



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 Administrators

FROM Philip W. Price

HOME BASE – INPUT REQUESTED

Exciting News

We are excited that we will soon be making Home Base available to every local education agency and charter school. As you know, the new student information system (PowerSchool) and the first phases of the instructional improvement system will start being available to all public schools in July. We have also announced that access to all the components (Home Base) will be free for the FY 2013-14 school year. During that time, we will need your help to ensure a smooth rollout of the system. Please see below for instructions on how you can be involved in that process.

So, what does the implementation of Home Base mean for you, your teachers, students and parents?

Access for Everyone

You all currently have access to PowerSource, a suite of online training and reference resources to help you learn to use PowerSchool. PowerSource has now been expanded to include resources related to the SchoolNet portion of Home Base. In PowerSource, you will be able to access communities of discussion around various aspects of the system, and downloadable tools and templates that you can use locally. These “learning communities” help users understand how the system works and enables sharing of templates that have proven useful in various schools and districts.

You will also begin to have access to various other parts of Home Base for use as soon as they are ready for release. The plan for rollout is as follows:

- July-August 2013
 - PowerSchool – Student Information System (SIS)
 - SchoolNet – Instructional tools for building lesson plans and classroom/district assessments

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL, BUSINESS, AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Philip W. Price, *Chief Financial/Chief Information Officer* | Philip.Price@dpi.nc.gov
6326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6326 | (919) 807-3600 | Fax (919) 807-3604
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Content
 - Science and Social Studies Assessment Items (9,600 items from NWEA)
 - ClassScape Items in EOG and EOC tested subjects (Math, ELA, Science) (22,000 items)
 - Pearson Science and Social Studies Digital Library (~10,000 resources)
 - Open Educational Resources from NC Learning Object Repository (4,000 and counting)
- Truenorthlogic – Educator Evaluation online system (replacing the McREL tool) *for teachers*
- User Portal – single log-in site to access all parts of the Home Base system
- October 2013
 - OpenClass – free, Pearson-hosted Learning Management System (LMS) platform that focuses on collaboration between students
 - Truenorthlogic – Educator Evaluation online system *for principals*
 - Content
 - Next Generation K-12 Common Core ELA and Math items (count will phase in)
- March 2014
 - Truenorthlogic – Professional Development LMS that will allow educators to register for and track their professional development (PD)
- 2014-15 School Year
 - TestNav – Online summative assessment system (replacing the platform that currently supports NCTest)

To accommodate this rollout, NCDPI will work with Pearson to provide training across the State. Pearson will directly train 1,100 educators in a “train-the-trainer” model beginning June 2013. Thereafter, NCDPI will continue the training through regionally-based RESA trainings and a series of webinars throughout the 2013-2014 school year. LEAs/charters will need to build local training plans to support both required elements (e.g. Educator Evaluation) and optional elements (e.g. OpenClass) that they choose to implement.

For added help, NCDPI will bring online its new Support Center by the end of June 2013. The Support Center is designed to provide LEA/charter school callers with a person-to-person connection. The Center will house our Help Desk staff and NCDPI business representative and will connect to vendor representatives for answering all your questions related to Home Base. We will have a team of analysts working within the Support Center to document processes and provide feedback to the project teams and NCDPI leadership about how we can improve the rollout experience for the LEAs and charters.

The Work Ahead

While all of our public schools will have access to Home Base, we know we will need to provide targeted assistance to ensure that what we deliver meets the needs of all schools. To make sure we are in position to do this well, we are looking to establish a limited set of Partnerships with early-adopting LEAs/charter schools so that we can learn about what it takes to successfully rollout the Home Base platform at a district and/or school level. We intend ultimately to partner with every district to determine how best to deploy the Home Base tools; however, we need your help to understand how to best integrate and personalize Home Base to meet your needs. All LEAs/charters will benefit from what we learn through the initial Partnership implementations.

Partnerships

Partnerships will be focused implementations of key Home Base tools in which a team of experts from the State and LEA/charter will collaborate to map, document, and complete the integration of the tools within a specific context. In short, these Partnerships are opportunities for districts to learn how the tools can maximize instruction and for the State to learn strategies for support LEA/charter implementation statewide.

Both the State and the Partner LEA/charter will be responsible for understanding all the contextual aspects around integrating the tools and for assigning a team of experts to assist in the integration process. We are particularly interested in addressing some of the contextual integration challenges that we currently foresee, such as incorporating or migrating from locally used tools and content or building capacity to run such a system. The LEA/charter will be responsible for testing the solutions to ensure that they meet their needs. The State will be responsible for creating a standardized approach to integration based on each experience and documenting the approach for use throughout NC.

How are costs shared in these initial partnerships? The State will bring resources to help integrate the Home Base tools within the LEA/charter and will document the costs necessary to complete the integration and how those costs will need to be covered. As we roll out and integrate all LEAs/charters into Home Base, it is likely that each LEA/charter will need to absorb some of the integration costs, but the State will do everything possible to mitigate those costs.

Next Steps

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any interest in being one of our partner sites. We have created a Google Form to collect your contact information and what kind of support your district would need to implement Home Base. Please click <http://goo.gl/bRwNq> and submit the short form by June 15, 2013 (you may have to copy and paste the link into your browser). We will review your information and make contact with potential sites by July 1, 2013.

Once we have identified our initial Partnership LEAs/charters, we will put together some documents describing in more detail which Home Base functions will become available by when, and what the “readiness” requirements to support those functions will be.