



# HOME BASE BIWEEKLY UPDATE

January 14, 2016

**Happy New Year!**

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## EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS



### North Carolina Action Research Portal: Teachers Learning From Teachers

The North Carolina Teacher Action Research Portal site publishes the results of classroom-based action research performed by North Carolina teachers as part of the Governor's Teacher Network in 2014–15.

Teachers and principals may search 219 projects by grade, subject or keyword. Find out what teachers learned studying a problem of practice in the classroom and how they used their learning to improve specific instruction for students. This [portal](#) is one of the resources found on the Educator Effectiveness Online Professional Development System.

### Principal READY: School Leaders Discuss Collaborative Learning

In this [video](#) from the Fall 2015 Principal READY conference, school leaders discuss the importance of building strong learning teams, learning how to have difficult conversations with staff, using data to advance school improvement, and structuring coaching conversations for instructional change. [Hear](#) what leaders are saying about statewide collaborative professional learning.





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## SCHOOLNET UPDATES

### Schoolnet Upgrade Planned for Feb. 5

The Home Base Instructional Improvement System (Schoolnet) will be upgraded to version 17.1 on **Friday, Feb. 5 beginning at 6 p.m.** The system will be down for at least 24 hours to complete this upgrade. This new version of Schoolnet includes several valuable features, including a function to rate instructional materials and additional options for submitting and approving materials.

To help educators use the new features, Pearson is offering the last of three [webinars](#) **Thursday, Jan. 21 from noon to 1 p.m.** when they will demo the new features. Note that the webinar is conducted by Pearson so it will not be North Carolina-specific but will provide a general overview of the new features and how to use them in our system.

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## NEXT MAINTENANCE WEEKEND FEB. 19-21

# PowerSchool

The PowerSchool team will be making two concurrent upgrades next month during the Feb. 19-21 maintenance weekend: a move to a new hosting environment and an upgrade of the PowerSchool application to version 9.2. We are working to complete both upgrades during the maintenance period.

### Hosting Move

Due to the recent DDoS attacks executed against PowerSchool and other factors, PowerSchool, LLC is moving its hosting operations from the CenturyLink data center in New Jersey to Rackspace in Virginia. This move will provide our customers increased protection from DDoS and other attacks as well as increased bandwidth and system performance.

### Application Upgrade

We will also execute an upgrade of the PowerSchool application from version 8.3 to version 9.2. This new version includes several updates that will benefit our customers and NCDPI. These updates include a new visualizations component for attendance and grades that will help schools identify students based on academic performance and attendance. Also included are updates to the scheduling module, course availability by year and enhanced security controls.

Due to the concurrent move and compressed timeline, the need for thorough testing is greater than ever. The PowerSchool team will be calling on many sources for testing and validation of functionality beyond the traditional resources. We appreciate the willingness of your area to participate in this effort. Your assistance ensures that the field feels minimal disruption during these two critical moves. Please let your direct reports know that they may be called upon, as business owners, for assistance during this critical period to test those portions of PowerSchool used by their operational areas.



## REMINDER: 2016 HOME BASE SYMPOSIUM, FEB. 10-12

The early registration deadline for the [Home Base Symposium](#), Feb. 10-12, is Jan. 22.

We are expanding the focus to include course offerings across the Home Base suite. This year's symposium will be packed with new content, the latest and upcoming updates, presenters from the Home Base applications as well as across the field, and much more.

All-day strands for PowerSchool, Schoolnet, Truenorthlogic and Canvas will be offered by field experts. The latest updates and sneak-peaks will be showcased throughout the sessions. To name just a few, other sessions will include Google Apps for Education integration, a BloomBoard & OCT overview, and what is to come with NCEdCloud and IAM.

You don't want to miss this opportunity. Plan on attending and bring a well-rounded team to cull the information offered and return to your district bursting with fresh, new ways to utilize Home Base!

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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 2015, go [here](#).

To direct new users of Home Base to join our lists to receive the Biweekly Newsletter, go here: <http://listsncdpi.weebly.com/homebaselist.html>

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



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