



HOME BASE BIWEEKLY UPDATE

September 29, 2016

Home Base Goes Back to School New Year Brings Improvements



Home Base enters its fourth year with a number of improvements and successes that we wanted to highlight. Among them:

- The migrations of hardware for hosting operations are complete – all hosting hardware has been moved from CenturyLink to RackSpace, providing additional capacity and faster hardware; more bandwidth and additional security and protection against malicious attacks.
- Performance tuning continued through the summer, and PowerSchool instances were reconfigured for optimum performance.
- Additional monitoring tools have been employed, and PowerSchool Group, LLC, now can more easily identify pages that are slow to load or are causing performance issues that would affect school operations.
- Home Base User Group Meetings – renamed Home Base Meet-Ups – take place on a bi-monthly basis across the state and include users from Schoolnet, Performance Matters (formerly TNL) and PowerSchool.
- The purpose of the Meet Ups is to gather feedback from users of the Home Base applications to inform direction and next steps. They're also intended to support collaboration and showcase school districts' use of Home Base to improve instruction.
- The first round of Meet Ups was held in September to hear from Home Base users, talk about successes and challenges and re-emphasize the new format and structure. The overwhelming feedback was: "Start of school was much better than last year" and "Thank you for not introducing anything new as part of the start of school process."

Schoolnet News

Latest Stats Show Active Users

Here is a review of our Schoolnet usage data for July to September compared to last year:

Category	Count 2016	Count 2015
Online Tests	519,827	395,627
Scanned Tests	68,623	158,138
Express Test Creation	36,579	28,536
Manual Test Creation	26,110	20,350
Scheduled Assessments	18,989	10,597

Splash Updates

- Are you looking for a quick tip on how to use Schoolnet more effectively in your classroom? Don't forget about the Schoolnet "Splash!" The area in the right top corner of Schoolnet has the latest information about product updates, training and quick tips.

Need Training?

- Schoolnet is a great resource for our teachers! It promotes data-driven assessments and provides real-time data to inform instructional practices. If you need Schoolnet training, please first check with your district-level Schoolnet lead. They are listed [here](#). Your district-level lead will determine if they have the staff to provide the training or if they need to request a district training. If the lead can host a district training, please have them to contact a DTL Regional Consultant for more details.

Assessment Admin: Goal 1 Professional Learning

- At this time, Schoolnet is focused on the first professional learning goal for Schoolnet: Assessment Admin. The google slideshow for the training is available [here](#). Please feel free to use this training as needed with staff.

Weekly Attendance Data Now Available in Schoolnet as Student Indicator

- Beginning this fall, Home Base users will have access to attendance information in Schoolnet. This data will be available as a dashboard for teachers and school/district leaders to view and use in reports.

Released Test Items Now Available in Schoolnet

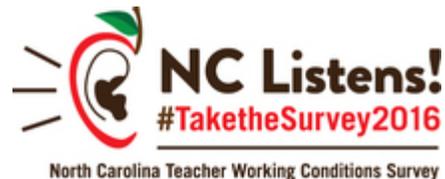
- Released test items from EOG/EOC assessments have been available since last year. We are proud to add the released items for NCFEs this fall semester. For more information on how to search for these items, please see the instructional materials filter "Home Base Training" to search for "NCFE."

Welcome ...

- Yanisha Mann, our new consultant for the Instructional Improvement System, who has been providing professional development for Schoolnet during the summer. Look for more opportunities for professional development in the months to come.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Workshops Focus on Results from 2016 NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey



What do 101,800 educators who participated in the 2016 North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey have to say about education in their schools, districts, and the state?

The Department of Public Instruction and the New Teacher Center (NTC) will be hosting two, three-hour interactive workshops in each of the state's eight regions to assist school administrators with understanding results for their schools and districts, facilitating dialogue about teaching and learning conditions, and using resources for school-improvement planning.

Discussion will focus also on how beginning teachers' experiences may affect decisions on retention. We ask that each administrator bring an electronic device to access data at www.ncteachingconditions.org and a colleague/teacher leader.

Here are the workshop dates for each region:

- Northeast: Nov. 29
- Southeast: Nov. 18
- North Central: Oct. 19
- Sandhills: Nov. 14
- Piedmont-Triad: Oct. 28
- Northwest: Oct. 27
- Southwest: Nov. 1
- West: Nov. 3

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please click [HERE](#) to register for your preferred location and date or use this link: <http://bit.ly/2016NCTWCTraining>

Note: Each region's three-hour session is **repeated** in the afternoon to provide flexibility for attendees. The content for each morning session is identical to the afternoon session. If you have questions about these sessions, please contact Dr. Cynthia Martin at cynthia.martin@dpi.nc.gov



Fall Principal READY Begins Soon

NCDPI is partnering with stakeholder organizations for the fall PREADY series to share information about several initiatives relevant to the current needs of school leaders.



Please attend to hear from NCDPI consultants, the Friday Institute, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and the New Teacher Center. Sessions include information about the state’s Digital Learning Plan to support administrators in transitioning to digital-age learning, national research on how nationally board certified teachers can be better used as teacher leaders, and the 2016 analysis of data from the North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey.

In addition to these sessions, Service Support Teams will offer regional-specific content based on evaluation surveys. Please click [HERE](#) to register for your preferred location or use this link: <http://bit.ly/FallPrincipalTraining>

Register for 2nd Fall Session of Instructor-led Online Courses

Mark your calendars! Our second session of facilitated online courses will be open for registration Monday, Oct. 3.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



Below is the list of instructor-facilitated online courses being offered by Educator Effectiveness, NCDPI for the Fall Session 2. (Unlike these facilitated courses, our self-paced modules are always open for enrollment.) Our facilitated courses provide the opportunity to interact with peers and an instructor along with high-quality professional development. They combine the flexibility of working from anywhere at any time, and the benefits of working with a cohort of peers.

Fall Session 2 courses will start Monday, Oct. 17. Registration for these courses will open Oct. 3, 2016. Registration is limited to 35 participants per section. Register [here](#).

Building and Sustaining Professional Development	6 weeks, 0.5 CEU
Connecting with our 21st Century Learners	5 weeks, 1.0 CEU
Digital Literacies in the K-12 Classroom	7 weeks, 1.5 CEUs
Introduction to Data Literacy	5 weeks, 1.0 CEU
Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects, Part 1	5 weeks, 0.5 CEUs
Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects, Part 2	7 weeks, 1.0 CEU
North Carolina Teacher Standards and Evaluation Process	6 weeks, 2.0 CEUs
Responsibilities of the 21st-Century Educator	7 weeks, 1.0 CEU
Universal Design for Learning 1: UDL in the Everyday Classroom	6 weeks, 1.5 CEUs
Universal Design for Learning 2: UDL and the Whole Classroom	5 weeks, 1.0 CEU

A Different Type of Online Learning Experience

The Educator Effectiveness division is proud to offer **Effective Digital Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the K-12 Classroom**, a course designed for active, collaborative learners who are self-driven, motivated, flexible and enjoy sharing information and resources. This six-week **MOOClet** course 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 course is different because it:

- Centers on individual learners, focusing on participants’ professional needs in different

- disciplines and grade levels
- Focuses on participants as creators of content as much as they are “consumers” of content
- Involves extensive peer-to-peer communication
- Includes a larger number of students than a typical facilitator-led course and less facilitator feedback

In this course, we will look at the 4Cs - Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration - keystones for the 21st century classroom.

Registration for the MOOClet opens Oct. 3; classes begin Oct. 17. For more information about registration, please visit our course catalog at www.rt3nc.org. If you have questions about the course, please email Dr. Geetanjali Soni at geetanjali.soni@dpi.nc.gov

These courses are available at **no cost** to North Carolina educators and will be facilitated by DPI professionals. The courses are completed entirely online. Participants are expected to meet all weekly deadlines in order to receive CEUs. Partial credit will not be given. For a description of the courses and associated CEUs, and on information on **how to register, visit our website** <https://rt3nc.org/>

NC Educator Evaluation System Webinars

Please check out the [NCEES Wiki](#) for all of the upcoming [webinars](#) scheduled for this school year. We encourage educators to register and learn more about the NCEES System. The NCEES webinars and office hours are scheduled on Tuesday afternoons. See webinars below:

October 2016

[Analysis of Student Work: Beginning of the Year \(BOY\) Process](#)

* Monday, October 3: 3 - 4 PM (Re-scheduled from 9/27)

[NCEES Webinar: Observation Calibration Training \(OCT\) Kick-off](#)

Tuesday, October 4: 4 - 5 PM

[NCEES Webinar: Teacher Standard 2 - Respectful Environment](#)

Tuesday, October 11: 4 - 6 PM

[NCEES Webinar: Executive Standard 2 - Instructional Leadership](#)

Tuesday, October 18: 4 - 5 PM

[Resources to Support Online Learning](#)

Tuesday, October 25: 3 - 4 PM

[Educator Effectiveness Office Hours](#)

Tuesday, October 25: 4 - 5 PM

We encourage you to share this Home Base Biweekly Update. For past issues of recent Home Base Biweekly Updates, please visit [Biweekly Updates](#). An archive of updates also is [online](#).

To direct new users of Home Base to join our email group to receive the Biweekly Newsletter, visit [here](#).

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



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