

Home Base/RttT Biweekly Update



August 21, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- **Please Highlight Your Members' Work on Governor's Teacher Network**
- **IMPORTANT: Changes to Role for Teachers Creating Benchmark Assessments**
- **600+ Additional Instructional Materials Added**
- **New Search Options in Item Central**
- **Facilitated Online Professional Development Courses in Home Base**
- **New Professional Development MOOClet Digital Teacher Strategies Starts Sept. 8**
- **From the Field: RttT Helped Buncombe County Schools Build Teacher Leadership Capacity**
- **New on the Web: 2014 NC SIS Summer Update Webinar and Documents**
- **Upcoming Webinars and Workshops**

Please Highlight Your Members' Work on Governor's Teacher Network

Please remember to highlight the Governor's Teacher Network candidates selected in your districts and schools as they begin the year doing this exciting work to improve teaching and learning across North Carolina! With limited funding, 450 teachers were selected to create instructional resources and develop professional development which will be located in Home Base. Please allow your GTN teachers to share the focus of their work (at the school and district level) so administrators and colleagues are aware and can be updated on project progress. Please click this link for an overview of the GTN Initiative. Feel free to share this at a staff meeting prior to introducing your teachers and their projects, <http://youtu.be/cDEr4MXaAU8> .

IMPORTANT: Changes to Role for Teachers Creating Benchmark Assessment

Due to recent upgrades of the systems, there has been a change in the process needed to give teachers access to create benchmark assessments. Teachers will no longer need an admin role set up with "no access" in PowerSchool, and they will not have to use the admin URL to access Home Base. The new process allows you to add the roles needed in Schoolnet at the LEA/District Office level and then remove these roles when the work on benchmark assessments is complete. A new document has been created with all the steps and details needed to set up this access for a teacher and then to remove this access when it is no longer needed. Please use the new document located at

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/getting-ready/implementation/user-roles-access/new-teacher-creating-benchmarks2.pdf>.

MORE INFO: Contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

600+ Additional Instructional Materials Added

Last week new instructional materials were imported into Schoolnet. The result of the new import was approximately 600 new instructional resources that can be found on the Schoolnet tab within the Classrooms Module, under Instructional Materials. New resources, units and lessons were added mostly in the subject areas of English Language Arts, Math and the Arts. Additional resources are added at least monthly, so watch for more resources to be available soon.

MORE INFO: The latest information about available resources can be found on the website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/content/numbers/>.

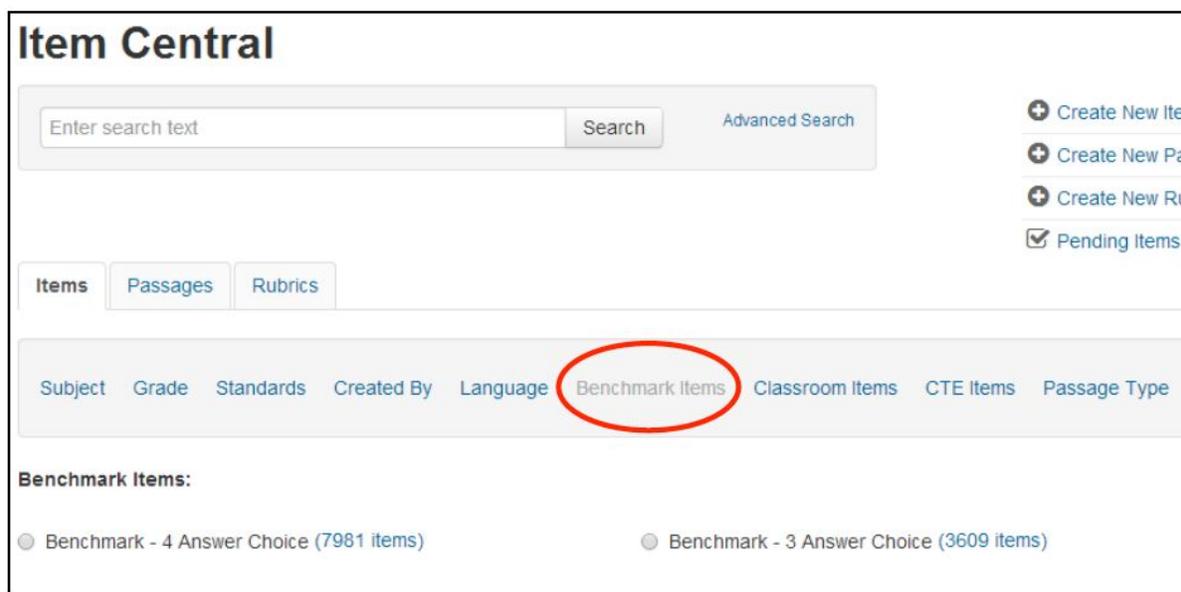
New Search Options in Item Central

A new search option has been enabled in Schoolnet that will allow for quicker and easier searches for benchmark assessments items. This feature also allows for sorting by 4-answer choice or 3-answer choice items (also known as EXTEND2 items).

The new feature is available as soon as you go to “Find an Item, Passage or Rubric” and you are on the main item central screen. In the center of the page — see the screenshot below — you will see the words Benchmark Items and Classroom Items have been added to the list of “browse by” options. When you click on either Benchmark Items or Classroom Items, you will then have the choice to choose 4-answer choice items or 3-answer choice items.

After you have set this filter, you can then continue to narrow your search by choosing a subject, grade, standard etc. But your first section of Benchmark or Classroom Items will ensure that you are pulling items from the appropriate bank as needed.

If you do not have access to the Benchmark items, then you will still see the option, but when you click on Benchmark items, you will see no results available (in order to access the benchmark items, you must be a district-level user with the appropriate roles and permissions).



The screenshot shows the 'Item Central' search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter search text' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a link for 'Advanced Search'. Below the search bar, there are three tabs: 'Items', 'Passages', and 'Rubrics'. On the right side of the interface, there are four options: '+ Create New Item', '+ Create New Passage', '+ Create New Rubric', and a checked checkbox for 'Pending Items'. Below these tabs, there is a horizontal menu with several options: 'Subject', 'Grade', 'Standards', 'Created By', 'Language', 'Benchmark Items', 'Classroom Items', 'CTE Items', and 'Passage Type'. The 'Benchmark Items' option is circled in red. Below this menu, there is a section titled 'Benchmark Items:' with two radio button options: 'Benchmark - 4 Answer Choice (7981 items)' and 'Benchmark - 3 Answer Choice (3609 items)'. Both radio buttons are currently unselected.

More Info: Contact Kayla Siler at kayla.siler@dpi.nc.gov.

Facilitated Online Professional Development Courses in Home Base

Facilitated Online Professional Development Courses in Home Base - In our continuing effort to provide online professional development that is flexible and meets the varied need of teachers across the state, the NCDPI Educator Effectiveness Division is now offering several facilitated courses along with our self-paced modules. These courses are FREE in the PD system (in Home Base) and are facilitated by DPI's Educator Effectiveness staff. The courses are completed entirely online and participants are expected to meet all weekly deadlines in order to receive CEUs. Partial credit will not be given so we recommend educators accordingly. Registration is limited to 35 participants per section and is now open. The following courses begin Monday, Sept. 8:

- Introduction to Data Literacy
- Responsibilities of the 21st Century Educator
- Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects: Part I
- NC Professional Teaching Standards
- Connecting with our 21st Century Learners
- Digital Literacies in the K-12 Classroom (Self Paced)
- Building and Sustaining Professional Development

To learn more about each course, follow the instructions for logging into TNL to self-register for an online course.

1. Log in to the NCEES system using your usual PowerSchool login or the alternate log in at <https://ncees.homebase.ncpublicschools.gov/alternateLogin.html>.
2. Click the Professional Development tab.
3. Search for the course or list all opportunities to find the course for which you wish to register.
4. On the course screen, click on the desired section.
5. Click the register button.

MORE INFO: Directions also are available at <https://ncees.homebase.ncpublicschools.gov/content/Searching%20and%20Registering%20for%20Courses.mp4> There will be additional courses starting in October. Contact Beth Williams at beth.williams@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions regarding registration.

New Professional Development MOOClet Digital Teacher Strategies Starts Sept. 8

Want to know more about “Effective Digital Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the K-12 Classroom?” Registration is now open for the MOOClet on this topic. (MOOClet stands for Massive Open Online Course; Limited Educational Trajectory). The class begins Sept. 8 and lasts six weeks (20 hours). The focus is on using digital tools and strategies to support teaching and learning. It will enrich individuals’ knowledge through developing subject area/grade level communities of practice across the state. Participants will examine the 4Cs – Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration – the keystones for the 21st century classroom through collaboration. This course is intended for K-12 classroom teachers and other interested instructional personnel.

How is this NCDPI MOOClet like a MOOC?

- Learner-centered, focusing on participants’ professional needs in different disciplines and grade levels.

- Participants are creators of content as much as they are “consumers” of content.
- Extensive peer-to-peer communication.
- Larger number of students than a typical facilitator-led course.
- Starts and ends on fixed dates; participants are in a cohort and stay on schedule with weekly assigned readings and assignments.

How is this DPI MOOClet different from most MOOCs?

- Enrollment is not open to all; only North Carolina educators (150–200 participants).
- Facilitator presence; MOOCs can be overwhelming, requiring a high degree of learner independence.
- Participants will complete all assigned activities; with plenty of choices and alternate options.
- CEUs awarded for completion of the professional development MOOClet requirements.

Who should participate?

Active, collaborative learners who are self-driven, motivated, flexible and enjoy sharing information and resources! Be courageous and try something new and different.

To register:

1. Log in to the NCEES system using your usual PowerSchool login or the alternate log in at <https://ncees.homebase.ncpublicschools.gov/alternateLogin.html>.
2. Click the Professional Development tab.
3. Search for the course or list all opportunities to find the course you wish to register for.
4. On the course screen, click on the desired section.
5. Click the register button.

MORE INFO: Two CEUs will be awarded. Please note that there is a limit of 200 registrants. Contact Beth Williams at beth.williams@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions regarding registration. Directions on registering are also available at <https://ncees.homebase.ncpublicschools.gov/content/Searching%20and%20Registering%20for%20Courses.mp4>.

From the Field: RttT Helped Buncombe County Schools Build Teacher Leadership Capacity

A few more “good news” videos have been shared from the field and posted to our NCDPI YouTube Channel. Access all 22 videos in the series via our Home Base and READY playlists found here: (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ncpublicschools>).

Listen to the latest:

Buncombe County Schools' Cheri Boone, RttT/professional development coordinator, talks about how Race to the Top funding has helped build teacher leadership capacity. Describing what she calls “wrap-around support,” she says Buncombe teachers have received help from instructional coaches, literacy and math coaches K-12 plus data coaches and curriculum specialists. all providing additional support and professional development.

Christy Cheek, the district's CTE director, says students have benefitted from a deeper level of understanding of math and science and are applying those practices in other subjects. “Our students are learning while being very active.”

Cheri agrees: "Teachers are truly engaged. What I see in them is an excitement. They truly are collaborating with each other."

Christy adds, "Strong curriculum support and that professional development only enhances the students' learning in the classrooms." View the video clip here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk1FLa9UQjA>

SHARE YOURS: This 2014-15, all schools across the state have full, free access to all the online tools in Home Base. We'd love to see how your school or school district is highlighting what's important and helpful to you in Home Base. Share your videos, news announcements, tweets and anything Home Base related you'd like us to consider highlighting. Share your good news stories "From the Field" with Kathy Newbern in the NCDPI Communications Office, kathy.newbern@dpi.nc.gov.

New on the Web: 2014 NC SIS Summer Update Webinar and Documents

In case you missed the 2014 NC SIS Summer Update Aug. 11 via GoTo Webinar, both Parts I and II and each individual presentation are available for viewing and downloading on the Summer Update Presentations section of the nc-sis.org website. Visit:

http://www.nc-sis.org/2014_Summer_Update_Presentations.html

Organizers thank all who participated to make the event successful. Topics included What's New in PowerSchool 8.0, Are You Ready - School Setup?, Federal Reporting, State Reporting, Curriculum Updates, Attendance Tracking and Concepts for Change.

Upcoming Webinars and Workshops

➤ *PowerTeacher Gradebook Workshop* - There are two more opportunities to attend this workshop held at NCDPI in Raleigh: Friday, Sept. 19, and Monday, Nov. 3. The workshop covers basic PowerSchool and PowerTeacher functionality such as taking attendance, creating assignments, entering assignment grades, working with categories/groups, printing reports, final grade setup/weights, and more. The workshop runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Register here: <http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1905>

➤ *SAR Webinar* - This webinar, offered twice more, will discuss SAR policy, fatal errors and exceptions, and PowerSchool functionality as needed.

Sessions are:

- Monday, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/116684944>
- Thursday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/214930640>

➤ *PMR Webinar* - This webinar will discuss Principal's Monthly Report (PMR) in PowerSchool - how to run as well as how to clean up data. It's repeated Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/987582217>.

- *Dropout Reporting Webinar* (change in date – Aug. 27 replaces previous Sept. 10 date) - This webinar will discuss Dropout Reporting in PowerSchool – how to run the reports as well as how to enter/clean up data.

Sessions are:

- Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 1 p.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/390952561>
- Thursday, Sept. 4, at 9 a.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/281175160>

- *PowerSchool New User Workshop (School/Admin Level)* - This workshop is geared to new PowerSchool users working at the data manager/school administrator level with day-to-day school business – This is NOT teacher training. Attendees must be an employee of the school and not a management company.

Classes will be held at NCDPI in Raleigh. Sessions are:

- Tuesday-Friday, Sept. 2-5 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- Monday-Thursday, Sept. 8-11 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Registration link: <http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1906/>

- *Discipline Incidents in PowerSchool Webinar*- This webinar will demonstrate how to enter disciplinary incidents into the PowerSchool application.

Sessions are:

- Friday, Sept. 5, at 1 p.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/229609625>
- Friday, Sept. 19, at 9 a.m.
Register here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/416979905>
- Monday, Nov. 17, at 1 p.m.
Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/558287457>

- *ALP/ALS in PowerSchool Webinar (See dates and time changes)* - This webinar will discuss policy and functionality in PowerSchool as related to students in Alternative Learning Programs and/or Alternative Learning Schools.

Sessions are:

- Thursday, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/707367440>
- Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/818096513>

- *End-of-Term Process in PowerSchool Webinar* - This webinar will cover the End-of-Term Process and how to prepare for the end of the marking period.

Sessions are:

- Friday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/153748801>
- Thursday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m. Register at:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/218332281>

- *Mid-year Graduates in PowerSchool Webinar* - This webinar will discuss the process for handling records of students graduating mid-year.

Sessions are:

- Thursday, Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204543489>
- Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m. Register at:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/366059760>
- Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 9 a.m. Register here:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444470360>

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.