



NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

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

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1. 2016 Home Base Symposium Update

TODAY, January 15, is the deadline for receiving a guaranteed hotel rate of \$155.60 (single or double occupancy with tax) if you plan to stay at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons. To make your hotel reservation online or via phone, use the information provided below.

Hotel Reservation Online:

Room Reservation Link: <http://tinyurl.com/HB16Hotel>

Attendee Code: Home16 (not case sensitive)

Hotel Reservation via Phone:

Phone Number: 1-800-242-6556

Group/Conference Code: 2016 Home Base Symposium

The deadline for capitalizing on a great rate of \$140.00 to attend this educational event has been extended to **Friday, January 29, 2016**. We're extending our Early Registration deadline so that you will reap the benefits of an awesome conference at an economical rate. Any payments postmarked after this new date are subject to a fee of \$250.00.

Please hurry and don't delay! For more details concerning this event, visit our 2016 Home Base Symposium page at <http://www.nc-sis.org/symposium16.html>.

2. UAB and CCB Meetings Scheduled for 2016

The 2016 User Advisory Board (UAB) and Configuration Control Board (CCB) meetings have been scheduled. New registration links have been provided for all meetings scheduled through December 15, 2016. Once registered for each meeting, you will *NOT* need to register again.

The next UAB and CCB meetings scheduled for January 21, 2016 will be combined. Agenda items that were previously submitted for November and December meetings will be addressed. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. To attend, register with the UAB registration link below. For a complete listing of all UAB and CCB meetings, visit the NC SIS website at <http://www.nc-sis.org/meetings.html>.

Time and Registration Link for 2016 UAB Meetings:

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4090688302904939522>

Time and Registration Link for 2016 CCB Meetings:

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6530182448033021698>

3. Migration and Upgrade Update

As previously communicate, NCDPI is working with PowerSchool to complete two important updates to our system. We are currently working to both migrate all NC hosted instances from the NJ2 center in New Jersey to the Rack Space hosting environment in Virginia and to upgrade the PowerSchool application from version 8.3 to 9.2. We are confident that both changes will bring new features and better functionality and availability.

Please note, that the entire migration is schedule to take place over the February maintenance weekend (Feb. 19-21, 2016). Until that time, no NC instances will be migrated to Rack Space.

Beginning on January 4, 2016 NCDPI began testing the new application version on instances set up in the new Rack Space environment. Starting next week, we will begin a new phase of the testing to incorporate system integrations (IAM, TNL, Schoolnet, etc.) to ensure these systems remain online and available throughout the transition.

Shortly after this phase kicks off, we will be inviting select LEAs to join the testing effort. We're hoping this leveled approach and the involvement of LEA testers allows for a smooth transition to a new environment and application version.

4. School Departments

As we begin the new scheduling year, please take the time to ensure all school departments are listed correctly with proper spacing and capitalization. This will significantly minimize errors when scheduling. These departments are also needed by other applications; therefore, accuracy is critical. Each school should have a list of departments as follows:

Departments

Description
Arts Ed
CTE
ECS
ELA
Electives
ESL
Hlth & PE
Math
Military Sc
Misc
Non classrm
OCS
Science
Soc Stud
World Lang

5. Athletic Eligibility/Stored Grades

NCDPI, with the assistance of LEAs, has identified an issue with the stored grades trigger process affecting students with a Grade 9 Entry Date of 7/1/2015 or later.

Background:

As a result of the new added value policy that went into effect this school year, a background process was added to the historical grades screen, stored grade process and grade insert (DDA) process that identifies students who need to have the GPA added value adjusted to the new .5/1 values.

Issue:

We have determined that this process is not storing added value for grades with store codes other than F1. This was not the intent of this process and NCDPI is currently working with the vendor to correct this issue.

In the meantime, LEAs must be aware that store codes other than F1 for students with Grade 9 Entry Dates of 7/1/2015 or later will not receive added value from courses. This will negatively impact GPA values run on these store codes.

LEAs who use GPA as part of the Athletic Eligibility process will need to be particularly aware of this issue. AE Scholar GPAs are programmed to use store codes A1 and A2; these store codes will not have the correct added value associated until the trigger process is correct.

Unfortunately, the affected store code grades cannot be corrected through traditional means (DDA, Import, Script, Re-store), because the trigger process intercepts them all. GPA for Athletic eligibility will need to be calculated outside of PowerSchool until the trigger process can be corrected.

Please note that this trigger process defect affects students with Grade 9 Entry Date of 7/1/2015 or later; calculations for students with dates prior to 7/1/2015 will be correct.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this issue is causing. We are continuing to work with the vendor, PowerSchool, to correct this as soon as possible.

6. TIMS Webinar

NCDPI's Transportation Division conducted a webinar on importing TIMS data into PowerSchool. The webinar can be found at this link: <http://www.ncbussafety.org/TIMS/TrainingPresentations.html>

7. 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.

Date, Time and Registration Link

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 that need additional assistance with preparing their 2016-2017 school year scheduling process.

This 1 day class will give schools additional help on tasks to be completed prior to doing a Build or Load at your school for the 2016-2017 school year. It is designed for only those schools who need additional help. This is NOT a full prepare to schedule session.

The class session is designed for TWO people per school; the person responsible for entering scheduling data and school setup into PowerSchool and one person who can make decisions about the schedule process. Both attendees will work on one computer.

One participant per school should register to save the seat, the other may attend without registration.

Due to space constraints, please do not send more than two participants per school.

Dates, 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>

****Attendees must be an employee of a North Carolina Public school. Management companies are not permitted to attend.**

****Please 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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