



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. 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.

- A. State Compliance Reporting (SCR) Release 15.11.0
 - 1) Resolving the error that occurs for all reports when exporting data collection results
 - 2) Updating the SAR Class Size functionality
- B. NC LEP Administration
 - 1) Updating Roster Export to only show current students and to properly display district and school number values
- C. NC WAPT Administration
 - 1) Updating Roster Export to only show current students and to properly display district and school number values
- D. Student Data
 - 1) Applying a script that updates and adds data to the NCDPI Student Extended Schema Table based on the promotion status of Read-to-Achieve
- E. State Reporting (see item #3 below)
 - 1) Removing approval status for all (school and district levels) 2015 SAR reports so the report can be rerun
 - 2) Updating SAR reporting due date from 11/13/2015 to 12/01/2015
- F. Applying script to remove duplicate Student Test Scores present in the Enterprise Controller and PowerSchool instances

2. Home Base Maintenance Weekend Update (PowerSchool and Schoolnet)

The next Home Base maintenance weekend is scheduled for **today, November 13 through Monday, November 16**. Applications included in this maintenance period are PowerSchool and Schoolnet.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool will shut down today 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.

Schoolnet

The Schoolnet 17.0 upgrade is scheduled to begin at approximately 7 p.m. tonight. The process is expected to last for approximately 15 hours. Once completed, Schoolnet will be returned to service and accessible through the NCEdCloud IAM Service. For details identifying new features and functionality in this upgrade, please read the July 2015 release notes located at the following link: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/homebase/training/general/schoolnet-release-notes.pdf>.

NCEdCloud IAM Service

There will be a software update resulting in downtime of the NCEdCloud IAM Service on today, November 13 during the 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. time frame. This update prepares the IAM Service for upcoming LEA-based workflow changes. During the update (2 hour window), logins to my.ncedcloud.org and IAM Service-integrated applications will not be available.

If you have questions pertaining to this maintenance period, please respond to ncsis@dpi.nc.gov. To view a complete schedule of future Home Base maintenance periods, please click on the following link: http://www.nc-sis.org/Documents/maintenance/Home_Base_Maintenance_Sched.pdf.

3. Reminder: 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 today, November 13.

All schools will need to rerun their SAR after this weekend's maintenance period (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) 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.

If you have questions, please contact Sandra Johnson at sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov.

4. DDOS Concerns

In the wake of the recent Denial of Service Attacks on the PowerSchool data center in New Jersey, we feel it is appropriate to address a major concern – the security of PowerSchool data. As a result of this concern, we have received some requests for the removal of personal information (SSN, DOB, etc.) from the system to avoid personal data being used for fraudulent purposes. Please be assured that the security of NC data is the foremost priority of PowerSchool and NCDPI, and that this data is not being compromised.

The nature of a DOS or DDOS (Denial of Service or Distributed Denial of Service) attack is focused on blocking access to an internet source rather than compromising its security to gain access to the data. In this type of attack, the attacker floods the target servers with an immense volume of traffic. This consumes the bandwidth of the site and prevents legitimate traffic from passing through which leads to site unavailability. Further, when an attack is detected, resources are taken offline to prevent damage or other negative attack effects. When the attack is contained or ceases, the resources are returned to service.

Although inconvenient and concerning, these attacks are not resulting in compromised data. We are hopeful that as PowerSchool migrates to their new hosting solution these events can be minimized in the future.

We appreciate your patience and concern as we work through these events.

5. 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.

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>

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) 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>

d) 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, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

e) 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>

f) 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.

Date, Time and Registration Link

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

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) for additional information including webinars and training documentation.

NC SIS

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