisher name = Pearson). There are still more items to come, and they will be added this spring and summer.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Let Us Know When You're Planning to Administer Benchmark Assessments or Conduct Trainings

In order for you to know if Schoolnet is the right choice for your district or charter school, we know that you have to be able to rely on it and use it in your regular instructional practice. To ensure that Schoolnet consistently performs well and delivers all of the

functionality it offers, the NCDPI and Pearson Home Base teams monitor Schoolnet performance on a daily basis, troubleshoot issues as they arise, and stay in constant contact with educators in the field.

It helps us tremendously to know when you plan to administer your benchmark assessments or conduct trainings — that way we can proactively facilitate success.

Home Base Support Center and project team staff can be in touch with you before you begin your testing and be on standby during the assessments to troubleshoot any issues you might experience.

To inform us, simply fill out this online form, <http://goo.gl/1MV30P>, and hit the submit button.

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.**