NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin
March 3, 2014

The NC SIS Email Bulletin highlights issues and announcements that were communicated to users during the previous week, and it also features late-breaking and recurring news about NC SIS and the PowerSchool project.

In this Issue:

1. PowerSchool Weekend Updates and Fixes
2. Build Workshops
3. New Documents on the Web
4. 2014-15 Course Codes (Letter from Robin B. McCoy, PhD)
5. Home Base Support Center - Inclement Weather Advisory

1. PowerSchool Weekend Updates and Fixes

The following items were promoted by Pearson into the PowerSchool application over the weekend. If you have any problems or questions concerning these recent updates and fixes, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

a. CTE Concentrator Survey
b. Staff Pages (Staff Duty – Updated Duration Time from Hours and Minutes to only a total of Minutes with numeric validation)
c. Staff Pages (Staff Roles)
   I. Staff Pages (Staff Roles – Updated Duration Time from Hours and Minutes to only a total of Minutes with numeric validation)
   II. Staff Pages (Staff Roles – Improved check for valid date; Added check that start date precedes end date)
   III. Staff Pages (Staff Roles – Updated initial display of page to align with currently selected staff member)
d. Historical Grades – (Data Update – Updated GPA Added values for undefined (null) values to be zero (0))
e. Enterprise Controller (Updated Program Entry code set (ALP and Others) to all QA PS instances)
f. NC Report Card
   I. Updated to use the new Historical Grades Legacy Section ID field if the Historical Grades Section ID is blank

2. Build Workshops
Attention! All that are eligible to attend, the 4 Day Build Workshops are now available for user registration. This 4 day workshop is “Part 2” for those who attended the Prepare to Build Scheduling Workshop. It is designed for schools who build a true student-driven schedule each year. If you have not attended and completed a 3 day Prepare to Build workshop, please do NOT register. Schools must also have completed the checklist from the Prepare to Build session in preparation for this class. You may retrieve that checklist by clicking this link: http://www.ncsis.org/documents/power_school_project/powerschool_training/build_workshop/checklist_build_workshop.pdf.

This hands-on workshop is for the school’s scheduling team and MUST include the person who attended the previous workshop, and who is responsible for the computer work. **However, only the person who attended the previous “Prepare to Build” class needs to register.** The entire scheduling team will sit together and work at one workstation.

Each session will begin 8:30 a.m. and will end at approximately 4:00 p.m. each day. To register, please click on the following link which takes you to an online sign-up sheet: http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/. This site will also allow you the participant to cancel your own registration if you are unable to attend.

For more questions or details about training, please contact the Home Base Support Center at homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

3. New Documents on the Web

2014-2015 Course Code List
http://www.nc-sis.org/courses.html

4. 2014-15 Course Codes (Letter from Robin B. McCoy, PhD)

PowerSchool Coordinators,

Last week a course code spreadsheet was posted that included information on courses to be added, deleted, and changed. The spreadsheet was intended to provide updated information on course codes for 2014-15; however, this has proved to be confusing, and we want to offer some clarification.

Your current course catalog for 2014-15 has been updated to include the following:

1. K-8 grade specific codes for ELA, Math, Healthful Living/PE, and Arts courses.

2. Academic levels 'A' for Extended Content courses and 'B' for OCS courses.

If any of you have already entered schedules for 2014-15 using the 2013-14 school course codes, you do not need to make changes at this time. We are researching the possibility of making changes electronically to spare you from having to do any manual changes.

If your district plans to use Standards Based Report Cards, K-8 grade specific codes will be necessary. If you have not started your scheduling, you should use the K-8 grade specific codes.
We will provide further information to you in the coming days.

Thank you,

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5. Home Base Support Center - Inclement Weather Advisory

Due to the weather advisory for possible inclement weather as forecasted for the state of North Carolina, there may be limited phone support for incoming customer calls starting today at noon. The Home Base Support Center strongly encourages you to email any questions or problems you may have to homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov.

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