

# Home Base Biweekly Update



July 11, 2014

## NEW THIS WEEK

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## NEW THIS WEEK

### **Home Base Opt-In Deadline Nears — Don't Let Select Access Be Turned Off!**

We've been talking for quite some time about the July 15 deadline for districts to opt in for Home Base, and now it's here.

Districts not opting in by Tuesday, July 15, will no longer have access to the abundance of vetted, state standards-aligned resources in Schoolnet, great tools for teaching and creating assessments; plus the easy-to-use tracking of local professional development found inside the tool all districts and charters are already using for their evaluation. In addition, if you don't opt in, you won't receive the special, dedicated training on using Schoolnet (see the next item).

As of this writing, 84 LEAs and 26 charter schools have officially opted in, meaning all their teachers, staff and students will be benefiting from the full suite of technology tools in Home Base for 2014-15 — that's well over half-a-million students so far.

Those districts that are not opting in will still see the Schoolnet icon inside of Home Base, but when trying to access it will receive the message that it is unavailable because the district or school did not choose to opt in.

The good news is that districts and charters can still easily opt in using this online form: <http://forms.ncpublicschools.gov/home-base/home-base-opt-in>.

New charter schools opening for the first time this year, we realize, have not yet had a chance to "test drive" the full suite, as others did in 2013-14. For that reason, a decision on a separate opt-in timeline for new charters is coming. Stay tuned.

**MORE INFO:** For more about what you get when you opt in for all of Home Base, check out: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/home/opt-in.pdf>.

## **Opt-In Districts Get Summer Training on Schoolnet**

Those school districts and charters that have already opted in for the full suite of Home Base tools get the benefit of summer training to benefit Schoolnet users in the 2014-15 school year. Trainings are geared toward district teams who will train users on the system.

There are two levels of training; one is basic for those who are training new users, and the other offers a more in-depth exposure to the system's features.

Schoolnet I sessions will support the local leadership/training team with an introduction to Schoolnet, with a focus on item/assessment creation, instructional materials and reporting at the student and classroom level with a brief overview of school and district reporting.

Schoolnet II sessions will focus on advanced topics within Schoolnet, such as custom reporting, curriculum manager and user management, which will be helpful to users who have implemented Schoolnet within their district and are familiar with assessment, and instructional material creation, as well as basic reporting functionality of Schoolnet.

**Registration deadline** is Tuesday, July 15. Information has been sent to all district Schoolnet and professional development leads. Training dates are as follows:

- Regions 1 and 5: Schoolnet I and II, July 21-24,
- Region 2: Schoolnet I, July 21-24,
- Regions 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8: Schoolnet I, July 28-31,
- Schoolnet II sessions are Aug. 4-5 for regions 2, 3 and 4, hosted by Region 4; Aug. 6-7 for regions 6, 7 and 8, hosted by Region 7.

**Please note:** Following training on July 24 and then again after the Aug. 7 training date, there will be special maintenance specifically on Schoolnet. Schoolnet will be unavailable from July 24-27 and from Aug. 8-10. Users will receive additional notifications regarding when the system is down and when it is again accessible.

**MORE INFO:** Cynthia Martin at [cynthia.martin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:cynthia.martin@dpi.nc.gov) or Yvette Stewart at [yvette.stewart@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:yvette.stewart@dpi.nc.gov).

## **Congrats, Everyone, on End-of-Year**

Every now and then there's the need to pause and realize how far this large project has come. We just hit one such milestone that deserves lots and lots of back-patting from Manteo to Murphy — the successful completion of your first End-of-Year process using PowerSchool.

Congratulations to all who helped make this year's End of Year a success. We especially want to thank the LEAs/charters for their hard work and dedication to ensure we received complete and accurate data. We also want to recognize the NCDPI staff and Pearson for working extended hours to ensure support was available throughout the EOY process.

EOY completed ahead of schedule on Thursday, July 3. Thus far, no major issues have been reported. LEAs are continuing to validate their data, and a few of the year-round schools have begun operating.

If you encounter any problems that you think may be related to EOY, please contact the Home Base Support Center at [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov).

The good work has not gone unnoticed: Release the confetti!

## **Because of EOY and School Not Yet Back in Session, Things Look a Little Different**

While PowerSchool EOY was completed, so were the EOY processes for Schoolnet and OpenClass. Because most schools have not started back yet, some screens may look a little different until there are students, courses, and actual enrollment numbers. For instance, prior to rollover, the Schoolnet benchmark dashboard for school and district data was populated with benchmark test data from the previous year. Now, post-rollover, the dashboard is empty until the first benchmark test has results loaded. However, it's still possible to show this functionality on a generic training site.

Another example in Schoolnet: pre-rollover Course/Section Reporting reports reflected assignments from the previous school year; now, prior to the first day of school, the reports must be built with the "Total Enrollment" filter rather than the "Current Enrollment."

We encourage you to take a look at the entire list for what may look or function a little differently for both Schoolnet and OpenClass. It's posted online in our Memo section: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/updates/memos/20140707-schoolnet.pdf>

**MORE INFO:** Any questions can be directed to the Home Base Support Center at [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov) or by calling 919.807.4357.

## **NCEdCloud Identity and Access Management (IAM) Service**

The NCEdCloud IAM Service username schema currently uses a random string of four alpha and four numeric characters for a total of eight characters for all K-12 students and employees.

Leadership at many LEAs have expressed concern about the inconvenience for LEA staff, teachers and students to have to learn another logon ID in addition to the ones they already have. LEAs reported a preference to continue using their UID to log into Home Base applications. Based on this feedback, the NCDPI has asked the IAM Service team and the vendor to modify the username to leverage student and staff UIDs rather than use the 4X4 schema, prior to the integration of the IAM Service with the Home Base applications.

A small number of LEAs are implementing IAM locally with the existing format for the beginning of this school year for some of their applications. Therefore, every effort will be made to minimize the impact of this change for these LEAs.

NCEdCloud IAM Summer Workshops are planned July 14-31 (see Upcoming Training below). Additional communications will be issued on this project as more information becomes available and the schedule is finalized.

## **From the Field: More Online Videos Show Home Base, RttT's impact**

Our "good news" video series continues with the addition of two new clips highlighting Home Base and Race to the Top work in Hoke County, Brunswick County and Jackson County.

For anyone unfamiliar with this outreach, these video snippets highlight just a portion of the great teaching and learning going on all across North Carolina. Access them via the Home Base and READY playlists on the NC Department of Public Instruction's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ncpublicschools>).

Here are the latest releases:

- Hoke County Schools - Science Teacher Shanna Parker describes how Schoolnet helped her “flip” her classroom at Sandy Grove Middle School. One of her students notes, “I use Schoolnet all the time. I take tests, and I look over my grades and my recent assignments. You can log in anywhere there’s a computer. .... If you want to bring up your grades, you can also look at missing assignments you have and you can turn them in to your teachers.” View the clip here: <http://bit.ly/1qVOsx1>
- Brunswick County Schools - Math teacher Jennifer Johnson talks about collaboration and how data helps drive planning and instruction at West Brunswick High School. “When the Math I teachers get together (as a) PLC, we always bring data. We really like to use the data to drive our planning, and we look at our strengths and our weaknesses: ‘OK, we’re really doing this well, everyone got this right; or, this is our weakness, this is what we need to work on.’ With Schoolnet, we’ve used a lot of the data to help guide our planning. View that clip here: <http://bit.ly/1kljyRc>
- Jackson County Schools - Technology Director David Proffitt shares how Race to the Top funding condensed a 10-year technology plan into only six months. He notes, “We are now having discussions about 1-to-1 initiatives, digital textbooks, electronic books - none of those things would have been possible without the wireless infrastructure. The technology program exists for the purpose of supporting teaching and learning. The teachers do not exist for us; we exist for them. The new ideas in our department, they really come directly from the teachers.” View it here: <http://bit.ly/1rbllUc>

**MORE INFO:** Keep checking back as more videos are being posted. Please forward links and tweet if you see something you like. And, if you have a good news story “From the Field” to share for this publication, please contact Kathy Newbern in the NCDPI Communications Office, [kathy.newbern@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:kathy.newbern@dpi.nc.gov).

### **Maintenance Weekend Starts July 18**

The next Home Base Maintenance Weekend is scheduled for July 18-21. The system will shut down Friday, July 18, at 5 p.m. and will return to service no later than Monday, July 21, at 6 a.m. If the system is returned to service earlier, users will be notified via NC SIS email.

Reminder: Maintenance Weekend means no access to Home Base, not just PowerSchool.

### **Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops**

#### *1) PowerSchool Training Workshop for New Charter Schools for 2014-15*

Workshops for new charter schools coming on board for the 2014-15 school year are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18
- Monday, July 28 – Friday, Aug. 1
- Monday, Aug. 4 – Friday, Aug. 8

These five-day workshops will walk new users through the process of setting up their school for the new year. This session will include, but is not limited to:

- Logging in to PowerSchool
- Navigating the system
- Enrolling students
- Withdrawing students
- Adding Teachers/Staff
- Creating the master schedule
- Scheduling students and teachers to classes
- Schoolnet overview

**MORE INFO:** Attendees must be an employee of the school and not a management company. Register here: <http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1823>.

## *2) NCEdCloud IAM Summer Workshops July 14-31*

The North Carolina Education Cloud Identity and Access Management team will hold a summer workshop series to guide key K-12 personnel through the steps required to successfully adopt the NCEdCloud IAM Service for their LEA or Charter School.

Attendance will be capped at 50 per workshop to best facilitate interactive communication among all. The same workshop will be held in all eight regions, each day 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with a complimentary lunch included, as follows:

- Region 1 - Thursday, July 31, in Tyner
- Region 2 - Tuesday, July 29, in Clinton
- Region 3 - Wednesday, July 30, in Smithfield
- Region 4 - Wednesday, July 23, in Fayetteville
- Region 5 - Thursday, July 24, in Burlington
- Region 6 - Monday, July 14, in Monroe
- Region 7 - Tuesday, July 15, in Newton
- Region 8 - Wednesday, July 16, in Asheville.

**MORE INFO:** For more complete details, including exact locations, please review the PDF map at [https://www.mcnc.org/sites/default/files/Summer.2014.IAM\\_.Workshops.Planning.Map\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcnc.org/sites/default/files/Summer.2014.IAM_.Workshops.Planning.Map_0.pdf). Register at: <https://www.mcnc.org/events/training/ncedcloud-iam-service/registration>.

### *3) Roles and Permissions Webinar*

Scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 21, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., this webinar continues the series Roles and Permissions for Schoolnet. It will include a review of the basics of setting up roles in Schoolnet as well as information on new roles that have been added. To watch the previous two webinars, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/resources/videos/webinars/> and look for the webinars from May 8 and May 15 of 2014. The registration link will be shared in the next issue of the *Home Base Biweekly Update*.

#### **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.