



NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

This NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin highlights issues and announcements that were communicated to users last week. It also features late-breaking and recurring news about NC SIS (PowerSchool).

Topics for this issue:

1. Thank you! Home Base Symposium Attendees
2. Reminder: PowerSchool Calendar Changes
3. Enterprise Reporting (Apex)
4. GPA Issues
5. Graduation Requirements Screen
6. Upcoming Webinars and Workshops

1. Thank you! Home Base Symposium Attendees

The Home Base Team would like to thank all of our 2016 Home Base Symposium Attendees for attending this year's event and making it one of the best ever. Any role you played (presenter, facilitator, technical assistant or attendee) was truly valued and we sincerely hope each of your expectations was either met or exceeded.

This year's event consisted of over 1300 participants and approximately 100 different topics ranging from PowerSchool, Schoolnet, TNL and Canvas to Google Docs and Excel. Many of you have already commented on how well you enjoyed the sessions but, as always, we want to hear from each of you. So stay tuned for a survey requesting your feedback. You will only need to respond to those questions pertaining to the sessions you attended. Once the survey has been completed, you will receive your certificate worth 16 CEUs.

Again, thank you and we hope to hear from you soon!

2. Reminder: PowerSchool Calendar Changes

As a result of the recent rounds of inclement weather, we feel a review of the calendar change process is appropriate at this time. Please read and forward to the appropriate staff the document, [North Carolina Calendar Changes in PS-LEA.pdf](#). It includes instructions on how to adjust your school calendar during the school year to account for missed school days. This process involves updates made by the LEA and NCDPI; therefore, **once your updates are complete, submit a ticket to the Home Base Support Center (homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov) to notify us that you are ready for NCDPI to complete their part of the calendar update process.**

3. Enterprise Reporting (Apex)

A new feature of PowerSchool 9.2 highlighted at the 2016 Home Base Symposium is the new Enterprise Reporting module. This module allows for the creation and publication of custom reporting sets from PowerSchool data. It contains visualization functionality and access to a wide set of PowerSchool data.

NCDPI recognizes the power of this reporting tool to LEAs and users across the state. We also recognize the potential for significant sets of data to be inadvertently made available to PowerSchool users. Because of this, NCDPI and CCB members agreed at last week's meeting that coordinators should activate the module but **refrain from granting user access** until after the March Home Base User Group (HBUG) meetings. At these meetings, coordinators will be trained on the security and functionality of the Enterprise Reporting tool.

Instructions on activating the plugin and establishing an account are located in the user guide available in PowerSource article 75971.

We thank you for your patience and understanding on this matter.

4. GPA Issues

As previously communicated via NC-SIS update, NCDPI is aware of several issues surrounding GPA/Stored Grades. The foundation of these issues is the stored grades trigger process. This process was implemented at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year in response to the new GPA weighting policy passed by the State Board of Education (SBE), effective this school year. This policy changes course weightings for first time freshmen from 2/1 for advanced/honors courses to 1/.5.

The GPA trigger process works as an add-on to permanently storing grades, the manual insertion of historical grades or database changes to stored grades (DDA/Scripting). This means that efforts to correct errant grades through re-storing, DDA or a script will be ineffectual.

NCDPI has identified two errors with the GPA trigger process. The first is that grades with store codes other than F1 store without added value for first time freshmen (students with grade 9 entry date of 7/1/2015 or later). This was not an intended product of the process and we recognize the detrimental effect this has on LEA processes dependent on quarter-based GPAs or other like processes. We also recognize that the A1/A2 grades that impact Athletic Eligibility are affected by this error.

The second error affects a group of courses with a 5th digit of 5 that should not be awarded honors-level GPA added value. The trigger process is currently coded with a list of exceptions to the course code rule. NCDPI has identified several courses that meet criteria for the exception but are not properly coded. These courses will store with added values inconsistent with course documentation. Specific Course Codes affected by this error are being aggregated and will be sent out separately next week.

These are significant functionality items that must be addressed but remember these items affect only first time freshmen for 2015-16. **GPA's for students in grades 10-12 (or repeating freshmen) will be correct.**

The changes needed to correct both situations have been submitted to PowerSchool for scope and cost. We are pushing for these corrections to be made quickly to allow NCDPI to correct these errors with a scripting process. This will avoid student-by-student changes. NCDPI will continue to pursue these changes as a top priority item.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by these errors and for any lack of communication that has led to confusion among our users. We will continue to send regular updates and evaluate the available solutions.

5. Graduation Requirement Screen

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is aware of issues pertaining to the graduation requirements screen. Users may notice that certain courses are not satisfying graduation requirements, contradictory to current [graduation policies](#).

In response to this, DPI has initiated a full review of all graduation plan requirements and intends to launch system fixes during the first week of April 2016. In the meantime, please know that the screen may display results inconsistent with DPI graduation policies.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

6. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

a) Athletic Eligibility in PowerSchool

This webinar will demonstrate the new Athletic Eligibility functionality in PowerSchool. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the www.nc-sis.org website.

Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2653270361947006210>

b) Coordinators Object Reports Groups 1 and 2 Workshop Sessions

This face-to-face workshop will be delivered in two parts. When registering, you are registering for the set of dates together. All attendees must be employees of a North Carolina public school. Management companies are not permitted to attend.

Part 1 topics are inclusive of the following: Basics, Grid, Form Letters (starting with Absence Letters), Student Lists, Mailing Labels and Certificates

Part 2 topics are inclusive of the following: More advanced/in-depth look at Transcript, Data Tags, School Based Report Cards, Schedule Listings and Object Reports from Templates (Importing/Exporting)

Audience: PowerSchool Coordinators Only

Attendees will be using their own LEA/school instance and will need appropriate access and login information in order to complete this workshop. Classes will be held from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily at the NCDPI Bldg., 301 N. Wilmington Street, Room 564, Raleigh, NC 27601.

Group 1

Part 1 – December 1 – 2, 2015

Part 2 – April 4 – 5, 2016

<https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7222>

Group 2

Part 1 – December 3 – 4, 2015

Part 2 – April 6 – 7, 2016

<https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7223>

c) PowerSchool Q & A

This webinar will not contain any presentation. It will be an open forum for attendees to ask their scheduling questions to a panel of DPI staff members.

Dates, Times and Registration Links

Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8322180790944779522>

Thursday, March 10, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1805276417069994754>

Monday, March 28, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2758246234607665410>

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3271220086011695874>

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7882350851067114498>

Friday, June 10, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3370667614209404161>

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6209691299522393089>

Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8912773566200419841>

Monday, June 20, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3112422019658833921>

Thursday, June 23, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8078778603369568001>

Thursday, June 23, 2016 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4978574726971441921>

d) Prep to Schedule Help Workshop

This session is for schools needing additional assistance with preparing their 2016-17 school year schedule. The one day class will give schools additional help on task to complete prior to doing a build or load at their school. This is NOT a full prepare to schedule session. Due to space constraints, please do not send more than two participants per school.

Date, Times and Registration Links: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7153>

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
<https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7155>

****Note: All registration information is subject to NC Public Records Law.**

Please visit the NC SIS website (www.nc-sis.org) for additional information including webinars and training documentation.

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