



# 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).

Topics for this issue:

1. Home Base Maintenance Weekend for March
2. PowerSchool Updates
3. Reminder: NC Server Restarts
4. Reminder: RapidIdentity Upgrade
5. Call for UAB Agenda Items
6. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

## **1. Home Base Maintenance Weekend for March**

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for Friday, March 11 through Monday, March 14. Maintenance will only be performed on the PowerSchool application. All other Home Base applications will be accessible through the IAM Service. PowerSchool will shut down Friday at approximately 5 p.m. Once maintenance is completed a message will be sent to notify users that the system is up and available for use. PowerSchool will be returned to service no later than 6 a.m., Monday morning. If a delay in bringing up the system should occur, users will be notified via NC SIS email.

This maintenance weekend will include a PowerSchool upgrade to 9.2.1 and Rackspace migration. Following the upgrade and migration, NCDPI will distribute a link to a “known issues” document that can be used as a reference to functionality and aesthetic items that are found in the new application version along with workaround solutions and updates toward permanent resolutions.

PowerSchool 9.2.1 will contain new functionality features that will enhance the PowerSchool user experience; however, core business tasks (attendance, grading, enrolling, scheduling, etc.) will remain greatly unchanged. We’re confident that users will not experience significant challenges returning to work after the upgrade. A presentation from PowerSchool, LLC detailing many of these changes can be viewed at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B391kzrq1H9EazkzTUd6OHJhRkE/view?usp=sharing>. Please refrain from publishing this document publically. Release notes for PowerSchool 9.2.1 are also available on the NC SIS website ([http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/ps9\\_2\\_1\\_release\\_notes.pdf](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/ps9_2_1_release_notes.pdf)).

If you have questions concerning this maintenance period, please contact the Home Base Support Center at [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov).

## **2. PowerSchool Updates**

### Migration/Upgrade

NCDPI continues with quality assurance testing and verification of the new PowerSchool application version and Rackspace environment. We remain on track for the scheduled maintenance weekend upgrade and migration set for March 11-13. More details about changes to the system will be communicated next week.

### PowerSchool Performance

NCDPI and PowerSchool remain committed to providing the highest possible user experience in the Century Link data center prior to the NC migration on March 11-13. Daily monitoring calls as well as continuous system monitoring have provided better responsiveness and stability to the NC systems.

In order to provide a higher level of monitoring data, NC has authorized the installation of a plugin in all NC PowerSchool instances. This plugin allows for the transmission of performance data to be sent directly from a user's browser to the monitoring tool at PowerSchool. It does not transmit any PowerSchool data (student, staff, etc.). Only browsing speed statistics are sent. This solution has been tested and piloted in four NC districts with no adverse effect on performance.

Any questions or concerns about this plugin can be sent to Aaron at [aaron.bissonnette@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:aaron.bissonnette@dpi.nc.gov).

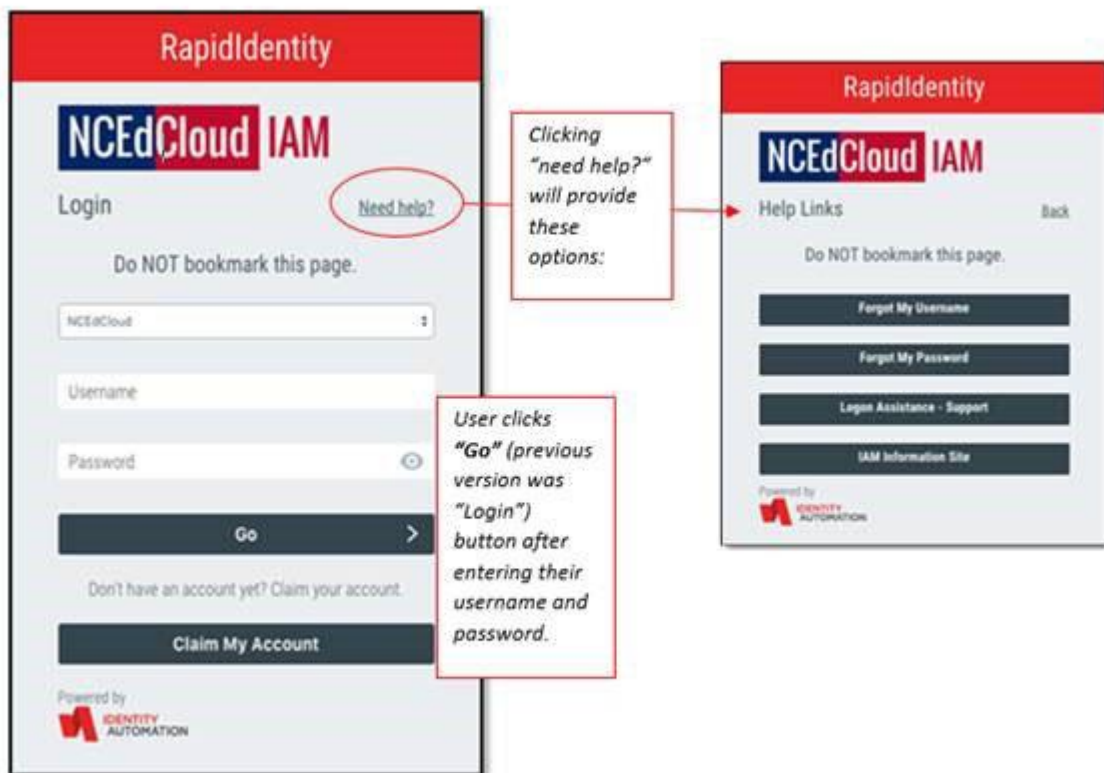
## **3. Reminder: NC Server Restarts**

As communicated in last week's SIS, all NC servers will be restarted on a weekly basis until the migration. This week's restarts will happen on Saturday, March 5 from 9 p.m. -2 a.m., Sunday morning. During this time, PowerSchool will be unavailable to users.

## **4. Reminder: RapidIdentity Upgrade**

This evening, March 4, 2016, the NCEdCloud IAM Service's underlying software, Identity Automation's RapidIdentity, will be upgraded to version 3.5. After the upgrade, users will be presented with an updated login.

Please see the screenshot below for an explanation of the new features.



The upgrade will take place between **6 p.m.- 8 p.m. E.T., Friday, March 4, 2016**. During some or all of this time period the **NCEdCloud IAM Service** will not be able to service login requests.

## 5. Call for UAB Agenda Items

The next NC SIS User Advisory Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 17, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please submit all suggested agenda items to Christine Stewart, [christine.stewart@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:christine.stewart@dpi.nc.gov), by Friday, March 11. We will be limiting the number of agenda items covered to 5 topics due to time constraints. You will be informed if we are unable to cover your item(s) during the meeting.

Please click on the links to register for the UAB and/or CCB meetings if you have not already registered. You will only need to register once for all meetings scheduled through Dec. 2016.

UAB Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8950663839039428866>

CCB Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6530182448033021698>

A complete listing of all UAB and CCB meetings is located at <http://www.nc-sis.org/meetings.html>.

## 6. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

- **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](http://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>

- **Coordinators Object Reports Groups 1 and 2 Workshop Session**  
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>

- **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, 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>

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>

○ **Build and Load 2 Day Workshops (Scheduling)**

These sessions are designed for schools creating a master schedule using the "build and load" method. Prior to attending this session, schools must have completed steps A-K in the "PowerScheduler: Prepare to Build" workbook and have validated their build data, clearing validation errors that result. Schools will work with their scheduling teams to complete the build and load processes to the extent that time allows.

This is not a training session. It is a hands-on work session. Schools should plan to send all personnel needed to complete the build and load processes. Up to 4 people per school may attend.

The LEA/Charter School Coordinator is to sign up for the session. In registration, indicate which school will be attending. Note only 1 school per LEA may sign up for a regional build session at this time. It is only necessary to create one registration for each school - not one for each person that may attend. Each registration allows 4 people from that school to attend.

Sessions will run from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. Lunch will be on your own.

- **Region 4 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 18 - 19, 2016  
**Location:** Sampson Middle School, 1201 West Elizabeth Street, Clinton, NC 28328  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7354>
- **Region 4 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 21-22, 2016  
**Location:** Sampson Middle School, 1201 West Elizabeth Street, Clinton, NC 28328  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7355>
- **Region 8 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 18-19, 2016  
**Location:** Cool Springs Administration Offices, 382 West Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7362>
- **Region 8 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 21-22, 2016  
**Location:** Cool Springs Administration Offices, 382 West Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7363>
- **Region 1 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 25-26, 2016  
**Location:** The Central Service Office, 715 US Highway, 13 North, Windsor, NC 27983  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7340>
- **Region 1 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 28-29, 2016  
**Location:** Cool Springs Administration Offices, 382 West Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7341>
- **Region 6 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 25-26, 2016

**Location:** Union County Schools, 721 Brewer Drive, Monroe, NC 28112  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7358>

- **Region 6 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 28-29, 2016  
**Location:** Union County Schools, 721 Brewer Drive, Monroe, NC 28112  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7359>
  
- **Region 3 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 2-3, 2016  
**Location:** Facility Services, 601 A. West Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7352>
  
- **Region 3 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 5-6, 2016  
**Location:** Facility Services, 601 A. West Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7353>
  
- **Region 7 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 2-3, 2016  
**Location:** Watauga High School, 300 Go Pioneers Drive, Boone, NC 28607 - Room 2202  
*(After checking in at the office, proceed straight down the entry hall to the end. Room is to the right.)*  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7360>
  
- **Region 7 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 5-6, 2016  
**Location:** Watauga High School, 300 Go Pioneers Drive, Boone, NC 28607 - Room 2202  
*(After checking in at the office, proceed straight down the entry hall to the end. Room is to the right.)*  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7361>
  
- **Region 2 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 9-10, 2016  
**Location:** New Hanover County Board of Education Center  
1805 South 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7350>
  
- **Region 2 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 12-13, 2016  
**Location:** New Hanover County Board of Education Center  
1805 South 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7351>
  
- **Region 5 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 9-10, 2016  
**Location:** Office Support, Guilford County Schools, Laughlin Professional Development Center, 7911 Summerfield Rd., Summerfield, NC 27358  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7356>
  
- **Region5 Build and Load 2 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 12-13, 2016  
**Location:** Office Support, Guilford County Schools, Laughlin Professional Development

Center, 7911 Summerfield Rd., Summerfield, NC 27358

**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7357>

○ **Load Only 1 Day Workshops**

This session is designed for schools creating a master schedule using the "build and load" method. Prior to attending this session, schools must have completed steps A-K in the "PowerScheduler: Prepare to Build" workbook and have validated their build data, clearing validation errors that result. Schools will work with their scheduling teams to complete the build and load processes to the extent that time allows. This is not a training session. It is a hands-on work session; schools should plan to send all personnel needed to complete the build and load processes. Up to 4 people per school may attend.

LEA/Charter School Coordinator is to sign up for the session. In registration, indicate which school will be attending. Note only 1 school per LEA may sign up for a regional build session at this time. It is only necessary to create one registration for each school - not one for each person that may attend. Each registration allows 4 people from that school to attend.

Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Lunch will be on your own.

- **Region 4 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 20, 2016  
**Location:** Sampson Middle School, 1201 West Elizabeth Street, Clinton, NC 28328  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7345>
- **Region 8 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 20, 2016  
**Location:** Cool Springs Administration Offices, 382 West Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7349>
- **Region 1 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 27, 2016  
**Location:** The Central Service Office, 715 US Highway 13 North, Windsor, NC 27983  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7342>
- **Region 6 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** April 27, 2016  
**Location:** Union County Schools, 721 Brewer Drive, Monroe, NC 28112  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7347>
- **Region 3 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 4, 2016  
**Location:** Facility Services, 601A West Market Street, Smithfield, NC 27577  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7344>
- **Region 7 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 4, 2016  
**Location:** Watauga High School, 300 Go Pioneers Drive, Boone, NC 28607  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7348>
- **Region 2 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 11, 2016  
**Location:** New Hanover County board of Education Center, 1805 South 15th, Street, Wilmington, NC 28401  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7343>
- **Region 5 Load Only 1 Day Workshop**  
**Date:** May 11, 2016

**Location:** Office Support, Guilford County Schools, Laughlin Professional Development Center, 7911 Summerfield Rd., Summerfield, NC 27358  
**Registration Link:** <https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/7346>

**\*\*Please note that all registration information is subject to North Carolina Public Records Law.**

**\*\*Attendees must be an employee of a North Carolina public school. Management companies and its employees are not permitted to attend.**

**\*\*\* Please bring a laptop to each session and make sure the PowerScheduler Engine is Loaded before coming to the session.**

Remember to visit the NC SIS website ([www.nc-sis.org](http://www.nc-sis.org)) for additional information including webinars and training documentation.

NC SIS

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