PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Rebecca B. Garland, Chief Academic Officer
Angela H. Quick, Deputy Chief Academic Officer
Academic Services and Instructional Support

DATE April 25, 2013

TOOLS FOR CLASSROOM AND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

Implementation of Home Base

Beginning July 1, 2013, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will begin implementation of Home Base, an instructional improvement system that will be a resource for teachers, parents, students, and administrators. Home Base will include classroom and benchmark assessment items for use by LEAs and schools across the state. To facilitate use of these tools, the current item banks delivered through ClassScape will be loaded into Home Base by July 1, 2013. This will allow all LEAs and schools to have access to these items during the kick-off year for Home Base. To help with the transition to new tools in 2013-14, ClassScape will continue to run parallel to the Home Base system until the tool in Home Base is fully functional. **All** schools will have the option to use ClassScape, use Home Base, or use both systems. Once the Home Base tool is fully functional, the only way to access the item banks formerly in ClassScape will be in Home Base.

What does this mean for current ClassScape users?

To help in this transition to Home Base, all of the current ClassScape users will have their memberships extended through 2013-2014 school year at NO cost and will be able to use the ClassScape platform. This should allow ample time during the school year for training staff on the new assessment tools in Home Base. LEAs and schools not currently enrolled as ClassScape users will also have the option to participate in ClassScape at NO cost during this time; however, no training is provided for new users.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

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How does this affect training and technical support?	ClassScape will **not** offer onsite training services of any kind during this transition period (for current or new users). Training for using the assessment item banks in Home Base will be developed and delivered by the NCDPI. The ClassScape training materials that are currently posted within the system will remain and can be used by districts for new teachers. ClassScape staff will **not** be available for individual school and district trainings. Help desk support for ClassScape will continue to be provided by the NCDesk support staff via online requests or phone calls during the transition year.
When will Home Base training be provided?	The NCDPI will begin training on Home Base for all LEAs and schools in June 2013. Training spaces are limited so each LEA/charter school will be provided an allotment based on size. LEA/charter school participants will be expected to use the knowledge and skills they acquire to provide training to local staff within their LEAs/charter schools. Sessions will include Home Base: Educator Evaluation (Half Day) Training and Home Base: Classroom Instruction/Assessment (Full day) Training. Sessions will be offered multiple times within each of the eight education regions and over multiple days. The following dates are scheduled for training in each region: Region 1 — June 24 and 25 Region 2 — June 24 and 25 Region 3 — June 25, 26, and 27 Region 4 — June 26 and 27 and July 2 Region 5 — June 26 and 27 Region 6 — July 1 and 2 Region 7 — June 24, 25, and 26 Region 8 — June 27, July 1 and 2

If you have questions about the Home Base assessment options that will be available in the 2013-14 school year, please contact home_base_ready@dpi.nc.gov.

RBG/AHQ

c: Test Coordinators