

Home Base/RttT Biweekly Update



November 13, 2014

NEW THIS WEEK

- Home Base (Schoolnet) Instructional Materials and Assessment Survey for Teachers
- NEW DEADLINE! 5th Annual Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement (CCSA)
- Weekly Webinars on Schoolnet and OpenClass Beginning This Month
- Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend is Nov 14-17
- Schoolnet Update
- Upcoming PowerTeacher and PowerSchool Webinars and Workshops

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- Twitter ALERTS for Home Base System--SIGN UP NOW!
- The Identity and Access Management (IAM) Service

NEW THIS WEEK

Teachers, you are invited to take a few minutes and participate in the Home Base (Schoolnet) Instructional Materials and Assessment Survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather information about teachers' knowledge, use and perception of the quality of the instructional materials and classroom assessment items in Schoolnet.

We hope to make you aware of the wide range of resources available to you through Schoolnet. But regardless of each user's exposure to every aspect of the materials, the information you provide through this survey will be useful for helping us communicate with other teachers about the system and will provide some important baseline data. The survey should only take between 5 and 15 minutes to complete, depending upon the teacher's use of Schoolnet. All responses are confidential.

The survey is online here: <http://survey.sedl.org/efm/wsb.dll/s/1q1b6> and will be available through Nov 24. For additional information, contact Sarah McManus at sarah.mcmanus@dpi.nc.gov or 919/807-3776.

Weekly Webinars on Schoolnet and OpenClass Beginning This Month

We will be offering the Schoolnet and OpenClass webinar series again this school year. Beginning this month, we will offer weekly sessions on each of the components within Schoolnet (Classrooms, Assessment Admin, and School and District Data) and on OpenClass. We will host these webinars on Thursdays. You can find information about the webinars posted on the [NCDPI calendar by clicking here](#), <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/calendar/> or in the [Biweekly newsletters, archived here](#).

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase/updates/biweekly/?year=2014>

The November webinars are listed below.

- Schoolnet - Assessment Admin Component – Assessment Items

Thursday, Nov 13

3:30-4:30

This webinar will focus on assessment items in Schoolnet. We'll discuss where the items come from and help you identify the different categories of items. We'll show how to create items, rubrics and passages. We'll also talk about how to find and use former ClassScape items. This webinar is intended as a refresher or for beginning users of Schoolnet.

[Register Here! https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/970908800](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/970908800)

- Schoolnet - School and District Data Component -Student and Section Level Data Thursday, Nov 20

3:30-4:30

This webinar will focus on data in Schoolnet. We'll discuss the data and preformatted reports available to teachers. We'll review data and how to analyze it from the student profile.

[Register Here! https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/514295337](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/514295337)

- Home Base User Group Session Description (fall and spring)

This session will be designed to meet the specific needs of the region. Topics will cover PowerSchool, Schoolnet, Educator Evaluation, OpenClass, and the PD system. Participants will have the opportunity to work with trainers to get specific questions answered. In addition, time will be given for participants to network and problem solve concerning their experiences with the different components of Home Base. These sessions are occurring now. Please check our DPI calendar (homepage) and/or our [RESA Partnership calendar by clicking here](http://bit.ly/2014-2015_region).
http://bit.ly/2014-2015_region

- Save the Date – 2015 Home Base Symposium

The 2015 Home Base Symposium is set for February 23 – 25 and we anticipate another exciting and informative event. So please, mark your calendars! The conference will be held at the Sheraton Four Seasons, Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. More information on costs and online registrations will be coming soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

5th Annual Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement

The NC Department of Public Instruction will sponsor the fifth annual Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement (CCSA) on March 30-April 1, 2015 in Greensboro.

Registration and Proposal Submission Sites Now Open!

“Champions Engaging North Carolina in 21st Century Teaching and Learning”
A Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement
March 30 - April 1, 2015
Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC

Please note! The Proposal deadline is now extended to Nov 15: Proposal descriptions and more information may be found on the [conference website by clicking here](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/academicsservices/conference/).
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/academicsservices/conference/>

Please watch our website for exciting updates on speakers and sessions!

Next Home Base Maintenance Weekend Nov 14-17

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, Nov 14, through Monday, Nov 17. The system will shut down Friday at 5 p.m. Once maintenance is completed a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use.

Home Base will be returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday morning. If a delay in bringing up the system should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email and the new [Home Base Alert on Twitter: https://twitter.com/nchomebasealert](https://twitter.com/nchomebasealert)

You can view the entire upcoming schedule of [maintenance weekends here](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf).
http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf

Schoolnet Update

The NCDPI and Pearson teams have continued to identify and apply technical optimizations to stabilize the system and to ultimately improve your experiences with Schoolnet. Specifically, the teams have conducted the following:

- A hot fix was deployed to correct the errors intermittently occurring as it relates to Scheduling Tests (system lock up or the user receives an "Our Apologies" error message)
- A hot fix was deployed to correct the "Error 404, Bad Request - Header too long" messages when trying to log in to Schoolnet from PowerSchool
- Four query optimizations were deployed to enhance performance on high resource utilization associated with NC use cases, including reporting and material searches.
- SQL server configuration optimizations associated with indexes were deployed
- Additional query optimization related to benchmark reporting (impacts to web parts) were deployed
- The student and teacher web parts that had been temporarily turned off were re-enabled

While we anticipate that these changes will help to improve your Schoolnet experience in the short-term, we will continue to identify and apply additional optimizations and improvements in support of our ongoing commitment to delivering an effective instructional improvement system. We will continue to send you updates as they become available.

Upcoming PowerTeacher and PowerSchool Webinars and Workshops

- *Discipline Incidents in PowerSchool Webinar* - This webinar, Monday, Nov. 17, at 1 p.m. will demonstrate how to enter disciplinary incidents into the PowerSchool application. [Register Here!](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/558287457)
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/558287457>
- *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)
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204543489>
 - Tuesday, Dec 16, at 9 a.m. [Register Here!](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/366059760) <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/366059760>
 - Tuesday, Jan 13, at 9 a.m. [Register Here!](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444470360)
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444470360>
 - Demonstrate Accommodations functionality in PowerSchool.
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/535313496gister>
- *PowerSchool New User Workshop (School Level Staff)* - This four-day workshop,

Tuesday-Friday, Jan. 6-9, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., will train new users on the day-to-day processes of using PowerSchool. [Register Here!](#)
<https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/5504>

- *PowerSchool - School Counselors - Train the Trainer Workshop* - This workshop will be a hands-on training covering the basic functionality of PowerSchool pertinent to school counselors.

Here are the dates:

- Friday, Nov. 14 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 20 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 1 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (this replaced the Dec. 5 class)
- Monday Dec. 8 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

[Register Here!](#)

<http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1907/>

- *PowerSchool New Coordinator Training Workshop* - This workshop is geared to new PowerSchool coordinators who have not attended the 5 day IPT certification training or the 8 day District certification training.

- Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11 – 12, 2014
- Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 12 – 13, 2015

[Register here!](#) <http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/2160/>

- *PowerSchool Workshop for School Counselors* - This workshop will be a hands-on training covering the basic functionality of PowerSchool pertinent to school counselors.

Sessions Are:

- Friday, Nov. 14, at 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 20, at 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 5, at 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Register Here!](#) <http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1907/>

- **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

Twitter ALERTS for Home Base Systems Users

The NCDPI is continuing to seek solutions for communicating more efficiently. We are especially attentive to your suggestions, one being that some users have requested fewer emails filling up their email boxes. Because social media is an accessible and popular outlet for spreading news, we now offer you the opportunity to receive Twitter tweets directly to your phone or e-reader that will alert you to any current issues affecting Home Base. These tweets will serve one purpose--to alert you to any urgent issues affecting Home Base end users, and especially, teachers and students. Once you receive the alert, you may then visit the Home Base website and review the latest alerts affecting usage. We invite you to sign up for these tweets by visiting this link and joining our Twitter feed. You may help by spreading the word to fellow users. The more users who join the [Home Base Alert](#), the fewer emails we'll need to send out. [Please join here.](#) <https://twitter.com/nchomebasealert>

Learn about Tweets, Retweets, Hashtags and more information that will help you [become a tweeting expert by clicking here.](#) <https://business.twitter.com/basics/learn-twitter>

New Classroom Assessment Items Available for Math and ELA

As part of the contract for the instructional components of Home Base, the NCDPI purchased a set of items that are aligned to the current NC Standard Course of Study for Math and English Language Arts (ELA). This set of items was developed in partnership with Pearson and other states that helped to write and vet the items.

An additional 21,000+ classroom assessment items have been added to *Item Central* along with an additional 3,148 passages. These items include a variety of item types and cover grades K-12.

The Identity and Access Management Service (IAM)

➤ *What is the IAM Service?*

The Identity and Access Management (IAM) Service is one of the NCEdCloud initiatives for the K-12 community of North Carolina, funded by Race to the Top (RttT). The goal of the IAM Service is to enable LEAs and charter schools to provide streamlined user access to current and future cloud applications. The primary benefits for K-12 users include (but are not limited to) Single Sign On (SSO) access to:

- Currently available cloud applications such as Google Apps for Education, Follett Destiny, and Discovery Education.
- Planned integrations with Home Base applications including PowerSchool, Schoolnet, Educator Effectiveness System (TNL) and OpenClass.

➤ *When will the IAM Service be available?*

Some K-12 staff have created IAM Service accounts and are currently accessing several non-Home Base applications using the existing eight character user names (4 letters + 4 numerals). Two important improvements to the IAM service are coming soon:

- Starting December 1, K-12 staff and students currently accessing non-Home Base applications will switch to using their eScholar 10 digit UID rather than the existing eight character ID. Passwords will not change for these current users.
- Beginning July 6, 2015, Home Base applications will integrate with the IAM Service. Until that time, K-12 users will continue to access Home Base applications with your usual Home Base logins.
- ***What is the goal of the IAM Service work?***
- Long-term streamlined access (single sign-on) to cloud applications.

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 [Biweekly Updates](#).

*****LINKS: PC users might need to press the CTRL button when clicking on a hyperlink in this document.**