

NCDPI & Home Base Biweekly Newsletter 10/15/2015

North Carolina Public Schools <NCPublicSchools@public.govdelivery.com>

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Inbox

To: Patty Hickman <Patty.Hickman@dpi.nc.gov>;



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Fall 2015



Teacher Spotlight

This week's [Teacher Spotlight](#) features Marcelle Powell, 8th Grade Mathematics teacher at Hobbton Middle School. Ms. Powell has implemented a test-retest program using Schoolnet to assess students, providing a check point before students progress to the next level. Students receive instant feedback/grades to help them set individual goals as they move toward EOGs. Powell offers additional creative tips she has found empowers her students with Schoolnet's many tools.

School & District Spotlight

Join Dan Plyler from a NCTIES panel, discussing how his district has implemented Schoolnet. To share your story about how Schoolnet is changing your county's schools, let us know.

To ask how your school, district or you as a teacher, may participate in the Schoolnet Spotlights program, Email home_base_ready@dpi.nc.gov.



Schoolnet Updates

New Materials in Schoolnet for 2015-16

Many new materials and items are available within Schoolnet for the 2015-16 school year. Below is a quick summary of new things that you will find as you use Schoolnet this fall.

New Instructional Materials

PBS Learning Media – over 78,000 new instructional materials available under instructional materials on the tab called “NCLOR Resources.”

State Vetted OER – over 3,000 new Open Education Resources (OER) have been tagged and aligned to NC standards and added to Schoolnet on the tab called “NC Materials.”

New Assessment Items

Certica Solutions, Inc. – over 55,000 assessment items in K-12 ELA and Math have been added for classroom use. You can find these items by using advanced search and searching by publisher, Certica Solutions, Inc.

State Developed Items – over 3,500 new ELA items created by teachers in NC have been added. There are classroom and benchmark items available and you can find them by searching NCDPI_Classroom or NCDPI_Benchmark as the publisher in the advanced search.

Changes to Instructional Materials for Tabs—Providers/Collections

When searching instructional materials within Schoolnet, there are multiple providers/collections from which users can search and access materials. Recently a few changes were made in Schoolnet to clean up the names of these providers/collections, which are seen by the user as tabs on the instructional materials search page. The information below provides the crosswalk from the old names to the new names.

New Tab Names (for Providers/Collections):

NC Materials—Formerly called Schoolnet, although the same materials are contained here, those being materials created within the system or imported in at the state level.

NC LOR Resources—Formerly called “More...”; includes materials from the NC Learning Object Repository (LOR) such as the materials from the Department of Cultural Resources and PBS Learning Media.

Acquired Sci/SS—Formerly called OLE Sci/SS; no change has been made to these materials.

Aligned-SAS—Formerly called SAS; no change has been made to these materials.

Instr. Support—A brand new tab, and separated because the materials here are not standards aligned because they can be used across multiple standards and grades to support instruction.

How to Access Training Materials on Schoolnet

Many users are looking to refresh or learn new things about how they can utilize all the components of Schoolnet. As a reminder we do have training materials available on the website and there are materials within Schoolnet and provided by Pearson. From within Schoolnet, you can click Help in the upper right corner to get to user guides and user information to help you with basic Schoolnet functions. Below are additional options for accessing training materials for Schoolnet. Click on the highlighted name to access the link:

[NC Home Base website](#)

[Schoolnet Training Materials](#)

[Archived webinars and videos](#)

[Pearson site for Schoolnet training materials](#) (site will ask for name and email upon first visit)

Reminder: Schoolnet and iPads/iOS 9

After conversations with Pearson, and reaching out to many LEAs to learn more about testing windows in the month of October, we have decided not to upgrade to the 17.0 version of Schoolnet in the month of October. The risks associated with an upgrade led to this decision; due to timely dates, we want to ensure stable functionality to allow users to get through October testing windows. We also know that 17.0 is still not certified for use with iOS 9 (see compatibility information below), so the upgrade would not resolve the iOS compatibility issue that users are experiencing. We will tentatively plan for an upgrade the weekend of Nov 6-8 (beginning after 7 p.m., Nov 6).

What does this mean in terms of using iOS devices for testing this fall? The current version of Schoolnet, v 16.3, is certified for compatibility with iOS 7.x. Through testing, a percentage of users found it works with iOS 8.x.

PRE-PLANNING: Please confirm that your assessments will work as intended on the devices in use in the classroom before the first scheduled testing day. If possible, avoid upgrading to iOS 9 at this time, since it isn't compatible with Schoolnet (v 16.3). We will continue to work with Pearson and determine other options while providing more updates on resolutions as we move forward.

Schoolnet 16.3 - iOS 7x—Current version in NC.

Schoolnet 17.0 - iOS 8x—NC tentatively plans to upgrade to 17.0 November 6.

Schoolnet 17.1 - iOS 9x —This release is not yet available from Pearson; it is planned for January 2016. NC will upgrade as soon as possible once the release is available and tested.



EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Literacy Credit Now Available in Home Base PD System

The module, Preparation for Foundation of Reading Licensure Exam, provides an excellent resource for teachers wanting to refresh their knowledge on the foundations of reading development and comprehension.

For a full description of the course, please visit www.rt3nc.org. This self-paced module is worth 1.0 Literacy Credit.

Principal READY Sessions Launch in November

The fall Principal READY Meetings are scheduled regionally in November and December, 2015. The 2014-15 EE System data, new legislation, Analysis of Student Work (ASW) and student surveys are

topics covered in these sessions. Participants will interact with various data points including EVAAS and student growth data using a PLN framework. Breakout sessions are differentiated and focus on the needs of principals in each region based on feedback shared with Service Support Teams. Registration begins October 5. Register [here](#).

Register for Webinars

Visit the NCDPI/Home Base [calendar](#) where you can register for Educator Effectiveness webinars for 2015-16. Fall 2015 flyer is available [here](#).

Online Modules and Self-Paced Mini Modules

Each of these online modules are 5-hour, self-paced modules [.5 CEUs]. Modules are available through the NCEES / Home Base system using your usual login or the alternate log in, located [here](#).

Contact Dr. Geetanjali Soni at geetanjali.soni@dpi.nc.gov if you have any questions about any Educator Effectiveness courses, webinars or other professional development resources.



HOME BASE Maintenance Weekend Oct. 16-19

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, October 16, through Monday, October 19. 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 Alerts are available through Twitter, by subscribing [here](#).



Round 2 Fall Sessions: Facilitated Online Courses

FREE Online module courses will start Monday, October 19. Registration opens October 5 and is limited to 35 participants per section, so register early! These courses are facilitated by the Educator Effectiveness staff and can be accessed [here](#).

We encourage you to share this Update. For past issues of recent Home Base Biweekly Updates, please visit [Biweekly Updates](#). To review an archive of updates from 2014, go [here](#).

LINKS: PC users might need to press the CTRL button when clicking on a hyperlink. Please contact Patricia Hickman at patty.hickman@dpi.nc.gov if you experience issues with newsletter links.

To direct new users of Home Base to join our lists to receive the Biweekly Newsletter, go [here: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCSBE/subscriber/new](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCSBE/subscriber/new)

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