

NCDPI & Home Base Biweekly Update 10/29/2015

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Biweekly submissions

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HOME BASE BIWEEKLY UPDATE

October 29, 2015



FALL 2015

SPOTLIGHTS



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This week's Teacher [Spotlight](#) features Katy Rainey, a participant in the Governor's Teacher Network. Rainey created two units for the GTN, one about the American Revolution and another called Creating a Government, a unit that spans the creating of governments from history to the present day. She shares tips about using lesson plans from Schoolnet with ease and in a manner that meets the needs of every student in the classroom.

SCHOOL & DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Tara Patterson, an elementary principal from Jones county public schools, is our featured presenter for this week's School & District [Spotlight](#). Patterson shares at the 2015 NCTIES Conference how her

district's teachers have delved into a deeper use of data for the Standards Mastery Reports, including a greater utilization of reporting to improve and inform instruction. She shares how Jones county schools have utilized classroom assessments, including implementing smart clickers and creating data teams using Schoolnet's data reporting.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS



Observation Calibration Training – It Works!

The NCDPI staff will provide school administrators with an online platform to improve their skills as classroom observers using the NCEES rubric. Participants will be able to watch classroom videos, observe instruction, rate teachers and receive immediate feedback as to the recommended ratings all through the Home Base PD System.

When the calibrated training was tested as a pilot program, school administrators across the state showed significant improvement in observation skills. The more lessons observers completed, the more their scoring improved. For a complete description of this exciting professional opportunity for school administrators, please visit the Observation Calibration Training [website](#). Questions may be directed to [Kimberly Simmons](#).

GTN Research Modules Available

Three, self-paced modules based on action research projects developed by teachers for teachers through the Governor's Teacher Network (GTN) are now available through the Home Base PD System. These modules showcase actual instructional techniques piloted in classrooms across the state. For a complete description of these online modules, visit <http://rt3nc.org/>.

Flipped Classrooms: Action Research from the GTN Project

The focus will be on the effectiveness of flipped classrooms, highlighting the experiences of teachers, affordances and constraints of the instructional strategy, and also best practices for educators wishing to utilize the flipped classroom model with their students. (0.5 CEU)

The Reading and Writing Connection: Action Research from the GTN Project

This module will build a further understanding of the connections between reading and writing in the classroom. (1.0 CEU)

Literacy Strategies in the Math Classroom: Action Research from the GTN Project

This module summarizes current research on literacy strategies for math instruction and highlights a few specific strategies teachers can use during math instruction to improve literacy, especially as it relates to math. (1.0 CEU)

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.



SCHOOLNET UPDATES

Schoolnet 17.0 Upgrade Planned for Nov. 13

The next release of Schoolnet version 17.0 is scheduled to upgrade beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13. The upgrade and related processes will take about 15 hours to run and complete. During this time the system will be down. Users will be notified when the upgrade is complete. For more information about the new functionality and features of 17.0, please reference the [Release Notes](#). Below is a brief highlight of the changes coming with 17.0.

- A brand new interface for test and item editing designed to make the authoring process more efficient and intuitive.
- Within the new test and item editing interface, a new standards selector tool allows the searching of standards by text or standard ID, as well as the ability to search across multiple standards documents in a subject area.
- An enhanced Item Analysis Classrooms report disaggregates open response scores by rubric trait, where applicable.
- A new item type, called Checklist, can be created and placed on assessments. Checklists allow students to select one or more answers to a question, either online or on paper.

Upgrade the Latest Version of ScanIt

The latest version of ScanIt available is 7.0.6 and is compatible with both Schoolnet 16.3 (our current version) and Schoolnet 17.0 (the version we will upgrade to on Nov. 13). In order to make sure you have the latest version, please launch ScanIt and check your version. If you have an older version please uninstall the old version and then install the 7.0.6 version of ScanIt. You can find the latest tech requirements related to Schoolnet, including ScanIt, by clicking on System Requirements at the bottom of the screen when you are logged in to Schoolnet.

Searching for Latest Versions of Assessment Items

New assessment items are being added into the system. Here is a quick guide for how to find the recently added items

1. Log in to Schoolnet
2. Hover over Assessment Admin
3. Click on Find an Item, Passage or Rubric
4. Click on Advanced Search
5. Use the Date Created fields to search from August 1 to the current date
6. Apply any other filters based on what you are looking for
7. Click Search Items

The search results will then only include new things that have been added to the system since August 1, 2015. This will allow you to only browse through the new materials that were added for the current school year.



NEXT HOME BASE MAINTENANCE WEEKEND NOV. 13-16

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13, through Monday, Nov. 16. The system will shut down Friday at 5 p.m. The new Schoolnet 17.0 is scheduled to be upgraded. Once maintenance is completed, a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use at which time users will be able to access the new Schoolnet version. Following all maintenance weekends and upgrades, users are strongly advised to clear computer caches and reboot your systems.

Home Base Alerts are available through Twitter, by subscribing [here](#).

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)

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>.

To follow Home Base Alerts on Twitter, sign up [here](#).

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