



**NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin**  
**Attachment: [RTA Process Summary](#)**

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. PowerSchool Weekend Updates and Fixes**

The following items will be promoted into PowerSchool this weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Home Base Support Center at [homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:homebase.incidents@its.nc.gov).

A. LEP/WAPT Student Pages

- 1) Updating WAPT Summary/Data Entry to honor the Active flag for LEP or Immigrant so duplicate records are not displayed.
- 2) Updating WAPT Test to display descriptive values for test results.
- 3) Updating LEP Summary/Data Entry to honor the Active flag for LEP or Immigrant so duplicate records are not displayed.

**2. Maintenance Weekend for November 2015**

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for **Friday, November 13 through Monday, November 16**. Maintenance will only be performed on the PowerSchool application. All other Home Base applications will be accessible through the IAM Service except during the NCEdCloud IAM Service software update which will take place Friday, November 13 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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 North Carolina State Compliance Reporting release. Updates will be made to the SAR Data Collection, RPG Data Collection and Dropout Data Collection. For more details concerning these revisions, please review the **Nov. 3 and October 26** updates in the North Carolina Reporting Release Notes posted to the NC SIS website at [http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/2015\\_North\\_Carolina\\_Release\\_Notes.pdf](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/requirements/2015_North_Carolina_Release_Notes.pdf).

To view a complete schedule of Home Base maintenance periods, please click on the following link: [http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home\\_Base\\_Maintenance\\_Sched.pdf](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf).

### 3. Call for UAB Agenda Items

The next NC SIS User Advisory Board meeting will be held **Thursday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Please submit all suggested agenda items to Angelia Herring, [angelia.herring@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:angelia.herring@dpi.nc.gov), by Friday, November 13. We will be limiting the agenda items covered during the UAB meetings to a total of five 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 done so. You will only need to register once for all meetings scheduled through Dec. 17, 2015.

UAB Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/498258355442804993>

CCB Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2390234192844187137>

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

### 4. SAR 2015-16 Due Date Extended

The SAR collection for 2015-16 will be extended to **December 1, 2015**. The original deadline was set for November 13.

All schools will need to rerun their SAR after the November maintenance weekend (November 13 – 16) is complete to include the following updates in the SAR collection.

1. Updates to the PowerSchool software for the new Class Size report
2. Update to the SAR-25 exception to identify any invalid courses being used in the 2015/16 school year
3. Completion of populating EC data in PowerSchool from 3rd party vendors

The CECAS sync has completed. If you are still missing CECAS EC data, please contact the CECAS service desk at [cecas.incidents@its.nc.gov](mailto:cecas.incidents@its.nc.gov).

If you have questions, please contact Sandra Johnson at [sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov).

## 5. PowerSchool Selects Rackspace to Provide Secure Cloud Solution

Please be advised that NCDPI will work with PowerSchool to develop a transition plan for migrating to the new hosting service.

### PowerSchool Tech Note – Nov. 3, 2015

PowerSchool continues to deliver superior products and services to improve the K-12 education experience. We believe our customers' success depends on safe data and premium system performance. We are excited to announce that [Rackspace](#), the #1 managed cloud service provider, has been chosen for PowerSchool's secure hosting solution. What this means is that for our more than 2,600 hosted customers, we are providing an even more differentiated and highly available secure cloud solution.

This also marks a unique relationship: the world's most widely used and reliable student information system is now working with the #1 managed cloud company to offer a best-in-class cloud solution to PowerSchool customers. It's a win-win for our customers and a big reason why more schools and districts choose PowerSchool over any other SIS. We are relentless in our pursuit of developing and utilizing cutting edge technologies to continue improving our products and services.

PowerSchool can now deliver ultra-high bandwidth, robust failover capabilities, data encryption, storage performance and systems monitoring that meets the needs of large and small school districts in the US and internationally.

The choice of Rackspace followed two months of intensive research and diligence for a best-in-class provider that is committed to working with PowerSchool to dramatically improve and expand PowerSchool SaaS in 2016 and beyond. We are actively building the new data center with Rackspace, and will have more information on the timeline by late November.

Rackspace has proven, unrivaled experience in planning, deploying, and managing server, storage, and network configurations. Rackspace has built its global infrastructure to deliver top speeds, while providing industry-leading service level agreements, including: 100% network uptime guarantee (excluding planned or emergency maintenance); HVAC and power functioning 100% of the time in a given month; and ensuring hardware components function correctly. Rackspace has highly trained specialists that run the infrastructure, which uses the latest technologies and resides in enterprise-grade data centers positioned across the globe.

Five key improvements to the new PowerSchool SaaS environment include:

- **Increased Bandwidth.** Provide a redundant, bonded 10Gbps network connection which is 5x greater than the current network connection.
- **Increased Failover Capabilities.** Utilize virtualized application servers within a high availability virtual environment. This will provide enhanced server availability by migrating the virtual application servers to another physical host in the event a physical host becomes unresponsive or unavailable.
- **Increased Data Encryption.** Utilize the latest technologies to encrypt ALL PowerSchool Data at Rest utilizing XTS-AES 256-bit data-at-rest encryption across the entire storage array.
- **Increased Storage Performance.** Utilize a new fault tolerant EMC VMAX enterprise data storage array with twice the amount of storage capacity and 4x more bandwidth to PowerSchool servers.

- **Increased Systems Monitoring.** Utilize a new enterprise-grade solution for infrastructure and systems monitoring capable of processing thousands of metrics per second and provide 24x7 real-time alerts.

At PowerSchool, we have long been recognized for our secure, reliable management of student data and ease-of-use for teachers, parents and students. Significant investment in the PowerSchool SIS and a commitment to developing cutting edge technologies such as [Ed-Fi](#) and Application Programming Interface (API) tools, as well as the investment in data security through the Rackspace services, make PowerSchool the leading Cloud SIS in K-12 education.

For more information about PowerSchool Hosting and Rackspace, please contact your PowerSchool account representative at 1-877-873-1550, or [pss\\_sales@powerschool.com](mailto:pss_sales@powerschool.com). Or visit our website at <http://www.powerschool.com/home>. **Read the full story:** <http://www.powerschool.com/press-releases/>

## 6. RTA Process Summary

A communication was recently sent by accountability services emphasizing the need for Reading Retention data to be correct in PowerSchool. This communication indicated that another data pull would be conducted by NCDPI on October 19. Due to the interruptions in the PowerSchool service, we have postponed this data pull until **November 13, 2015**.

Please review the original communication and process summary attached and work to ensure that your Reading Retention data is updated by this new deadline.

## 7. New and Updated Information on the Web

- SAR Presentation – 11/04/2015  
[http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/presentations/PS\\_PPT\\_SAR\\_Report\\_11042015\\_16\\_Webinar\\_part\\_2.pdf](http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/presentations/PS_PPT_SAR_Report_11042015_16_Webinar_part_2.pdf)
- SAR Webinar II – 11/03/2015  
<http://www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html>

## 8. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

### a) AIG Policy, Functionality and Head Count Review

This webinar will cover the AIG Policy, Functionality and Head Count. Topics of discussion will include but are not limited to:

- Review of security roles
- Discuss modifying student records within the LEA
- Review new changes and record view that happened with EOY process
- Review Phase II functionality - specifically to address questions regarding running the reports
- Review accessing student lists (steps to follow to get an accurate list of students)
- Clear steps for verifying information for headcount (will be pulled on November 30)

**Date, Time and Registration Link**

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6762038662296929537>

**b) 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.

**Dates, Times and Registration Links**

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5596764144575527937>

Thursday, May 26, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

**c) (NEW) 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>

**d) End of Term Process in PowerSchool**

This webinar will cover the End of Term Process and how to prepare for the end of the marking period. The tasks covered include running grade verification reports, storing grades and running the NC Report Card.

**Date, Time and Registration Link**

Monday, November 30, 2015

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5413993426183098113>

e) **(NEW) LEA Setup for Grade Suppression as Outlined in State Board of Education Policy GCS-M\_007**

This webinar will cover the LEA setup for Grade Suppression as outlined in the State Board of Education Policy GCS-M-007, and show how to run the process at the school level. Tips will be given on how to implement the policy which also allows for LEAs to decide if and how to replace a passing high school course with a better mark.

**Date, Time and Registration Link**

Tuesday, December 8

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6400652279995895809>

f) **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**

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **(updated time)**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5771468845293949953>

Thursday, January 14, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5357317999483246594>

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>

**g) (NEW) W2T (Adult High School Program)**

This webinar will cover the new process for the W2T Adult High School Program.

Functionality in PowerSchool will be covered and any change in business process will be discussed. The webinar will be recorded and posted to [www.nc-sis.org](http://www.nc-sis.org).

**Date, Time and Registration Link**

Tuesday, December 8

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/706424496405504001>

**\*\*Please note, all registration information is subject to NC Public Records Law.**

Please 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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