NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin

The NC SIS Weekly Email Bulletin highlights issues and announcements that were communicated to users during the previous week. 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. SAR Update – 11/21/2014

3. Windows XP Issue – Technology Policy

4. Error on Searches

5. Dropout Due Date Extended

6. New and Updated Information on the Web

7. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

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.

   **NC Migrant Administration**
   - Student Profile – Updating student enrollment logic to limit record selection to that of the selected student only.

   **Courses**
   - Course Availability Management – Pearson will be deploying a new course availability function to allow the state to determine which courses can be used by districts as defined on the Enterprise Controller. The identity of unavailable courses has not been loaded into the system at this time, only the functionality. Once the identity of unavailable courses has been added into the Enterprise Controller, a communication and QRDs will be provided via NC SIS email and the NC SIS website. **Please hold off on scheduling until the identity of unavailable courses has been added. There is nothing LEAs or schools will need to do in this process.**

2. **SAR Update – 11/21/2014**

   The SAR deadline is today, November 21, 2014.
Please contact Sandra Johnson at sandra.johnson@dpi.nc.gov on Monday, November 24 if you have outstanding tickets with the support center or software issues that Pearson is working on that delayed your SAR. Issues will be addressed on a one on one basis.

Thank you for all your efforts in getting the SAR data completed for 2014/15.

3. Windows XP Issue – Technology Policy

For the purpose of online testing and accountability data collection, all computers must have the latest security updates installed before testing. Districts are strongly encouraged to test students using computers with current security updates installed. Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft and security updates stopped in April 2014. Therefore, Windows XP computers will not be allowed for online testing and data collection effective Monday, February 16, 2015. The only exception to this policy is for districts who have signed an agreement with Microsoft for a one-year extended support for Windows XP systems. These districts may continue to use their computers after February 16, 2015 provided the latest security updates have been installed.

Kenneth Barbour
Accountability IT Manager

4. Error on Searches

Some users have received the error message, 'SEPC-3457 NORTH CAROLINA: System Error Encountered when Searching for Custom Fields Beginning with the S_NC_ Prefix from the Start Page' or a JAVA alert 'Error encountered while accessing database' when performing student searches in PowerSchool. The root cause is an errant Extended Schema (ES) update that occurred on the first PowerSchool restart after the State Reporting Compliance update during this past weekend.

Pearson will resolve this issue for all NC instances via another PowerSchool service restart which will begin Friday, November 21 at 11 p.m. All instances will be corrected no later than Saturday, November 22.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this issue and appreciate your patience as we work to resolve it.

5. Dropout Due Date Extended

Dropout Data Coordinators,

Thank you for all of your efforts in identifying and reporting your 2013-14 dropouts. I have not heard any LEA say they could not meet the Thursday deadline. However, DPI is experiencing delays with a couple of reports that are needed for completion of the collection. Therefore, the deadline for completion of the dropout data collection will be extended to EOB on Wednesday, November 26. (Happy Thanksgiving!)
As you make final adjustments to your dropout data, please be aware that you must rerun your dropout report for those changes to be reflected on the Verified Dropout report, which pushes the data up to DPI. If you have already approved your report and need to make changes, you must un-approve, make any needed changes, rerun the report, and re-approve the report.

Best regards,
Ken Gattis

6. New and Updated Information on the Web

   http://www.nc-sis.org/recordings.html

7. Upcoming Training Webinars and Workshops

a) Mid-year Graduates in PowerSchool Webinar
   This webinar will discuss the process for handling records of students graduating mid-year.

Dates, Times and Registration Links

- Thu, December 4, 2014 @ 1 p.m.
  - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204543489
- Tue, December 16, 2014 @ 9 a.m.
  - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/366059760
- Tue, January 13, 2015 @ 9 a.m.
  - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444470360

b) Office of Civil Rights Data Collection (OCR/CRDC)
   This hour and half webinar is intended for OCR Coordinators, NC SIS Coordinators and any staff who are involved in the Office of Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).

Dates and Times

- Dec. 2, 2014 @ 1 p.m.
- January 6, 2015 @ 1 p.m.
- January 20, 2015 @ 1 p.m.
   Registration link: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/719879681

c) PowerSchool New Coordinator Training Workshop
   This workshop is geared to new PowerSchool coordinators who have not attended the 5 day IPT certification training or the 8 day District certification training.

Dates and Times
• December 11 – 12, 2014
• January 12 – 13, 2015
Registration link: http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/2160/

d) PowerSchool New User Workshop (School Level Staff)
This is a 4 day workshop to train new users on the day-to-day processes of using PowerSchool.

Date, Time and Registration Link

• January 6 – 9, 2015 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
  o https://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/form/5504

e) PowerSchool – School Counselors – Train the Trainer Workshop
This workshop will be a hands-on training covering the basic functionality of PowerSchool pertinent to school counselors.

Dates and Times

• December 1, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
• December 8, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
• December 10, 2014 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
  Registration link - http://www.timetosignup.com/powerschooltraining/folder/1907/

For more information about NC SIS training and documentation, please visit our website at http://www.nc-sis.org.

NC SIS

NC Department of Public Instruction
Education Building, Room 320
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

919-807-3190 Office
919-807-3421 Fax
email: ncsis@dpi.nc.gov