

# Courtesy Copy: Biweekly Update 11/25/2015

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

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This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Patty Hickman.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Home Base Biweekly Update, Principals, Public Information Officers, or Teachers, (79116 recipients)



November 25, 2015

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



## Teacher Spotlight

Ashley Secor is a 5th grade math and science teacher at J.R. Elementary school, Lee County. She shares her enthusiasm for Schoolnet, and how quickly she can assess students. She explains how to use Schoolnet to create tests on the spot and organize the classroom into needs-based groups, all with the help of Schoolnet.

## **EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS**

### **Educator Effectiveness Releases First Round of Spring Courses**



Two free 14-week instructor-led online courses will start Monday, Jan. 11. Registration opens Dec. 14, and is limited to 35 participants per section. If you have an interest in the courses Using Data to Create and Use Assessment and Measurement or Implementing Action Research in the Classroom, register before all seats are taken.

Nine free 5-7 week instructor-led online courses will start Monday, Feb. 8. Registration opens Jan. 11 and is limited to 35 participants per section. Topics span from 21st Century Learners to the North Carolina Evaluation Process.

The NCDPI PD Moollet, Effective Digital Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the K-12 Classroom, returns on Monday, Feb. 8. Registration for the course opens Jan. 11. The Moollet focuses on using digital tools and strategies to support teaching and learning and enriching individuals' knowledge through developing communities of practice across the state. This six-week course is limited to 200 participants.

For a full description of all courses and associated CEUs, visit our new and improved website at <https://rt3nc.org>.

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

## **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](http://www.rt3nc.org). This self-paced module is worth 1.0

## SCHOOLNET UPDATES

### Schoolnet Upgrade Success

As a reminder, the Schoolnet upgrade to version 17.0 was successfully completed over the weekend of November 13-14. The upgrade included system enhancements that improve performance as well as new functionality in terms of the look and feel of assessment and item creation and a new checklist item type. For more information about 17.0 please see the complete release notes available on the [website](#).



### Schoolnet and iOS 9 Compatibility

With the upgrade of Schoolnet to version 17.0, Schoolnet is now compatible with iOS 9.0.2 (it is not compatible with 9.0.1 or 9.1 at this time). There is a fix coming for compatibility with iOS 9.1 and Schoolnet 17.0 in December. More information will be provided when we have the timing for this fix. Schoolnet 17.1 will be fully certified for iOS 9.1. (release date for NC still TBD)

## NEXT HOME BASE MAINTENANCE WEEKEND, DEC 11-14

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 11, through Monday, Dec. 14. 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 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](#).



### 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 Aug. 1. This will allow you to only browse through the new materials that were added for the current school year.

## 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](#).**

**Please contact Patricia Hickman at [patty.hickman@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:patty.hickman@dpi.nc.gov) if you experience issues with newsletter links.**

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